

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, October 1, 2012
Natural History Museum, Saint John's University

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

- 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** *(Optional)* Join the education staff for a 6th grade solar energy class.
- Meet at the Arb office at 8 a.m.
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.** Call to order, opening prayer
- Approve agenda, approve August minutes
 - o Add agenda items as needed
- Council Meeting Format, Council Role Discussion
- Format of meetings
 - Overall goal of council meetings in coming year
 - Frequency of council meetings
 - Other
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Abbey/University Update and discussion
- Br. Benedict Leuthner (Abbey) and Patti Epsky (University) will help facilitate the discussion
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.** **BREAK**
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Review key directional priorities: What are we trying to accomplish in the next 2-3 years:
- List of priorities set in 2011:**
1. Expanding curriculum
 2. Add big grant fundraising
 3. Protect land and Arboretum status long-term
 4. Assessment/accountability
 5. Strategic partnerships with more groups on campus
 6. Membership – goals/strategies
 7. Wilderness trips/Outdoor exploration
- 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 7: short meeting, mid-year update, unfinished business, committee meetings, open house celebration in the evening

Committee Updates – for October 1, 2012

PreK-12 Education

- Fall field trips are underway and we are busy a week earlier than normal. Not exactly sure why, but hopefully it will help us fit more groups in while the weather is still fall-like!
- For the first time, all 7th graders from North Junior High in St Cloud (over 200 students) came on a field trip this fall, learning about invasive earthworms in the forest.
- Due to changing academic standards, we have developed a new 'Water' class for 4th grade and switched the 'MN Biomes' class from 4th grade to 6th grade.
- The Stickwork artwork is proving to be very interesting for both students and adults out on field trips. Each group hears a brief description of the project and gets to have a closer look at it on their way to the bus at the end of the field trip. We will be working with the art department to potentially develop curriculum for field trips to learn more about it in coming years.

CSB/SJU Education

- This year's Collegebound trip was a great success! We had 69 students participate in the pre-orientation wilderness trips to BWCA and Tettegouche State Park.
- The Outdoor Leadership Center is gearing up for a very busy fall including the Adventure Challenge in October 14th, Banff Mountain Film Festival November 15 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...including Geocaching, slack-lining and camp cooking !

Community Education

- We had another well received if not rainy, Leave No Trace Campout this summer by our PRP co-coordinator and certified Leave No Trace instructor, Alex Chocholousek.
- Our Natural History Lecture Series on the 3rd Monday of each month this semester started with Dr. Jean Lavigne - "Taking Another Look at Genetically Modified Organisms", will continue with Dr. Larry Davis - "Geology of the National Parks of the Colorado Plateau" October 15.
- Our November lecture will be with WCCO Meteorologist Mike Lynch who will give a lecture at 6:30pm in Pellegrine Auditorium followed by a star watch party in the Arboretum
- Collegeville Colors will be held on September 30th this year from 1-5 pm...still need volunteers!

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- We are still exploring the logistics to start a "sustaining membership" campaign to get people signed up to automatically renew their memberships each year.
- 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

- We will be hiring a part-time grant writer to work with us until June 30, 2013. Job will hopefully be posted in the next couple of weeks.

- We are hoping to hear soon on the status of the \$5,700 grant request to Wal-Mart to help pay for preK-12 bussing.

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.
- Many willow and ironwood saplings were harvested for the construction of the Stickworks sculpture in the prairie. Both species regenerate quickly and are abundant. And the sculpture is amazing!
- The black bear was still seen hanging around the woods as recently as the end of August.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- Anna Schoeneberger joined our staff as the Environmental Education Fellow for this year. Her first couple of weeks have been busy getting ready for and teaching classes!
- Grant-writer position (see fundraising)
- We have several opportunities to work with students who have service-learning requirements for class. Some groups have volunteered to help pull buckthorn, others are volunteering to host a trail station for the Collegeville Colors event on September 30, some are helping with K-12 classes.