

**Linnaeus Arboretum National Advisory Board**  
Crown Council Report  
April 2015

The National Advisory Board meetings are built upon discussions relating to objectives created last year in the long-range strategic plan or hearing brief updates on the status of other objectives that do not need discussion.

**2014 and 2015 Objectives**

**Formal Plant Collections**

- Develop and implement a design concept and maintenance plan for the rose garden, including creating a new name. (Complete. NAB member, Kim Soggard took lead on this project)
- Develop and implement a design concept and maintenance plan for the Evelyn Young Perennial Gardens. (Complete. NAB member, Kim Soggard took lead)
- Develop and implement a design concept and maintenance plan prairie demonstration garden. (NAB member, Harriet Mason, took the lead to complete this project last summer)
- Review philosophy and name and implement any changes for the Presidents' Oak Grove and First Ladies Lilac Grove.  
(Discussed at National Advisory Board meeting and implemented with President Bergman in the fall)

**Ecosystems**

- Create and start to implement a maintenance plan for the two prairie areas.  
(NAB member Buster West helped to secure a major grant from the Schmitt Foundation to this project)
- Identify and implement names for the three overlooks.  
(Spring 2014 the National Advisory Board reviewed the names and current signage)
- Develop and implement a plan to identify, map, and track current species and diversify and develop an understory as needed in the deciduous and coniferous woods.  
(The NAB discussed the deciduous woods boarder and opportunities presented by removing invasive species. Mapping project was started in winter 2015.)
- Assess ash tree collection and develop and implement redesign plan.

**Structural Areas**

- Conduct a needs assessment of the Interpretive Center. (Has not been started)
- Research and develop a plan to create nature play opportunities. (Little progress)

**Education**

- Meet with Education Faculty to establish a Student Naturalist program: a system of identifying, training, and scheduling interested Gusties for assisting with outdoor education programs.  
(The Education Department is not interested in pursuing a partnership at this time)
- Implement Student Naturalist program (Has not been started)
- Conduct exploratory meetings on creating a three-day outdoor education summer camp.  
(Complete and will happen again in summer 2015)
- Offer new programs Gustavus students targeting various majors to expand attendance. (On-going)
- Provide an educational tours to classes from the St. Peter Schools (On-going)
- Expand attendance for community outreach programs for general public and youth by maintaining a wide variety of topics and improve advertising in the public schools. (On-going)
- Creating new displays to rotate seasonally. (Has not been started)

- Explore possibility of putting a viewing windows in east wall of Interpretive Center. (Installed in summer 2014)
- Develop partnerships with other student clubs and organizations: Greens, etc. (Some progress made)
- Track student attendance at large events like Fall Fest. Assess effectiveness. (Has not been started)
- Need to define space in kiosk to develop some seasonal interpretive information, and seasonal arboretum items, and suggested visitation. (Has not been started)

**Personal Use**

- Explore survey to better understand personal use. (Has not been started)

**Finance**

- Review and discuss the rental philosophy/cost structure. (Discussed at 2014 Spring National Advisory Board meeting and will implement a new fee structure in 2015.)
- Review the Friends of the Arboretum membership benefits and levels. (Discussed at the Spring 2015 National Advisory Board meeting and will implement new levels in 2015)

**Staffing**

- Hire gardener/volunteer coordinator for 10 hours/week April through September (Hired person for summer 2014 and 2015)
- Manage and expand volunteer pool (Continuing to happen this year by gardener/volunteer coordinator)

**Awareness**

- Develop and implement a plan to raise the awareness of the Arboretum to the President’s Cabinet and Board of Trustees. (Appreciate the time President Bergman took to receive a tour of the arboretum and having the Crown Council reports going to the Board)
- Develop and implement a plan to raise awareness and ultimately usage of the Arboretum among Gustavus students and employees. (Has not been started)

In addition to the above items, the group discussed possible revisions to the Arboretum dog policy and possible changes to donor level names for the Coneflower Prairie for future donors.

**Members**

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mark Braun, Campus Facilitator | Ed Schneider       |
| John Chamberlain               | Kim Sogaard        |
| Connie Fortin                  | Dan Knight         |
| Bruce Gray                     | Chuck Syverson     |
| Harriet Mason                  | Buster West, Chair |
| Krisan Osterby                 | Gary Wyatt         |
| Bill Pedersen                  | Scott Moeller      |