

Biogaians Meeting 5/24/2022

Facilitator: Mary

Scribe: Reuben

Check-in: What are you grateful for?

Boardwalk garden:

Should Susie plant things or give the space up for perennials (suggestion by Aditi) or fig tree (potential shade)? The location is good for nibbly plants. The giant pumpkin? Extra tomatoes? The area has trouble with rats. Two new traps in the area. But there are still many tunnels. It's a little late for transplanting perennials, but not too late to get a fig tree out of a pot in the greenhouse.

Susie would appreciate help placing the fig tree and getting irrigation. Susie will garden the area this year and plan to incorporate the giant pumpkin. The space could be handed to Aditi next year.

Discussion about raspberries and blueberries next year. Aditi may be interested in getting the raspberries going again. Raspberry shoots still coming up in keyhole, which could be offered to that space. Best time to move blueberries is February

Susie will reach out to Aditi to plan division of boardwalk garden and raspberry box area.

Interns and Microshelter:

Jake has delayed his visit by a couple of days due to covid outbreak. He may potentially still stay for two weeks. Anita will check in with him in a couple days.

Carter and Bird will arrive May 31st. Planning to have the new microshelter ready for them.

Brent and Nartano worked on the railing today and Barb put on a coat of primer.

Indoor/outdoor rugs were purchased for both microshelters.

Microshelter task force met last week, now two members have covid. But the project is still moving along.

West will be starting their internship on June 18th. They will be with us 4 days a week through August.

Mary and Anita will check in about intern participation in the meal program. Typically interns help with setup/portion of setup/cleanup at piglets lunch.

Do we need any backup housing other than the microshelter? This might be a good idea, some materials are arriving Monday May 30th, though Paul says he can work Monday. Susie has a room available with foam pads for sleeping.

Hoop Houses and Garden update:

Potatoes from Patricia's crawlspace were planted

Bean trellises went up on the Saturday work party

Aisles have been dug up and turned onto beds, and some tomatoes have been planted

The hoop house decision board proposal has been up for two weeks, and there has been some need for discussion. There will be a round table this Thursday after dinner where piglets will share the story of how we decided to invest in these hoop houses.

We anticipate that we will come in well under \$4000 to complete all three hoop houses.

The plastic and wiggle wire for one hoop house has been delivered!.
There are lots of extra tomatoes to give away - they have been offered to the community first.
The early planning and organizing in the greenhouse has made its use smooth and productive!

Bees:

One of the hives has been moved onto cinder blocks, and is now at a better height.
Inspection showed queens in both hives. Feeding sugar syrup every other day. Currently a dearth of blossoms, so extra sugar is important.

Working to create a water station near the hives, and bees will probably continue to use the fountain in the gazebo.

Working on disease control, each Wednesday, to control mites.

Carol is sharing a bee poem by a friend, written in German and English.(below)

Mason bees are doing pretty well, but hard to tell until the end of the season. Difficult to tell when they climb out of tubes, and the females live 2 weeks.

Filled reeds are increasing, similar to earlier years.

Mason bees will establish cocoons in the reeds until next April.

Several ground bees in the West orchard, discovered by Bastyr students

Puppysong walkway:

Spirea may need to be yanked out with chains. Eileen and David may be able to help.

Garden gates:

Long magnets are on all three gates now, and seem to be working well. Need to use them more to see if they will be sufficient.

Garden shed:

Tabled for now. We will be using the small plastic hoop structure again this year.

Shed would be nice for washing vegetables.

Can we make a temporary washing station with a table and spray nozzle hose, outside of the garden at the gravel mound? This may work better than the plaza sink.

No sprayer nozzles in biogaians area. May need to invest in more. Nancy may have an extra nozzle.

Rabbits:

No sightings in the garden, but rabbit poop found in the chicken run today.

Minimal rat tunneling in the compost so far.

Less rodent action in the garden than last year– but we must stay vigilant.

Cultural planting:

Susie has noticed camas lilies being eaten through the 2inch chicken wire. Cages could be swapped, or the 2inch could be replaced or reinforced.

New Earth Song grapes:

Some new growth is returning after they were trimmed way back to treat their disease! Remains to be seen if the new growth will be diseased also.

Evaluation:

Anita's pictures were great
Not too much agenda, and ending early!
People showed up on time (and dinner was on time)
Well-organized garden report
Appreciate boardwalk garden discussion

Next meeting:

June 28th

Facilitator: Ka

Scribe: Anita

Bee poem:

Ein Moment

Sum, sum, sum
Liebe Bienen im Apfelbaum
Sum, sum, sum
Fliegen von Blüte zu Blüte
Es öffnet mein Herz
Und lacht der Bauch
Ich fühle mich behütet.

Ich sitz neben der Kirsche und es brummt
Ein Blütenmeer zu bestaunen
Wie macht er das nur, dieser fantastische Baum
Ich denke in Erstaunen
Ein Biotop, eine Welt in sich
Da kann man doch einfach nur staunen
Keine kalten Erklärungen des Verstehens
Können diesen Augenblick rauben.

hum hum hum
Dear bees in the appletree
Hum, hum, hum
Flying from flower to flower
It opens my heart
and my belly laughs
and I am feeling cared for.

I sit next to the cherry and it's humming

An ocean of flower to marvel over
how does he do that, this fantastic tree
I am thinking with reverence
a biotop, a world in its own
on can simply only sit in amazement
because cold explanations of understanding
can not rob this moment.