

Biogaians meeting 10/26/2021 - on zoom

Attended by: Eileen, Reuben, Laura, Patricia, Helen, Mary, Ka, Anita, West, Brent, and Jacob
Check-in: what's your favorite way to savor apples?

Announcements:

- Matt will have a work party adding to the landscaping in the next two weeks!
- Nancy will send out announcement about moving woodchips from Journeys to Nancy's garden beds
- Anita will help Laura coordinate a cleanup of the Biogaians area in the Barn

Reports:

Garden-

- A rabbit was spotted in the garden today! 5pm on Saturday will be a rabbit roundup: wear your Halloween costumes! Sunday morning will include construction of cardboard chutes to funnel the rabbits out the gates.
- There are still tomatoes in the garden! They can be collected directly from the hoop houses instead of in the kitchen (please weigh and record your harvest!)
- The entire rabbit fence has been secured, thanks to all the helpers at the last garden work party!
- Look forward to more garden work parties in November Including a 'chips+salsa' work party where we spread wood chips and cayenne around the perimeter.

Microshelter-

- Thanks to Paul for help finishing the roof, it is now complete!
- Next two weeks include the rest of the plywood and then the doors and windows

Orchard-

- We had pears! We ate pears!
- Apple harvest is underway
- Look forward to apple tree netting removal once Mary figures out how best to do this

High tunnel proposal-

- Can choose from many different kinds of high tunnel
 - Look at these at next Biogaians meeting
- The application is already submitted but the due date is not until end of November. We won't know if we are approved until April 2022.
- Funding will likely be a loan from Jean's fund, to later be reimbursed (reimbursement is likely even before approval, although we may wait for approval)

NRCS-

- First disbursement of funds in Jan 2022: \$4200
- Need to figure out bookkeeping for these funds (likely G2T)

Proposals:

Bees-

- Hope to shepherd current 2 hives through the winter, and treat for mites
 - Not many bee colonies typically live through winter
- Looking to purchase 2 honeybee colonies with queens (\$180 each)
- Also planning to purchase one more hive box to better accommodate bees over winter (\$140)
- We will obtain \$150 Mason bees and reeds (preferred over blocks)
 - Nearly double our amount of mason bees
- Could wrap box with black tar paper to help bees during winter

Arborist proposal-

- We have enough to creatively cover this proposal
- The arborists prefer not to come out for less than \$2000 (collect smaller jobs)

2022 Budget-

- (Helen, Mary, Anita, and Patricia have already met after the last Biogaians meeting)
- Half of budget is Songaia Association (landscaping)
- Half from G2T (garden and orchard)
- Swale and meadow labor largely covered by volunteer this year
- Special fund for truck replacement (not part of operating budget)
- Songaia Association budget total is unchanged 2021-2022
- G2T budget total is almost \$1000 higher in 2022
 - Herbal gerbils are now included for small maintenance/irrigation
- Some of bees expense (total from \$280->\$650 2021-2022) to be covered by NRCS
- Now G2T budget total is now only \$500 above 2021 total

Meadow planning proposal (introduction)-

- Two types of native plantings in the meadow: a cultural planting/hedgerow/Miyawaki forest and an area of native plantings with 10-foot centers
- Previous partnership with UW Bothell for restoration ecology, ended during pandemic, potentially renewing partnership in future
 - UW program has changed--now more interdisciplinary
 - This year's cohort is looking for capstone opportunities to plug into
- Funding comes from NRCS cultural plantings enhancement requirement
- Total meadow area available for cultural plantings is 1.5 acres
- Our meadow is basically inert - inundated by blackberry and thistle
- Installing a Miyawaki forest would be a neat example for the NRCS
- Total anticipated cost ~\$4500
- Look at proposal!

Parking the Meadow proposal for now! To return at next meeting

Evaluation:

The good-

- Pictures were great
- Budget was easy! (thanks to the pre-meeting)
- Great facilitation by Mary
- Exciting connections and collaborations and networking!

What could be changed-

- Some defensiveness around meadow question: will there be open space?

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 23rd 7:15pm
Reuben facilitator, Sylvan scribe