

**Linnaeus Arboretum National Advisory Board
2019 Crown Council Report**

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Bob Shoemaker
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Cathy Waldhauser
Buster West - chair
Gary Wyatt

The group met three times this year.

Interpretive Center Building Project

The group has discussed for several years a desire to do some type of building project with the Interpretive Center. The goal is to expand the indoor space in order to accommodate more environmental education for the on campus and off campus communities. With money donated from the Schmidt Foundation the college hired HGA as architect for the pre-design work.

The group contacted environmental learning centers to learn more about their programming and facilities. There was an open house in March to gather input from the community on the project.

There are several factors to consider.

- Even though this has been discussed for years, is there broad enough support for this project.
- What is the future of current Interpretive Center - is the building in sound condition to save and it is the most cost effective to save the building?
- Location - should a new structure be connected to the current building or at least in the same location or not?
- Funding - the arboretum staff and advisory board will need partner with the Advancement Office to raise all the funds for this project. Is this feasible and could money also be raised to increase the Arboretum endowment in conjunction with the building project?

Linnaeus Symposium

Thursday, July 18, 2019 - *The Changing Climate: Our Response.*

Spend the day at Gustavus Adolphus College learning about the changing climate in Minnesota. In addition to an opening overview of the science, speakers will address the issue through the lens of vegetation changes, public policy initiatives, and individual action. The day will conclude with a closing dinner and an optional walking tour of the Linnaeus Arboretum.

Speakers

Dr. Mark Seeley is a Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water, and Climate and regular commentator on Minnesota Public Radio

Dr. Lee Frelich is the Director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Forest Ecology and Institute on the Environment

Joe Sullivan, JD, is the Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Energy Resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce

J. Drake Hamilton is the Science Policy Director at Fresh Energy

Dr. Jim Dontje is the Director of the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation at Gustavus Adolphus College