

Monthly Biogaian meeting, August 25th, 2020

Present: Hyra, Patricia, Sylvan, Anita, Jack, John, Brent, Mary, Christy, Helen, Brian

Agenda: Brent

Facilitator: Hyra

Scribe: Sylvan

Check-in: share an experience you've had with apples. Memories ranged from eating apples or pie as a child, favorite trees, learning to prune or graft, riding horses under apple trees, apples as family history.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN: Anita is trying to make a plan for Autumn/Winter work. Has been trying to contact the UW program about the plants that should be coming, and about the remaining financial agreements, but hasn't reached the faculty yet. (No reply expected during Summer break.) She will continue to try to connect with them. If anyone wants to join the Stewardship Committee, let Anita know. Anita will schedule another meeting soon-ish.

WOOD CHIPS: We can get lots of them free. How do we check for invasive species? No good ideas were brought forward. The pear tree fungus that caused fruit drop this year has Juniper as a required host every other year. Does this mean only live plants, or does it include wood chips? We don't know. Mary might be able to learn more.

Path to Doug Larsen's house: It is overgrown. Not wheel chair accessible. Who is responsible for maintenance? Facilities? Biogaians? Brian will look up the Decision Board Proposal and see what provisions were included for long term maintenance.  
ROLL THIS FORWARD TO NEXT MEETING.

Fig and Sea Buckthorn trees up for adoption: Sylvan adopted one of the Figs that Patricia was babysitting. Brian will take the other. Sylvan will take the (female) Sea Buckthorn that's by the gazebo to friends. Joey has a bunch of fig trees of another variety. If interested, ask Joey.

Fruit Tree Documentation Project: Patricia, Lucas, and Mary are creating a system of numbering the fruit trees so that we can track pruning, production, best flavor, which ones keep well, diseases, names of varieties, etc. Sylvan will contact the Seattle Tree Fruit Society about coming out to help us ID our trees. Tree Documentation group is meeting tomorrow at 7pm in the CH to look at a map.

Apple harvest: Christie is bringing apple boxes home, for storing stores whole. Let's make a year's worth of apple sauce! We can freeze it instead of canning it. Mary is arranging to use a Journeys fridge. If you pick up ground drops, wash them before use for health safety. Mary is making plans for cleaning up spoiled fruit and what to do with it. Anita is making cider pressing plans for Saturday September 5th. Sylvan will contact the tool library about a second press and an apple chewy crunchy thing for the 5th.

Nancy is making apple sauce in the crock pot every day. Are there other people, including non Biogaiaans, who might be willing to do this? Anita will send out an email about help harvesting and making sauce. "Connecting people to fruit." As our apple tree care continues to get better we will have larger and larger harvests. Sylvan asked that we discuss a root cellar in the 2021 budget. ADD TO NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA.

Rats in the garden: Anita and Helen harvested some squash, the ones that seemed most in danger from rats. Anita doctored the rest with hot sauce. Low tomatoes are being harvested early, even if not quite ripe, since they were being nibbled. Peanut butter/baking soda balls are in the tool hoop house. If you see a rat hole, roll a ball down it. Another low- investment tactic is disrupting the tunnels.

Canning Jars: We need more! Probably a mix of quarts and pints. Apple sauce, if canned, is best in quarts. (Or freeze in gallon or quart ZipLoc bags.) Other things such as jam might be better in pints. Anyone who wants to donate a case of jars is encouraged to do so! It's possible some people might not know not to recycle canning jars. Anita will put out an email with a call for donations for jars, and a note about not recycling them.

Crestmont Food Forest: Helen, Anita, Mary, Sylvan will meet to discuss how the landscape company service will be used. We have 1 or 2 more visits this year. Sivan had concerns about damage to plants. Mary is interested in "sow and mow" cover crops. This group will meet this week, Helen will convene.

Sylvan will write a short paragraph about what ideas she had about pigs, and send that out before the next meeting so that people can see the idea before discussing it. ROLL PIGS FORWARD TO ANOTHER MEETING. Sylvan would like to see this discussion be a priority at some point, not just the thing that's always pushed to the next meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday September 22nd, 7:15. Sylvan will facilitate, Brian will scribe.

Next agenda: pigs? Apples! Root cellar.