

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, August 10, 2012
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the summer meeting is to evaluate the work of the past year. The evaluation will help identify areas in need of work and provide direction for the upcoming fiscal year.

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Optional Tour -(Prairie walk or blowdown)

10:00-10:30 **Coffee and rolls in the Museum**

Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting 10:30 - 4:00 p.m. (New Science 150)

10:30 a.m.	Welcome and introductions: Steve
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	PR & Membership – Tom/ Jenny
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	“The Nature of Saint John’s” book – Larry Haeg
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Administration – Jenny/Tom/Sarah/John
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.	CSB/SJU Education – John
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch at the refectory (Walk from Arb offices)
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	preK-12 Education – Sarah
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Community Education – John
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Lands – Tom
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	BREAK
2:45 – 3:15 p.m.	Fundraising – Tom/Jenny
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	General discussion and wrap-up

Each committee will lead a discussion addressing the following questions regarding that committee's work during FY12:

1. In what ways have we been effective or successful in our work? In what ways have we made progress toward our desired outcomes and impacts?
2. What challenges or concerns need to be addressed? What can we do to improve and enhance our work?
3. Where are the priorities for next fiscal year?

Mark your calendars for the remaining 2012 Council Meetings!

Monday, October 1: longer-range planning (looking 12-36 months into the future)

Friday, December 7: short meeting, mid-year update, unfinished business, committee meetings, open house celebration

Committee Updates – for August 10, 2012

PreK-12 Education

- Due to amazing work by James Juip (EE fellow), Hannah Froehling (CSB graduate and former student naturalist), Tiffany Miley (education assistant), and our Student Naturalists and Naturalist Aides, we had an incredibly successful spring field trip season! Sarah is very grateful for all their efforts while she was out on extended leave.
- Over 8000 field trip visits were recorded for the 2011-12 school year, slightly down from last year but still impressive!
- The education staff came up with new and creative ways to make the maple syrup field trips educational and engaging, despite a dismal syruping season. We look forward to having out our 'mini' evaporator to use next year!

CSB/SJU Education

- PRP facilitated over 800 CSB/SJU students and potential students (fly-in weekend participants) through challenge courses this past year!
- Collgebound brought 77 participants into the wilds of Northern MN and BWCA last year and looks to have a similar number this year.
- Adventure programming hosted a wide variety of events this past year including old favorites such as Banff Mountain Film Festival, Ice Fishing Tournament, Adventure-challenge (a race that involves portaging canoes, orienteering to find paddles and pfd's, canoeing, camp set-up and lighting a fire with 1 match), Fruit at the Finish Triathlon, Wilderness Medicine certification and SCUBA certification classes.
- Additionally adventure programming added a few new events including Warren Miller Film festival, a spring break wilderness trip to Hawaii, Sustainapolkability, French park and a student bird watching day.
- Building on the success of last year's maple syrup campaign, we partnered with a marketing class through which students developed an ad campaign that involved a maple syrup scavenger hunt, email trivia campaign with prizes and a "storm the dorms" event that gave maple syrup tastings and information to almost all first years on both campuses!
- OLC students petitioned the student senates of both campuses and received over \$4000 for capital improvements in gear!
- Not including OLC rentals, the Arboretum served over 4,304 recorded student participants!

Community Education

- It was a record breaking year for maple syrup production...not one we hoped for. It was the worst year of production in the 70 years that Saint John's has been making syrup with just over 20 gallons of syrup produced. The warm weather also lowered our numbers of participants in the syrup festivals with 769 total participants. Still, a great time was had by all who attended
- The annual "Living in the Avon Hills" Conference had 297 participants and featured Mike Lynch as the keynote speaker.
- The Challenge Course brought 446 community members to Saint John's
- In conjunction with the 'One Planet, Many Stories' summer reading program at Minnesota libraries, we served over 250 students at community libraries last summer.

This summer we did not do the program due to the fact that we did not have a fellow but are planning on bringing them back next summer.

- This summer we held a “Leave No Trace” instructional campout in the Old Oaks Campsite in the Arboretum with 18 people attending.
- This past year we served 4,799 community participants.

Public Relations and Memberships

- Tiffany Miley and our student employees have worked to do more outreach with the Arboretum Facebook page with a good response. In addition to our profile page, there is now also an Arboretum birding page and a maple syrup page that you can ‘like’ on Facebook. Jenny is trying hard to keep up with the times...
- Our total number of FY12 individual donors is down from FY11 – mostly in fewer new student memberships and fewer new memberships – but is still above FY10 numbers (we’ll discuss numbers more at the meeting).
- Despite the drop in numbers, our income from membership gifts (including EE endowment, land legacy, and other unrestricted gifts) continues to grow – up nearly \$2000 from FY11.
- We are in the beginning phase of a new project to create a small book that will be a “Field guide” to common Arboretum plants and animals and ??; plus it will have some meditations and some cultural and historical items relating to the land. This is the brain child of Larry Haeg, who is offering to lead and fund the project. Proceeds from future sales will go to Arboretum programming.

