

Biogaian Meeting Minutes

2021-01-26

Facilitator: Matt Scribe: Paul

Present: Helen, Patricia, Ka, Anita, Matt, Mary, Brent, Eileen, Paul, Brian.

Proposals for Agenda: Forest Project, Seed report, Planting on terraces, Orchard update, Goats and Bees (were not checked on by Brent so he will email update tomorrow, Wildflower seed mix and bulbs as rhizome weed barrier, Microshelter, gate replacement, winter composting- Lucas is continuing on with composting, high tunnel, Broad fork, Netting is in the barn,

Harvesting bag: Mary's gift to the house was demonstrated by Mary.

Check-in Question: What is the thing you are most looking forward to harvesting this year?
Patricia- perfect apples. Helen- NES grapes. Mary- pears. Ka- sweet potatoes, Brent- peaches. Paul- mushrooms. Anita- stinging nettles. Eileen- italian plums. Matt- beets.

Forest Project: Anita: hope to get schedule out but has been delayed. Talked about just doing a portion of it this spring. The yellow arch angel area that was cleared out last year is a good project for chipping and planting and irrigation. Have not heard back from the professor as to the status of plants that are supposed to be stored. Paul says Zone 1 kitchen project should not conflict with forest labor needs. Brian says the plaza work upcoming is mostly contractor work.

Seed acquisition: Have placed orders for all the seeds and some of them are arriving. Brian: tomato seeds: lots were harvested, some were ordered but momotaro was backordered. Helen: may need some early slicers, Brian: we have Oregon spring and early girl seeds from previous years

Terrace by Unit 3, Ka: Still putting earth anchors back from center pipes so take care to not plant deep rooted plants directly behind those pipes. Not clear on the blueberries plan: just on the lowest terrace or bottom two? Ka does not want them to go any higher as they get into resident space. Fig is on 2nd level. Matt suggested a guava tree. Does it need irrigation? Should it go on the lowest or 2nd level. Anita purchased a 2 zone timer. Maintenance on blueberries is mainly the transplanting. Minimize buttercup and morning glory hitching a ride. Digging up and bare rooting them will be learn by doing. Mary thinks they will thrive and grow big, maybe 4 on the lower terrace? 3 on the 2nd level of terrace. Threshold for planting is a week after the last hard freeze. So maybe the 3rd week of Feb but last year we had snow then. Also need to make sure they are still dormant. The guava is Chilean, more a bush than tree, hardy to 15* for regular variety and cold hardy cultivars go lower.

Sweet potato slips, Anita has found a source in WA. It is an annual so does G2T or Unit 3 purchase? 12 plants for \$22.75. Ka says Unit 3 can pay for that and the guava. Anita to send a link to Helen.

Peach tree: Anita ordered it for delivery. Thanks to Eileen for donating it.

Orchard update: Mary: trees are done and half of apple trees are done. Had a spectacular day on Saturday. Matt's friend Ian was a great help. Focused on the south orchard on long neglected trees. Have one more legacy tree to work on. Working for those trees long term health and future production. Will focus netting on mid sized trees and stockings on smaller trees. West orchard is completed except for one asian pear. Things are going really well.

West Orchard: Hope to work on banks along Lost Lake Road banks that have been cleared of blackberries. One area is more northern that now has burlap on it. Further south Matt will plant with native prairie mix that gets more sun. One goal is to plant pollinators that produce throughout the year to replace pollen lost by getting rid of blackberries. Yarrow, horseradish... 4 apple trees there are good for netting and producing quality fruit.

Bulbs as rhizome barrier: Lilies from Diane's Dad. Plant along the east border fence closest to the common house to create a flowering rhizome barrier. Timing would be early spring. Keep ear out for bulbs that want to be transplanted. Patricia says there are 1,000's of daylilies near Patricia's, LSC, Dougs. *{Update from Laura: The daylillies at LSC have already been divided and plants were shared with Songaia. No more available at this time.*

I would be willing to divide the daylillies in the pots between Patricia and Douglas L's house.} Coordinate with garden depot location. Brian can stake that location out. Creating a chicken run along the south side of the garden fence would help keep the weeds down.

Ceanothus: would be attractive to pollinators and Ka would like to donate one and is hoping it would be placed somewhere it not only supports the bees with nectar, but where it would be useful in drawing the bees to where we need pollinators. Suggestions?

Mimosa tree: Ka would like to see one of those here and would invest in one. Matt will look for a location.

Wood chips: Pile at end of lost lake road is covered in ivy so probably not suitable for use. The pile up by the dumpster is a blend of our cottonwoods and one other load of softwoods.

Microshelter: Met with Patrick and Paul with some updates to the design. One change is to go to a single pitch roof.

Gates: Need to be replaced as the wood is getting swollen and cracked. Perhaps a Jonah project? Chris Wade? David Maxfield? Paul? Using a tropical hardwood for the rebuild would extend the longevity.

Broadfork: A broadfork was not in the budget so Sylvan gifted one to the house for New Years. If a larger one is needed it would have to come out of a very tight G2T budget. Matt: Borrowing

one to try out from the tool library or other sources to try out. Use is not time dependent, can use whenever a bed is not growing something.

What went well: We enjoyed each other! Clarity about terraces. A lot going on. Love that we are looking at a lot of different parts of the property. Matt's first facilitation!

What could have gone better: Clearer about start time, people trickle in. Is the start time 7:15 or 7:30? Mary will strive to not have Biogainas on serving or clean up on meeting nights. It is 7:15.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 7:15 February 23 is the next meeting. Paul facilitates Patricia scribe.