

Biogaian meeting notes, April 30th 2024

Forest

Two trees have fallen across paths and one preemptively removed for safety.

Switchback improved in eroding trail

Upcoming forest work party on Thursday May 2nd.

There are 5 standing dead trees close to trails or microshelters. They should be removed. We'll need to clear cars this coming Thursday at 3pm from the forest side, as precaution..

As always, limbs fall. It would be good to clear them farther from trail instead of berming the trail in brush

The Holly tree Sylvan felled is growing back

The upper septic field needs to be cleared of brush and small trees. Probably will be a paid job. MD has a crew, is coordinating w/ Nartano.

Garden

Trucking along

Early tomatoes in hoop houses look great, the later tomatoes are being up-potted again and will be planted out later.

Rueben is still willing to do compost, he'll ask for support if he needs more

The compost bins need to be rebuilt this Summer

Paul started a dry farming area in the chicken run. He found a mystery pipe. It is the drain from the CH roof.

The plan is to extend it past that area. We probably need a plan to mark it off permanently so it's not damaged in future. There are Spring King dry-adapted tomatoes to go in, Golden Acorn squash that Patricia plans to plant on the swale, along w/ maybe some potatoes.

Garden volunteer Chas, a local, will be here every Saturday. Jessica, another local, will be here on Fridays and may increase to more days later.

Garden gates: Paul has all the materials and will start it as soon as he's done with current project

Internship program

Not much action from WWOOF sites this year

Lots of ads out at nurseries and Pollinator Fest

Regarding stipends, the WWOOF program prohibits any money being paid. Impacts of this via the 501c(3) yet to be fully examined.

Irrigation – final leaks being found and fixed

Produce logs – in use

Katie Vincent's classes have concluded. All went well. Katie got us an honorarium from UW.

The boggy area in the SW quad is growing. Some things will be moved from that area to other places on the property. For this year we'll just grow plants that can tolerate some wet. Maybe Blueberries in the Fall?

Native Forest Garden

Amazing growth

May 11th FOE work party planned, mostly weeding.

Trying to balance maintenance of the two areas, Miyawaki and standard.

Linzie Crofoot was out, talked with Brian about possibly teaching classes here or gathering here, especially things like Soapberry that are hard to find wild nearby

Lawn

Aerating was done in the Commons and around the playground. A few thin places were composted and seeded.

Flags are there to keep people off. Could we keep people off until the end of May? Especially around the play area!

Sylvan has access to Self-Heal plugs. What time of year would be good to put those in? Maybe just pop them into the aeration holes?

Landscaping

Entrance sign: much cleanup was done. Sylvan made a planting plan and will start putting things in now that it's been cleaned up.

Should we remove the bamboo the bamboo on the left side of the Songaia driveway? Maybe cut it back?

Helen will investigate since it's on their property.

Can the thorny bushes in the hammerhead go in the brown dumpster? Answer: yes.

Eileen is looking for native plants to stabilize the slope behind Unit 9. Patricia suggests the Pollinator Pathway NW .org website, under resources.

Crestmont is getting mowed. More will be mowed when it's dry.

Pawpaws in Crestmont: Helen is working on pollinating them

Orchard

Mary can't do spraying this year. No one has been found yet to replace her

NRCS grant for orchard cover crop /orchard floor work. Anita is still working on it, but it's slow and a bit confusing

Posse(s)

Bees (honey and Mason)—both types appear to be doing well. Mason bee cocoons going out now.

Chickens—three elderberry bushes were obtained and planted south of the Eggplant. They will need protection if goats are in the pen, or we could move the shape of the pen to avoid them.

Goats—blackberries available in the upper pens and also in the meadow, though no fence is set up there.

Espalier below Unit Three

Sylvan received agreement to plant espaliered figs below Unit 3, but Ka has raised objections about having room to work on the slanting path and concern about blackberries taking over the espalier. Brian suggests making a drawing and offers to help negotiate a solution.

What went well: getting all the old stuff cleared out of the agenda. Thanks to Eileen for doing all the pre-meeting work to establish that agenda.

Next meeting: May 28 after dinner. Sylvan is willing to facilitate but needs a reminder. Anita is backup. Brian will scribe.

Submitted by Sylvan, with Helen providing the last few entries after Sylvan's phone failed.