

Biogaian Meeting 2/28/23

Facilitator: Patricia

Scribe: Miranda

Present: Patricia, Miranda, Brent, Mary, Ka, Anita, Reuben, Jacob, Helen, Eileen

Check-in question: What's your favorite seed and why?

Honeybee Update – Carol/Brent

Garden Update – including the latest on potential summer interns

Rose update – Mary?

Ivy disposal - ?

New Biogaian reimbursement request form – Helen

UWB Student involvement – Anita

Forest Stewardship Subcommittee – Anita

Reports and Announcements

Honeybee Update - Carol/Brent

- Mason Bees will be the first bees we'll bring to property March 15 or early March. Brent will pick them up. Will put out tubes (3) successively so that we don't "put all our eggs in one basket" re: the hatching and lifespan of the bees.
- Honey bees: we are going to have one hive this year and it's going to be the old hive that we purchased a long time ago. Will come April 26.
- No bees survived the winter (at least when checked in January). This past year did a much better job insulating the hive but didn't help because of the cold snap (?)
- Will work more diligently on mite control this year.
 - Lots of mite jokes. "Mitey bees" "That 'mite' work".
- Will drain some honey now and leave some for the bees when they come back. Suggestions for this year's honey harvest can make those suggestions to Carol Day.

Garden Update – including the latest on potential summer interns - Anita

- Haven't interviewed anyone yet, interview this Saturday with Sarah. Interested in coming July - September, will be attending Bastyr in Fall. Another intern interested in being an off-site intern, same time period (July-Sept.)
- Most of outreach this year so far through the WWOOFing site. Stefan Clawson? Is person who helped recruit off-site interns in the past, Anita is reaching out to him.
- Piglets continue to meet. Today, Helen Miranda and Anita looked at garden layout for this coming season. This year looking at increasing production, intercropping, plant diversity/companion planting.
- Anita is looking at starting plants in the greenhouse before April.
- Start up things in greenhouse in March, get plastic on hoop house and turn water on in April.

Rose update - Mary

- We canceled the rose pruning workshop because of the weather. Haven't heard back from Katie about rescheduling rose pruning. Will be Katie's initiative if she wants to reschedule.
- We didn't spend any money and we didn't get any roses pruned.
- The ground is waterlogged right now, only can prune certain plants because of weather.
- Sylvan has marked some roses with a certain thread because she's concerned about them and if they need care, call Sylvan.

Ivy disposal - Helen

- Unknown if we can put in the brown dumpster. (Is it considered class A noxious weed?)
 - Mary: No, it is class C. So we **can** put it in the brown dumpster!
- Could put on tarp and let it sit, or let it decompose into earth. Some ivy is being made into baskets. Piles currently sitting in the South orchard.

New Biogaian reimbursement request form – Helen

- Zarifah will manage receipts from Biogaians this year. Most of the stuff we'll do is going to be under "Shared Expenses". GTT will cover some things (mostly under grant), Songaia expenses will cover some things.
- Total requested, what is reimbursement for, who is being reimbursed.
- Will modify it if it doesn't work out for bookkeepers.
- Located in the office by where old ones used to be. Put them in the green folder.

UWB Student Involvement - Anita

Slideshow from Anita:

- **New planting** by Cedar
 - Patricia removed blackberry by Cedar/red osier dogwood so UW students bagged it, mulched it, and designed planting for this space. Get to put in shade-loving native plants and learn about their cultural significance/ Lushootseed names just like in meadow/forest. Map of planting. Sourced plants and will be getting them soon to plant.
 - Money will come from Anita ? - a couple hundred \$.
 - Plants sourced from GoNatives! And Oxbow
- Students looked at the **beehive**, harvested honey (with Brent). Students got to bring some honey to share with their classmates.
- Sylvan took them on a **medicinal plant walk** around the property. Dug up dock from keyhole, made it into dock medicinal sparkling beverage that sylvan likes to make.
- Did **biochar** burn. Biochar burn did not yield as much as hoped ($\frac{1}{4}$ as much as used to in same amount of time). Maybe because of moisture ? Still a good demonstration.
- Camas is coming back! And nettle, other plant babies.
- One day they did **storytelling** with Brian and Helen about Crestmont development. Got to see what the community can do when they come together. Raked under (3) apple trees, limed, mulched, and put down chicken manure.

- Reuben showed students **bocachi** flakes / method (composting).
- Went to GoNatives! Nursery.
- Made some **compost tea** for the native food forest. Mary wants to use some for the orchard.
- Students dug out giant **blackberry** in native forest planting.

Discussion

- Blackberry removal: where does \$ come from?
- In NRCS grant we have \$412 for sustainability enhancement and \$1000 for invasive removal, in Songaia Assn we have supplies
- Meadow / orchard cover crop seed \$ in different section
- Buy plants for where we take out blackberry, other invasives

Forest Stewardship Subcommittee - Anita

- Forest stewardship subcommittee met this month. West has been a leader in this.
- One outcome this month was creating a rotation like Biogaian rotation for scribing, facilitation. We had a presentation and discussion about landowner expectations (increase biodiversity, etc.) Significant number of people in this group (10+?)
- If anyone is interested in joining, let Barb know you want to be on the email list.
- Mary will work on getting an arborist estimate for the dangling tree limb over parking lot and any other things on property.

Additional Discussion topics:

Eileen: concern: Pathways need to be kept clear

- Sylvan taking care of (pruning) cherry tree/weeping willows in Peace Garden?
 - Mary and Helen are willing to take up pruning this tree if Sylvan is no longer pruning.
 - Eileen will communicate with Sylvan.

Reuben - Compost Bucket Signs

- Over compost buckets in CH laminated signs say 'no citrus' - why?
- Soil is acidic, chickens don't like citrus.
- Thin skinned fruits break down faster than thick skinned ones.
- Citrus not a huge offender
- Reuben should be the one to make decisions about compost since Reuben puts most energy into the compost - Reuben will notify the community.

Next Meeting: March 28

Facilitator: Miranda

Scribe: Mary

Improvements for the next meeting?

- Nothing. It went well!

What went well?

- We made a couple of decisions, got updated on appropriate things, this meeting went well!
- Entertained by anita and her background picture, slideshows <3
- Meeting was short and efficient!

Announcement (Eileen)

- David and Eileen will be bringing apples from Oregon for community pantry
- Cider and applesauce still in pantry