

# Songaia Biogaian Meeting - March 29, 2022

Facilitator: Matt; Scribe: Brian

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## Agenda

- Check-in : Patricia shared AMAZING images of the FIRST Songaia garden.
  - Reports
    - Herbal gerbil plans (Anita, West, Reuben)
    - Microshelters: Decks (Nartano); update on new shelter progress (Matt, Anita)
    - Orchard (Mary)
    - Garden Report (Anita): 2022 interns; greenhouse; garden work; High tunnel: extending the growing seasons
    - Bastyr student design (Matt)
    - Meadow planting (Patricia, Anita)
  - Announcements
  - Next meeting
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## Reports

- Herbal Gerbils
  - shelves donated from Douglas
  - collapsed the bunny tunnel under the fence near the herb spiral - this area may need some hardware barriers and continued maintenance, perhaps a task force or work party, several other ideas including a gabion wall; Anita will follow up in a couple of weeks.
  - Still todo: renovate the dehydrators (be sure to use a screen spec'd for food use with heat, rebuild the hops support)
- Microshelters
  - Funds were approved to finish the micro shelters: ~\$2000: \$700 from Community Dev, \$500 from Karly & Oz, matched by Abundance fund, and some left over funding
  - Deck updates: initial joist is in place; plan is to put a temporary decking in place for now with handrail to complete it for now. Suggested, 5/4"x6" cedar decking - would

be pricey but good. Proposed to buy the decking now and fill in the missing section first, then replace the other sections as labor allows. Nartano will price out the decking.

- A-Frame: still needed to trim down the door and replace a section on the moveable wall on the northwest point.
  - New micro-shelter: still needed- sliding door installation, insulation, and siding of some type. Matt will foster a conversation toward a decision siding and insulation with interested parties to make a decision
- Orchard Report
- Mary has done some spraying on the trees: apples have had two rounds; other trees one application.
  - Fruit tree netting in first part of May with Barb (who did this last year): Elizabeth, Brian Matt, Laura, Anita, Helen, Eileen, interns
  - Donation from Matt's employer for some materials to use for spraying
- Garden Report (Anita)
- Interns - Four accepted so far: Carter and Emily (June through Mid October); Reese (April 15-October 15); West (Late June through August); a couple of other people interested in applying
  - Greenhouse veggies - tomatoes: peppers, eggplant, peas and beans, flowers and herbs. Very exciting
  - Garden is starting - couple of rows of greens; garlic; weeding and preparing for new strawberries
  - High tunnel conversation - we have been officially approved for NRCS high-tunnel funds (need to sign a contract by mid April); still exploring options for location and a smaller size. Biogaian special meeting in two weeks if piglets have a proposal to bring. Community round table - Brian will send out an invite and facilitate.
- Bastyr Students (Wholistic Landscape Design)
- Students have completed design for part of the west orchard (along east side of Lost-Lake road, from chicken-coop to path down to goats)
  - Students will be out in April to plan, Mid-may to install

- Funding from Bastyr is limited,; would be better experience from students if we can provide some plants; Matt will send out the design and plant list; eventual ask for donations - perhaps a part
- Meadow Cultural plantings
  - Lots of weaving together: Artist Lou Cabeen has gotten involved; Lark organizing study group on Lushootseed plant names; UWB students work on preparation; thank you to everyone who worked with the UWB students
  - Round table: Tuesday evening April 19
  - Festival of the Earth events in planning: starting on Friday with ceremony with Linzie Crowfoot; two plantings on Saturday organized by teams

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## Announcements

- No garden work party this Saturday
- Fig Trees (Matt) - we have them! Suggestion to put one of the fig trees south of the greenhouse to help shade greenhouse in summer; request to watch when the current figs leaf out this year to see if that will work; also possible sites include espalier figs behind Unit2 and/or along the west of the greenhouse (where the raspberries failed)
- Bees (Carol/Brent)- Mason bees are here: three tubes of mason bees will be arriving; also getting two packages of honey bees (both hives perished)
- Bokashi/compost (Rueben) - creating a hot compost pile using Bokashi flakes; and making new homemade flakes (still fermenting). Lucas, MD and Rueben will be building more compost piles tomorrow
- Crestmont Food Forest (Helen) - Crestmont HOA will no longer be providing funds to maintain the food forest (no funds for weed trimming, water, etc.). In the past maintenance has included regular watering and 4-8 visits from landscapers each season. Costs would be helpful - Brian will ask to get the costs from Patrick and Rich.
- Tracking carnivores group (Ka) - There are resources for mapping carnivore sitings in the urban region; the flow of animals and interactions([carnivorespotter.com](http://carnivorespotter.com))
- Nettle Harvesting (MD): Many nettle patches are ready for harvest. Request to invite 4 or 5 friends to come harvest. Biogaian consensus. Mary suggested asking them to focus on the nettles under the apples to help make it easier to work on the trees.

## Review

What went well - we made it through a long agenda; good attendance; succinct; good facilitation; photos were fun;

What could go better - no ideas

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## Next Meeting

- Tuesday, April 12 at 7:15PM (if needed to decide the High tunnel contract)  
Facilitator: Brian; Scribe: Mary
- Tuesday April 26th at 7:15PM  
Facilitator: Mary; Scribe: Anita