

11/29/22 Biogaians Meeting

In attendance: Patricia, Eileen, Mary, Helen, Ka, Reuben

When should our December meeting be?

The 20th of December would give us enough time to spend down our remaining funds. It's not a whole lot of money, but Helen will have better numbers by then about how much we have left to spend.

Biogaians Budget Roundtable:

Helen: Uneventful. Biogaians also talked with Susie, and she thought it made sense. Good job budget folks!

Agenda Items (compiled during the meeting)

Fence boards

Compost System

Orchard report

Freeze report

Lucky the truck

Orchard report (Mary)

-Still apples on big Mama (oldest largest tree, east end south orchard). They're yummy! Doing radical pruning this winter.

-Winter pruning work shop 1/12/23 Barb Burl and Plant People NW. Thursday. Update closer to the date.

-Mary is delighted to work with anyone who is desiring to work in the orchards.

-Leaf raking under trees is important, so we need wood chips to put down afterward. You want a mulch free of fungal spores and creates a ground cover, supports mycorrhizal life. Woodchips is best product to use based on current research.

-Apples need to be sauced. Mary will deliver apples to Eileen and Helen.

-Patricia: The Songaia Blush apples are great baking apples and good for compote. The biggest roundest reddest apples. They are mealy/past their prime. Mary is happy to bring some in the buckets to the saucers.

-Mary will be going to a workshop about growing plums in Western Washington. Let her know if you're interested and you can carpool. 12/15/22

-For a year with terrible pollination, we still have a lot of fruit to use. We have an assortment of fruits, which is setting us up for resilience.

Compost (Reuben)

I don't know the timeline of building a new compost bin. I don't know how helpful a new location will be for compost. The cedar planks could be used for compost, but that plan is not fully fleshed out yet.

Fence Boards (Ka, others)

Paul mentioned using them on the sides of the micro shelter. That's about 30% of what I have. I don't have anywhere else to take them.

Patricia: I'm sure there's room to put them into the wood bay.

Ka: I don't think they have been treated.

Helen: If we have room for them, it seems like if cedar is a precious enough resource, we should store them.

Patricia: I agree cedar is worth saving. We could burn them in biochar if not. The most difficult thing is that we forget what's in the wood bay, so we don't use it when we could. We should reorganize the wood. There are resources that we aren't aware of. If we put it in there and clearly remembered it, there are lots of reasons to save them.

Mary: I am happy to join a work party to reorganize the wood bay.

Ka: We may be causing a problem if we put them inside wet. We need to dry them.

Ka will wait to bring more until the Biogaians move the boards inside.

Lucky the Truck (Eileen)

The engine was rebuilt and only has 20k miles on it.

If Biogaians don't want it here, I will encourage David to sell it.

Mary: I don't know why Nartano and Brent are delaying on making a decision, other than sentimentality for the Big Green Truck. Brent was test driving Lucky today.

To be continued. We are on community time.

Freeze Report (Helen)

We won't know until the freeze is don't, but Helen got artichokes, chard, rosemarys covered with something. It's been about 3 weeks of low temps, which is a long time for these plants to be stressed like that. I hope there is enough insulation on those especially vulnerable ones. We are experimenting with different ways to use the one hoop house that's still covered. One side is open to give air to the brassicas, which were very mildewy.

Parking lot:

Tool care work party

Meeting Evaluation:

What went well:

Mary: If i seem manic, I am. From coffee. Reuben pictures.

Eileen: It was a low-key meeting tonight. My ill-prepared bungling didn't hold us back too much. Information exchange.

What could go better: Get Laura back from Mexico so we have an agenda. Haha!

More photos!

The 20th of December at 7:15 will be our next Biogaians meeting

Anita Scribing

Ka facilitating