

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting  
Monday, October 3, 2011  
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the autumn meeting is to do some long-term planning, looking 2-3 years out.

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Administration Committee Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	The Nature Conservancy on campus – Todd Holman
1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Welcome to new Arboretum staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tiffany Miley</li><li>- James Juip</li></ul>
	FY2011 Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Brief review</li></ul>
	Brief Abbey/University Update
1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Arboretum Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Parental leave/families</li><li>- Temporary Staffing</li><li>- Fellowship</li><li>- Long-term goals for sustainability</li><li>- Salzburg Semester</li></ul>
2:15 p.m.	Break
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Review key directional priorities set for fall 2010 to 2013: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Expanding curriculum</li><li>2. Add big grant fundraising</li><li>3. Protect land and Arboretum status long-term</li><li>4. Assessment/accountability</li><li>5. Strategic partnerships with more groups on campus</li><li>6. Membership – goals/strategies</li><li>7. Wilderness trips/Outdoor exploration</li></ol> Discuss new accomplishments in light of changes underway Brainstorm strategies to achieve goals Assign strategies to committees

**Mark your calendars for upcoming Council Meetings:**

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

**Thursday/Friday, February 16/17, 2011:** committee meetings to plan for FY2012

**Monday, June 18, 2011:** FY2011 year-end review

# Committee Updates – for October 3, 2011

## PreK-12 Education

- We welcome some new faces to the preK-12 Education Committee: Luke Mitchell (Holdingford 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher), Irene Wilcox (Sauk Rapids Rice Middle School Science teacher), Kathy Kampa (Sartell preschool teacher), Susan Huls (St Joseph Lab School 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher), and Pam DeGeest (Albany Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher). They join current members Kari Dresow (Talahi Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher), Scott Daninger (Albany High School science teacher), Alison Binsfeld (St Cloud Christian School 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher), Karen Bengtson (Professor CSB/SJU Education Department) and Bruce Dickau (Professor CSB/SJU Education Department retired).
- New resources for teachers were added to our preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade section of our website this year, including an on-line field trip request form, a field trip check list form and tips on how to prepare students to be outdoors.  
<http://www.csbsju.edu/Arboretum/Education/preK12.htm>
- The fall field trip schedule is filling up quickly and we start getting busy the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## CSB/SJU Education

- This year's Collegebound trip was a great success! We had 65 students participate in the pre-orientation wilderness trips to BWCA and Tettegouche State Park. Feedback from the facilitators was that this was the best year yet! (at least in their 2-4 year experience).
- This year we also had a trip to Yellowstone take 11 participants on a unique camping trip guided by former council member Ron Wienhold, and facilitated by Ryan Kutter. Participants were able to see many places never experienced by most visitors due to Ron's 50+ years' experience exploring the park.
- The Outdoor Leadership Center is gearing up for a very busy fall including a Halloween Fun Run October 30, Eco-Challenge in mid-October, Banff Mountain Film Festival November 17 and many new "clinics" which will be put on due to this year's use of "small groups" that each will put on a unique event...stay tuned!

## Community Education

- We had another well received Nature Photography class taught by Ken Bachofer this summer.
- Our Natural History Lecture Series on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month this semester will include: "The Botany of Harry Potter" - by Steve Saupe, "Invasive Earthworms!?" - by Worm Watch, and "Seeing Through the Lens: Photography in the Great Outdoors" - Ken Bachofer
- Collegeville Colors will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> this year from 1-5 pm...still need volunteers!

## Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Membership numbers have grown significantly: in FY2011 we had 636 total household memberships. That is an increase from 483 in FY2010, achieves our long-term goal of 500 memberships, and is the first significant spike in membership in more than 6 years!
- The Administration Committee is reviewing current membership goals and strategies in light of the new data, as well as developing a model to begin offering "Business

Memberships” as a way to continue to grow and expand our connections in the community.

### **Fundraising**

- In collaboration with the MN Land Trust and Avon Hills Initiative, we applied for a \$1.3 million grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (sales tax money from the 2008 constitutional amendment) to continue working on conservation easements within the Avon Hills. We were invited to give a presentation and answer the Council’s questions in early September and will learn if we’ve been funded by the end of September.
- The Arboretum had a good year financially, in FY2011. This gives us the flexibility to accommodate any urgent program needs while we continue to search for more grant opportunities, develop a sponsorship structure, and look for other ways to continue our fundraising successes.

### **Lands**

- Saint John’s will not host a controlled deer hunt this fall due to conflicts with football and other campus events. The deer population is still a problem for oak regeneration, so we do plan to continue hosting deer hunts in future years.
- The summer crews completed several fencing projects in the woods this summer that will serve as large deer exclosures to promote regeneration of oaks.
- The Abbey purchased 72 acres of adjacent woods and wetlands just west of the Abbey Energy solar farm in June. The sellers gave the Abbey a fair price and good terms. It is a lovely piece of land with a nice stream.

### **Program Administration and Volunteer Management**

- In case you missed the previous announcements, the Arboretum family is growing!
  - John & Jessie O’Reilly added a new daughter to their family in August.
  - Jenny and Ryan Kutter are expecting their first baby at the end of January.
  - Sarah Gainey & Patrick Ross are expecting their first baby at the end of March.
- Those exciting personal announcements will mean some changes in Arboretum staffing and program priorities during this next year as well as long-term, which the council will discuss further at the upcoming meeting.
- We welcome Tiffany Miley as a temporary, part-time Education/Office Assistant beginning in mid-September.
- We welcome our first AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, James Juip. A second AmeriCorps Promise Fellow will be selected to begin in early October. Both Fellows will be with us through September of 2012.