

## **Biogaians Meeting Minutes**

4/23/2012

Present: Brent, Michael, Sadhana, Katie (facilitator), Helen (scribe), Patricia,

### **Bastyr Students**

**Herbal Sciences**—Report from Doug: Agreement has been signed by core faculty, but Dept chair also needs to sign. Crystal will tour again May 7 and will inform students that our site is available. Possibly 1-2 students will choose this site this summer, with more likely next year. We will need to designate an area for them to work; the area between current garden and common house could incorporate herbs (see below), as well as possibly the food forest.

**Wholistic landscape:** The three students who are examining water flow would like to distribute a survey and have an after-dinner conversation with interested residents sometime in May. Katie will suggest a Wednesday evening. Tom, Nartano, Chuck, Brian and Patrick would probably be interested in attending. Katie will send out the questionnaires via email.

### **Interns/volunteers**

We have two Bastyr garden volunteers: Nicholas (returning) and Julia.

Interns: Patricia has received 7 inquiries and 3 applications. Kim Ellsworth has had a phone interview and seems like a very high quality candidate. Will be here next Monday at 10:00am for tour and interview; Brent will inform Journeys of the time. Kim is taking a Journey Sept 8-16. Patricia and Doug are inclined to accept her, and then choose the second to fit well with her. Three other women have inquired, one is quite interested but doesn't have internet access. A couple who seem somewhat immature has also applied. All except Kim came through WOOF; Kim came through Journeys.

Kevin has a trailer shell that doesn't leak and would be better than a tent as yurt alternative. The trailer would likely stay at Kevin's or at NES.

### **Earth Day**

Biogaians will lead four 1.5 hour work sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon.

1. Katie: morning team to clean huckleberries near LSC and start on secret garden until time runs out.
2. Patricia: team mulching new apple trees and other fruit trees as time allows.
3. Brent: afternoon team to clean and mulch western entry near NES.
4. Sadhana: cleaning Circle Garden.

(Note: Liam has a current and a huckleberry which he is planning to bring on Saturday, which could be planted in Circle Garden or Food Forest.

### **Central Gazebo**

Do we plant roses versus hops versus clematis? Hops require a very long trellis, so we decided not plant hops in that location. We considered placing hops at the north end of the barn or over a patio. Patricia had consulted with Fred before his death, and

Fred agreed that clematis would be fine, especially since roses don't do well in the shade. Patricia will let Tom, who believed Fred's plan was for all roses, know she had Fred's blessing for clematis.

### **Fruit tree donations**

Katie has donations for 15 fruit trees and a blueberry bush. We can get almost any fruit on dwarf root stock, and will choose as many dwarfs as possible. We will need a separate planning session about placement and a water line for two summers. Checks are being written directly to Katie.

### **Goats/Bees/Bunny poop (Brent report)**

1. Stud goat is doing well.
2. New bees have arrived, and will go to hive on Wednesday. Brent harvested 13 old combs that could be put into jars. Patricia would like to sell the honey to Songaia members as a way to subsidize the bee costs. At some point we would have enough honey to go back to the food program, but at first we would just recoup costs. After some discussion, we decided to simply put out a donation jar.
3. A local rabbit breeder has bunny poop available for our taking.

### **Workshops**

Michael would like to see a series of 3-day permaculture workshops that cost \$350 per person, run by Jennie Pell, which would subsidize all the small financial things that currently limit us. The workshops would be outdoors and experiential, though we would provide food and some alternative shelter. Michael will email the pro forma he worked up; if it looks viable, we could hold one pilot this summer.

### **Garden: Googledocs, hoop house, work log, equipment**

Patricia has posted two new google docs: a list of tasks and the garden plan. Any of us could modify them as tasks get done or new tasks appear. Could help organize volunteers and interns. We may each need to "request approval" to join.

Hoop house still needs doors but Larry will make those. Peppers will be grown under smaller cloches, and the hoop house reserved for tomatoes mixed with some basil.

Doug has composed a Garden Work Log, which will be by the scale. We are requested to log our hours, along with interns and volunteers, in order to get a ballpark idea of where our labor is coming from.

Michael will be approaching local businesses for donations via Journeys. Our main tool needs are wheelbarrows and garden carts, then digging forks, shovels, pruners and shears.

### **Brush Pile**

Brush was chipped but large logs and composting wood is left. New brush will need to be managed, with thorny materials being burned separately. Brent will post signs about where to put new brush, and reduce some of the logs for firewood. He will also ask our contact for chips about a delivery prior to the coming weekend..

## **NES Plant Salvage**

Clematis, hops, kiwi, grapes—are available for transfer to Songaia if desired.

## **Moving Herb garden**

Doug proposes moving the herbs on the north side of the dining room door, which don't get enough sun or care. Many kitchen herbs are already in the keyhole or food forest, but having an herb bed between the garden and the Common House would be more convenient to the cooks. Perhaps the Bastyr student would like to design this area. Some herbs could stay near the dining room door, but the lower level could have different plantings.

## **Finances**

Patricia will show the updated budget at our next meeting. Chipper bill has been paid, a few small receipts are still out.

## **Christmas trees**

Brent wants to plant noble fir trees on the West side of Lost Lake, harvesting them at 6 years, to be sold by a local Boy Scout troop that would share the proceeds. Brent would donate the trees, but a drip line would need to be installed. We agreed that this needs a formal community-wide proposal, which could come from Biogaians, and that Brent will write the proposal with assistance as needed.

## **Mowing**

Biogaians are charged with figuring out a mowing scheme. May-June is the heavy time of year. The areas near residences that can be done by riding mower aren't so neglected, but the brush mower is needed in the orchard/garden. Sheet-mulching reduces the amount of orchard mowing, which will be renewed next weekend. Brent mows the areas near Journeys, and Katie mows the labyrinth after doing LSC. We have a small amount of money for equipment maintenance, but not a labor budget. Katie can mow more of the area between the garden and the residences. Would Christopher and Ian be interested in earning pocket money by doing some of otherwise-unclaimed mowing?

## **Next meetings:**

Biogaians: Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) after dinner. Helen is facilitator, Douglas is scribe.

Piglets: Monday mornings 8am through summer.