

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday/Friday, February 17/18, 2011
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the spring meeting is to develop a work plan for next fiscal year. All council members are invited to attend any or all of the individual planning meetings as they are interested and able.

Thursday, February 18 New Science 150- Natural History Museum **POSTPONED TO TUESDAY, MARCH 8**

4:30-6:30 p.m. Education committee meeting: developing a work plan for FY2012
6:30 p.m. Dinner at the Refectory for anyone that can stay

Friday, February 19 New Science 150- Natural History Museum

9:30 -9:45 a.m. Coffee and rolls
9:45-11:20 a.m. Lands committee meeting:
Issues concerning Grounds: Any?
Issues concerning both Grounds and Forest & Lands:
 CAPX2020 update
 The Nature Conservancy on campus
Issues concerning Forest and Lands: (Grounds only staff may leave if they want)
 Developing a work plan for FY2012
 Summer students- 1 for mowing; 1 for Dan; 2.5 for Br. Walter
 Deer fencing? Trails? etc
 On-line computerized land use applications
 Maple tapping update (Br. Walter)

11:30-12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Refectory
12:30-2:00 p.m. Full Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting:

- Fundraising - soliciting sponsorships from companies - Tom Stock
- Discuss and act on proposed Saint John's Abbey Arboretum name
- Thanking larger donors - Council role
- Discuss and act on council survey results - future meeting schedules and/or agenda items

2:30-3:30 p.m. Admin/PR/Membership/Fundraising: developing a work plan for FY2012

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Council Meetings (TENTATIVE)!

Schedule may change after the February council discussion.

Monday, June 13: committee meetings followed by end-of-year evaluation among whole council

Monday, October 3: longer-range planning (looking 12-36 months into the future)

Friday, December 2: short meeting, mid-year update, unfinished business, committee meetings, open house celebration

Committee Updates – for February 17-18, 2010

PreK-12 Education

- The 6th grade class at Saint John's Prep is in the middle of a unit on biomimicry presented by Arboretum staff. The field of biomimicry looks to nature for inspiration to solve human problems, famous examples being Velcro inspired by burdock seeds and Fastskin swimsuits inspired by shark skin. After investigating local plants and animals adaptations for winter survival, the 6th graders will pick one adaptation and use it as inspiration to develop an invention useful to humans. They will then enter their designs in a national Biomimicry Youth Challenge, sponsored by the Biomimicry Institute.
- Continuing our partnership with the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature project through the MN DNR, another workshop will be offered as part of the Avon Hills Conference in February. Participants will get to experience nature photography through Jim Brandenburg's lens at his keynote, then learn how to bring digital photography into the classroom for their students with a daylong workshop.

CSB/SJU Education

- PRP Winter trip was cancelled due to lack of participants (attributed to the high price of the trip). A Colorado spring break trip is in the works.
- We are co-sponsoring a sled and sleigh ride event with the JEC on Jan 22nd. This was well attended and received last year.
- There are 13 maple syrup labs and FYS maple syrup classes already scheduled.
- ~2,150 CSB/SJU Students have been served through official Arboretum, OLC, and PRP events last semester.

Community Education

- A new winter library program entitled 'MN Wolves' is being offered at 15 area libraries this year. Put together by our EE Fellow Bryan Sieh, this program is a great combination of information, education, fun, and games!
- The MN Natural History Lecture Series this Feb, March, and April will feature a nature photography series with local naturalists and photographers: Joel Truckenbrod, Capturing the Essence of Place; Ken Bachofer, Seeing Through the Lens; Tony Peroutky, Capturing the Moment.
- The annual 'Living in the Avon Hills' conference is scheduled for February 12, 2010. With already over 150 people preregistered for the event, we expect a great crowd for over 40 concurrent sessions, a keynote presentation by Jim Brandenburg, and many great exhibits.
- This year's maple syrup festivals are scheduled for March 26th and April 2nd.

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- We've had 31 new community members, 49 new CSB/SJU student members, and 126 renewing members join the Arboretum since July 1. All our membership numbers are on track with previous years.
- Despite snowy roads, 200 people attended the Open House in December.

Fundraising

- We submitted a \$9000 grant to the Gordon & Margaret Bailey Foundation to fund preK-12 bussing in 2011-2012. We were awarded \$2000.

- We're looking at applying for several other grants this winter to fund bussing and the fellowship: Morgan Family Foundation, ERM Foundation, and Toyota USA Foundation.
- Proceeds from the raffle at the Christmas party raised \$868 for the bus campaign. We've now raised enough funds for 51 buses (more than 4000 students)!
- We're looking for more foundations or other resources to be able to sustain our needs for the fellowship and bussing.

Lands

- The CapX2020 powerline hearings are completed. Saint John's can honestly say we did everything possible to inform the record. The judge will make her decision based on the record by about May 1. Construction is already underway between St. Cloud and Monticello.
- Ski trails are in excellent condition and well -used.
- Logging will be limited to only retrieving high-quality wind-thrown trees as there is little demand from the woodshop for wood.
- We plan to switch the deer control efforts from hunting to fencing. Hunting will still continue as appropriate, but it has not reduced the herd level to 8-12 deer/sq. mile which is the level needed for forest regeneration. We are still at 15 deer /sq. mile. (Down from a peak of 30/sq. mile). Fencing is expensive, but inside the deer enclosure, we have excellent regeneration in both numbers and height. Fencing is less expensive than individual tubes when the area fenced is about 2+ acres.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- A new opportunity to partner with U of MN Extension and the St Cloud Center for Youth Development office will hopefully bring 2 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows to our staff next year. If we are accepted as a host site, 2 Promise Fellows will split their time between the Arboretum and the Center for Youth Development from August 2011 to August 2012. This will replace our 1 year fellowship position for a year as we pursue this new partnership. After submitting a letter of intent, we have been asked to submit a full proposal and will find out in early April if we are chosen as a host site.
- We are considering the possibility of renaming the Saint John's Arboretum to Saint John's Abbey Arboretum. This is part of a larger negotiation involving the University and the Abbey as they move towards separate incorporation. The Abbey's role as landowner is often missed in media reports and in most Arboretum user's minds. The University's role is commonly assumed as well as included in most media remarks. Renaming would provide some degree of assurance of the Abbey's large role in providing the land base used for the Arboretum.