

S.O.U.L. Mid-Island Chapter Minutes of March 2010 meeting

1 S.O.U.L. March meeting

1.1 Meeting Overview:

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2010

Location: Valley Vista Guest House, Errington, B.C.

Chairperson: Jessica Irving

Minutes Scribe: Kathleen Millar

1.2 Meeting Participants:

Kathleen Millar-Secretary

Ruth Bowker

Heather Shobe

Connie Kuramoto

Suzanne Vigneault

Linda Perkins

Everest Rymer

Jessica Irving - President

Mike Allen – Vice President

1.3 Major Meeting Topics:

1.3.1. FINANCES: Cheques are being mailed for a pay-by-use account. There first deposit was \$1716.00 minus about \$80.00 for recent garden shows and seedy Saturdays.

1.3.2. DIRECTION: Determining direction for the mid-island chapter of S.O.U.L. Main offerings were: Education of the public through volunteering at schools/Cancer society (Jessica Irving put forth the suggestion that we could pick one project a month based on applications submitted by people in need), community building, assisting each other with projects, co-ordinating resources between members of the chapter, generating 'random acts of kindness' in our communities (Everest Rymer), share gardening tips, communicating sources for materials/etc.

1.3.3. FUNDRAISING: Fundraising will be required for materials, resources, labour for various projects. Ideas for Fundraising included construction of cold frame to auction off (Mike Allen), creating Christmas holiday potted plants to replace Poinsettias to sell at Christmas Fairs (Kathleen Millar), Plant sales (Connie Kuramoto)

1.3.4. GUEST SPEAKERS: Speakers to come address the chapter. Ideas include: Paul Sanna, Mycologist (Mike Allen), Soil Food Web representative (Connie Kuramoto), Food Forest educator (Kathleen Millar)

1.3.5. SEED SAVING: A lot of interest in forming a seed saving group with proper test gardens, lineage recording and organization amongst gardeners and farmers within each community so that all varieties can be bred true.

1.3.6. COMMUNICATION: Linda suggested the group start a public forum on 'Free Forum' to ease communications. Linda agrees to set up the forum for the mid island S.O.U.L. Chapter.

1.3.7. LINDA PERKINS: Linda brought several subjects forward: a) organic standards and the legal implications of calling oneself organic if one is not certified. Connie Kuramoto offered a solution of handing out pamphlets explaining HOW one grows and what the grower DOESN'T use. i.e. Take the work organic out of the

conversation. b) the patenting of heritage seeds by Monsanto and the farmers who are unknowingly purchasing and saving seeds that aren't labelled Monsanto but are supplied by them. c) comments on GM products and needing to protect alfalfa. d) Linda presented her Garden Mates project.

- 1.3.8. SUZANNE VIGNEAULT: Suzanne brought several subjects forward – a) suggested an info table for S.O.U.L at the Errington Farmer's Market. It would be free. Fundraising is also a possibility at the Errington Farmer's Market and would be \$15.00 each time. b) Eaglecrest Garden Club is interested in having someone come to talk to their group. c) Parksville Community Garden has sold all their plants and may require some assistance in the future.
- 1.3.9. EVEREST RYMER: Everest brought forward a suggestion for a 'Community Convergence' as in Portland. He felt the Diana Krall Center in Nanaimo would be ideal for a week long community supported event. The Nanaimo Community Garden has expressed interest. Workshops are a possibility (cobb building, martial arts, etc.) and would be ideal if run in conjunction with the bathtub races. (There is a division in interest as some have suggested having the event at Dirk Becker's Compassion Farm. Many at the S.O.U.L. Meeting as well as Everest would like to see the event occur right in town, close to the community.
- 1.3.10. CONNIE KURAMOTO: Connie suggested starting a garden tour, charging a few dollars for maps.

1.4 Minor Meeting Topics:

- 1.4.1. GOT S.O.U.L.?: To start a program that awards businesses (with plaque or certificate) that have 'S.O.U.L approval'.
- 1.4.2. NEWSLETTER: To generate a newsletter in order to centralize sourcing info and any other pertinent information or issues. Connie Kuramoto volunteered to edit the newsletter.
- 1.4.3. LUMBER: A source for lumber was identified on Kathleen Millar's property.
- 1.4.4. SUCCESS: Connie Kuramoto and Mike Allen commented on the success of the Nanaimo Garden Show.
- 1.4.5. CALCIUM SOURCES: Discussed the organic options for calcium sources. Using oyster shells as opposed to lime.
- 1.4.6. ALR: Discussed the activities of the BC Farmland Defence League.
- 1.4.7. COIR: Got the 'last word' about coir from Connie Kuramoto – i.e. Cocount is being grown for bio-fuel in poor countries. Connie suggested using sawdust and compost as a potting mix instead.