

Biogaians Meeting April 28, 2020

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26 at 7 PM next meeting.

Attendees of this meeting: Hayra, Helen, Laura (facilitator), Doug, Anita, Patricia, Mary, Joey (scribe), Elizabeth.

Brief reports;

1. Veggie garden:
 - a. potatoes coming up, Savannah overlook coming along in keyhole, Houdini beans are planted and string beans, arugula almost ready next week, the activity but not as much voles, no definite rabbit nibbling, slug activity picking up it's like activity, Peas need to get tidied up in the next couple days, artichokes are spectacular, Helen is reclaiming a strawberry bed and they are flowering! And it's a great place to be.
 - b. We have hundreds of tomatoes, transplanted probably 200, We will have extra and give them away for adoption.
 - c. Cucumbers coming up and zucchini.
 - d. Dried beans are scarce and we have plenty to share, it sounds like Permaculture Woodinville would like some.
 - e. Paul and Jacob successfully rebuilt the beds that Nancy funded. Could maybe plant tomatoes there
2. Orchard:
 - a. Been doing homeopathic spray hoping to do more tomorrow. MD will bring horsetail from Bastyr. Little fruits are going on trees, sent out an article about thinning the crop. Would like to do it as a group with social distancing, but it's pretty labor intensive. The idea is that more fruit gets pollinated than is best for your yield. If you don't thin you get into an every other year cycle.
3. Greenhouse: Nothing else mentioned
4. Forest restoration:
 - a. Hasn't changed since last meeting. Still going to classes this spring all online, and they are not planning on coming out to any work party any time soon. But they are planning on creating a plan for us to do fall transplants that they will provide.
 - b. Stinging nettle coming up in the places we took out the archangel. We also have a big pile of wood chips will need to move. Hardwoods are more ideal for the fruit trees.
 - c. Invasive update from Hayra: New spots of archangel and tansy ragwort by north east corner of unit two where there's a post.. Also on the Hugulcultures. And on Lost Lake road along the curvy ditches and then across the path to Life Song Commons, tansy ragwort.
5. Bees:

- a. Anita and Brent picking up honey bees tomorrow, going to put them in the two hive boxes that we have. Two types of hives that we have. Feeding them sugar water since they will be building all new combs.
- 6. COVID Precautions: No concerns.
- 7. Return of tools: Please bring back tools! Particularly forks.
- 8. Mushroom logs:
 - a. no update.
 - i. The logs down by Lost lake Road are sprouting and they are 6 feet long so we're not sure how to move them. Logs could be used on the edge of the driveway if we don't use them as mushroom logs. Getting them off of Lost Lake Road would be very advisable. Need to check in with Sylvan to see what her plan is.
 - b. Crestmont Food Forest:
 - i. Took out blackberries on the east side of the forest, and Helen removed cleavers and fed them to the chickens. Irrigation sensors are on and apparently they are very smart as in it knows when it rained last
 - ii. Ask if landscaping the weeds is an essential business task, need to weed whack the food forest. Done a lot of work to get the things you want to go in there if you want them to have Visibility. Landscapers were only come three times. Helen will contact the Crestmont Place management to schedule the weed whacker team.
 - iii. Fruit trees there are very happy. Kudos to the beauty of the fruit tree pruning. Have done a lot so they stand out from their understory. Many invasives and weeds are challenging to the trees.
 - c. Water retention system first mowing: Thinking of asking Jacob if he's interested in doing the mowing; he said yes but not sure when but might be two weeks. Let Jacob know it is paid to work.

Short Discussions

- 1. May 2 Circle plans:
 - a. Was going to be a celebration of the earth near Mayday, we were going to celebrate our land. Elizabeth and Anita were going to be the ones to organize it but now a lot of energy is going into the garden. Will probably be a check in about something you found on the land or your experience from the land the past few weeks. Invite people to bring objects to share. Then break into breakout groups with different questions. Wondering if all of us have ideas for suggestions.
 - b. Aditi willing to host a circle for songs and such.
 - c. Idea: Forest work party. Focus our celebrations for the forest and invasive species (mainly blackberry?) and using the mulch.
 - i. Who: Morning time questions Elizabeth and Aditi. Mary Anita and Joey To organize the forest work party.
 - 1. Mary inquired about a meeting where amazing questions were asked about their favorite places in the land or on the land.

2. Helen: People love small groups, could do a few of them 6 to 8 minutes each sharing their object and why they chose it. Could also get history and stories about Springhill farm before it was some guy a (songaia) - tap people who have knowledge of these beginnings.
 3. Elizabeth: Have the other speak at the beginning of the car before we break out
 4. Patricia: What can we build to honor the trees that were taken down for the development. Groups could do it one at a time. Could do it in the fall.
2. Biogaian barn area Cleaning and Organizing:
- a. Laura asked if you want to set a date for that? Anita says we should do it on a rainy day, it will need multiple hands and we will need to take multiple shifts. Two people could probably do it safely but not the whole thing. Do shifts. The more challenging piece is that we need knowledgeable people in there, or we need to strategize about when they are in there.
 - b. Laura asks if can we put more shelves into the greenhouse
 - c. Patricia recommends emptying the whole space into the big barn and anybody can help with that, and not trying to sort it necessarily. Many obvious things could go straight to the dumpsters.
 - i. Note: Need to make sure we stage it as a timeline so people are not affronted by using the barn space.
 - ii. Mary: Probably have more space than we think we do.
 - d. looking for a rainy day to do it on
3. North Barn Bay - culling of mechanized equipment, reorganize and clean
4. Hugelkulturs - ownership and plans, where in overall Songaia priorities?:
- a. Brent is pledging labor support. Put on the parking lot for the May meeting. Let them know it is on the docket.

Meeting evaluation What went well? How could we have done better?

- What went well?
 - Laura organization is superb, a big secret. Moving along in our spritely fashion.
 - Right number of people in the room, good listening, plenty of time for people to talk, no interruptions.
- What could have gone better?
 - Would have been nice to have Brian and Sylvan, And Doug Larson. Paul and Aditi.