Fundraising

- Over \$7900 in plants, soil, and merchandise was donated for this year’s plant sale in May, and our gross income was just over \$3200.
- The ‘Buy a Seat on the Bus’ campaign continues to steadily raise funds – almost \$3500 from approx. 50 donors and event raffle proceeds in FY12.
- We received a \$8,300 donation in memory of Fr. Paul Schwietz from some of his friends.
- We received a \$14,250 grant from the Morgan Family Foundation for K-12 field trips from St. Cloud. It will cover part of our bussing and fellowship costs in FY13.
- We applied for a \$36,000 grant from the Bremer Foundation for the fellowship and bussing, but were turned down.
- We have an application pending for a local facility grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation for \$5700 in support of K-12 bussing, and are working on submitting an application to the state grant program from the Wal-Mart Foundation for \$33,500 in support of bussing and the fellowship.
- We applied for \$994,000 from the LCCMR for work with the Avon Hills Initiative and the MN Land Trust. We are among 48 applicants (out of 169) being recommended to the MN Legislature for funding of \$750,000. The legislature will review the recommendations and send final approvals to the governor during the session beginning Jan. 8, 2013. Most of the funding will go toward conservation easements, but some will be used to support education like the Avon Hills conference beginning in FY14.
- We just received \$5,000 from CenterPoint Energy through the efforts of Council member (and CenterPoint employee) Glenn Miller. Thanks much to Glenn and CenterPoint.

Lands

- On July 1, 2012 the Abbey and University officially became separate corporations. All lands remained with the Abbey, but the inner campus is leased to the University. The effect of the separate incorporations should not significantly affect the environmental education programs of the Arboretum. It is important to remember that as before July 1, the Abbey is the owner and steward of the land. It is inherent that the Arboretum's educational activities note that fact both in any public recognition and in any assumptions about using the land.
- Continuing the practice of the past year, the Abbey Forest and Lands committee will serve as conduit for assessing land information and potential projects.
- NEW wildlife seen on campus for the first time or the first time in a long time include:
 - Trumpeter Swan babies on the wetland
 - A black bear
- A "Stick-Art" sculpture by Patrick Dougherty has been approved by the Abbey and funded by CSB/SJU Art Departments for installation near the Kiosk. Installation will be in September and will stand about 3 years.
- A significant logging season from January through mid-July focused on salvage of the wood brought down by the August 2, 2011 storm. We are about 40% done with the salvaging. The harvest resulted in 110,000 board feet plus 146 cords being salvaged. Some of the quality oak veneer was so good, it was shipped overseas. We especially tried to get all of the damaged pine out to prevent bark beetles from invading.
- We completed 3 prescribed burns.
- Maple syruping in 2012 was a bust, nationwide and here.
 - The good news is that the Abbey agreed to buy a new large 4x14' evaporator to replace the ailing 1940's model we had.
 - The Schwietz family agreed to buy a second 2x6' evaporator that can be started and used to demonstrate maple syruping almost any day we want.
- On July 19, the Abbey received a Model 4700 John Deere tractor through the work of Br. Kevin Ludowese and his brothers Mark and Jim. Br. Benedict and the Abbot are also to thank for the big upgrade. This is a 40 hp all-wheel hydrostatic drive tractor that is nearly new in tractor terms (built in 2000). Thanks!
- We also brought into service an International 4500 tractor with belly-blade for caring for the trails. This is also a very nice unit arranged by Br. Kevin.
- Summer crews are working on trails and invasives and a long list of other projects.
- There will not be a deer hunt in fall 2012, mostly due to Tom's absence. Additionally, the abbey has decided to move to a bow hunt to extend the season, reduce safety costs, reduce conflicts with other events, and still achieve the population reduction goal. A group of skilled bow hunters including DNR advisors have been a big help.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- We welcome our new EE Fellow, Anna Schoeneberger to the Arboretum staff beginning in September.
- Tom Kroll leaves to lead the Austria study abroad program on August 13 and will return to the Arboretum in January. John O'Reilly will serve as 'acting director' of the Arboretum in Tom's absence.
- Jenny Kutter has reduced her contract to 75% FTE for this fiscal year to help balance work and family. We are working with the university to be able to hire a part-time (25-33% FTE) person to help with fundraising and social media this year.