

April Biogaian minutes

Present; Ka, Helen, Laura, Carol, Mary, Patricia, Eileen

REPORTS

Festival of the Earth - Anita is organizing people to put the plastic covering on the hoop house on Saturday. Jacob will lead a small team in the herbal Gerbil area. If there are enough volunteers perhaps wheelbarrows of pine mulch might be moved to the Crestmont food forest. Anita is also organizing the ZOO DOO project for Sunday. Volunteers needed for all of these projects. See CH schedule.

Orchard - Mary has been spraying compost tea. Fruit tree blossoms are at varying stages of swelling/budding/flowering. Next stage will be netting of the trees.

Forest - The forest team had a good meeting to reignite passions for the forest. David, Ka, MD and West. Highlights below;

- interest in removing invasive archangel and and holly.
- Anita stepping back from this group for the summer
- David to take on organizing of the meetings
- early funding inquiries
- philosophical question re "heart centered" approach to the forest
- invasives removal
- possibility of a work party and path clearing
- recommitment ceremony?
- looking at tree health and safety
- planting? irrigation? diversifying?
- debris removal in forest?
- contact resource foresters.

Garden

Garden prep off to a great start. Lots of seedlings in the greenhouse

Planting of food has begun.

Keyhole weeding

new strawberries planted

irrigation being installed

intern interviews underway - currently have Andrew (July - Aug.) and Isabel off site - (July-Oct)

lots of folks attending piglet meetings. New excitement!

Native forest Garden

Anita will be getting the irrigation set up. The plants are happy! Patricia keeps a close eye on them. The first anniversary of this planting will be celebrated during FOE.

Bees

Carol reported that she and Brent have been busy with bees.

Honeybees will be delivered May 10

Mason bees are still emerging. It has been cold for them.

Meadow silage tarp - Patricia will be covering meadow invasives with this tarp. She is also interested in a possible three-year project to remove grasses and eventually replant. UW students participate in this project? She will order this tarp with NRCS funds.

DISCUSSION

Crestmont Food Forest

After a discussion of the irrigation needs of the Crestmont food forest there was consensus on this plan:

The current system will be repaired but used only infrequently when it is especially hot. The plantings will be mulched with the pine mulch near the goat shed soon while the soil is still moist. Discussed the possibility of Rich, Nartano and Reuben might be enlisted to do the repair - none of them were at the meeting. Reuben to earn some money for this labor?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 13th - Pollinator Pathways Festival at 21 Acres

Booths, tours, food, crafts talks. See Patricia for more info.

Hammerhead - clearing of brush so that emergency vehicles can turn around in that area. See Eileen

Observing together

Mary, as a member of CAP4, invited those present to think about power imbalances as it relates to our committee - both internally and within the community. This is an *incomplete sketch* of a few points that were considered for discussion...

What is our standing in the community? The Biogaian committee is seen by some to have power at Songaia.

Possible reasons the committee is perceived in this way;

We are an established committee which has regular meetings and a significant budget. We implement and follow through on many important land projects, we play a central role in feeding the community, our work is highly visible. We have a reputation for delivering on our projects.

This committee articulates it's vision and participates in wider community discussions regarding the land. The community puts trust in us.

Another way to look at this question is to ask the question "Are there some in the committee that are feeling disempowered?" Saplings spoke about this a bit at the fishbowl meeting. Should we be offering mentoring? Should we be sharing our knowledge of how things get accomplished at Songaia? Sharing our experience of how to "work the system" Suggest ways to approach how to actualize a vision?

What about power dynamics within the committee?

In our meetings we rotate facilitation so that no one (or more) people have control over our discussions.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday May 30

Laura will facilitate

Helen will scribe