

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, December 2, 2011
Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse

Agenda

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| 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Chair nominations and vote |
| 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Membership Data Update/ Analysis |
| 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Fundraising Brainstorm <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We'll work in small groups and as the large group to develop ideas to increase/improve Arboretum fundraising- What should staff be working on?- What should council members be working on? |
| 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. | Set-up for Open House celebration. Thanks ahead of time to whoever is available to help! |
| 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. | Annual Open House Celebration |

Mark your calendars for the 2012 Council Meetings:

Thursday & Friday, February 16 & 17: Committee meetings to plan for FY2013.

*****DATE CHANGE*** Monday, July 16:** FY2012 year-end evaluation

We want to have a full Arboretum staff here for the summer meeting, so would like to have it in July instead of June!

Monday, October 1: Long-range planning, 2-3 years out

Friday, December 7: Short meeting, committee updates, unfinished business, set up for Open House celebration

Committee Updates – for December 2, 2011

PreK-12 Education

- A record number of students attended field trips at the Arboretum this fall! Just over 2500 students participated in classes such as Tree ID, Solar Energy, and Plants.
- The Arboretum hosted the 3rd annual Project Earth conference on Thursday, October 13th for 229 area 7th and 8th graders. This daylong conference is designed to give students hands-on experiences outdoors in a variety of areas, such as monarch butterflies, tree planting, birding, nature journaling, and voyageur canoeing. A staff member from the National Eagle Center wowed the crowd with a keynote about bald eagles, complete with a live eagle on stage! The Arboretum partners with Resource Training and Solutions and Sauk River Watershed District on this event.
- In partnership with the Environmental Education Pedagogy class taught at CSB/SJU by Karen Bengtson, there will be 28 in-school presentations by students in the class at area schools this November and December. Focusing on the new science and engineering standards in Minnesota, the students will be presenting topics such as wind energy, simple circuits, water cycle, and trees.

CSB/SJU Education

- This year's orientation hike was cancelled at the last minute by the orientation coordinators due to rain, so sadly we missed our annual hike with all 1000 incoming students.
- 1,769 students have been served through official Arboretum, OLC, or PRP events this semester.
- 15 FYS Classes have participated in Arboretum programs this semester. Of these 7 were challenge courses through PRP, 8 were Hikes/talks.
- We participated in "cultural orientation" for 75 foreign exchange students; discussing what the Arboretum is and opportunities available through Arboretum, PRP, and OLC programs
- 37 Students participated in 3 PRP "Long-weekend" trips. One went to Itasca State park and had a majority of international students participating. A second trip went to Tettagouche State park for rock climbing and a third was a partnering trip with the Jay Phillips Foundation for Interfaith Learning to BWCA.
- PRP is planning a winter break trip to Hawaii...\$1250 for 12 days; sorry it is for students only!
- PRP also provided a fun day at Collegetown orchards for 65 students that included transportation, group challenge, and Dutch Oven apple cobbler!
- PRP has facilitated ~550 people through the challenge course this semester.
- OLC held a new variation of the Eco-challenge this year called the Adventure Challenge, which included a wall climb, 2 orienteering courses to find canoe paddles and life vests, then portaging a canoe, canoeing across lake Sag, setting up a camp and hanging a bear bag, and finally given a match they had to bring on their canoe back across the lake to light a camp stove and run to the finish! 60 People participated.
- Outdoor week this year includes the ever popular Polar Bear Plunge, Run/Bike /Blade to class, bike maintenance class, climbing competition, the Banff film festival, and an afternoon of John Ball and lawn games.

Community Education

- Colleagueville Colors had perfect weather yet again! 388 registered participants, with many more estimated to have “stumbled” in. This year featured more music on the trails and we hope to get even more next year.
- This year we worked with Anna Marie’s Alliance and offered a few days of canoeing and challenge courses for both their residents and staff.
- We are gearing up for another great Avon Hill Conference February 25th. We’ve confirmed this year’s keynote speaker: Mike Lynch from WCCO weather and astronomy.
- This fall we have served 1,110 people through community programming.

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Our membership numbers are on track with last year’s numbers at this time of year. We’ve had 53 renewals, 18 new members, and 4 student members join this year (our student memberships are down because of the weather cancellation at Orientation for first-year students).
- Our total membership giving total is also on par with last year at \$7375 (compared to \$7410).
- In less than a week after Open House invitations were sent, we already have more than 80 RSVP’s to the event, so our expectation is to have a full house again this year (as long as the weather cooperates!)

Fundraising

- Tom has meetings scheduled between now and Thanksgiving to meet with potential sponsors for the Avon Hills Conference. We’ve coordinated with SJU Institutional Advancement and the Business Office to try to make our sponsorship program as successful as possible for this first round. The goal is to raise around \$30-35,000 in sponsorship.
- We need some fresh and creative ideas to work to improve our current fundraising, be they grant-writing, fundraising campaigns, or otherwise (hence the discussion at the December meeting!).

Lands

- We successfully burned about 16 acres of prairie in the Arboretum and on neighbor, Steve Saupe’s property. We had about 15-20 students help with each burn, and an additional 20-30 signed up on days that we ended up not burning due to weather.
- Saint John’s Athletic Department has signed a contract for ski trail grooming that will equal the level of grooming done in past years. One problem is that the August 1 storms blocked many trails with blown down trees. All trails will be cleared in time for skiing except the trail which parallels I-94. It has 300 trees still on it and will be the focus of this winter’s logging. Over 15,000 board feet of high quality lumber are down in that area alone. That will also mean that the far north section of the Pine Knob trail will be used for skidding logs and not for skiing. Closing sections of the trails for logging is part of our management strategy. We just did not plan on this one until after the storm hit us.
- The deer fences seem to be working well. We will also be applying Plantskydd (a blood-based product that originated in Sweden) to 5 acres of oak regeneration.

- Br. Walter Kieffer and volunteer Bill Mock have led the installation of a new storage shed at the syrup house area. The shed was scheduled for demolition from the tennis court area and was salvaged and moved to the syrup area.
- A renovation of the soccer field and adjacent play fields will result in the removal of a relatively small area (1 acre) of hardwoods on the east side of the fields.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- Arboretum staff have been coordinating well to train Tiffany on the tasks she'll be managing while Jenny and Sarah are on leave.
- Arboretum volunteers have been busy helping with projects this fall such as prescribed burns, gathering pine and spruce cones for the seeds, trash pick-up on the trails, buckthorn removal, and helping with preK-12 field trips.
- Two sections of 'Introduction to Environmental Studies' classes participated in at least 8 hours of service-learning (per person!) as part of their class. Groups of students worked on buckthorn removal, helping with field trips, leading people on a new trail before and after football games, and hosting activity tables at Colledgeville Colors.