

Stewardship Network Notes
16 Jan 08
New Center

The Stewardship Network meets the second Tuesday of the month at Bruegger's Bagels on North University, UM--Ann Arbor Campus, from 7:30 to 8:30 AM. The same topic is repeated on the third Thursday of the month at The Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW) Center, 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

Topic: Volunteer Workdays

Jacqueline Courteau, moderator

The challenge for the coordinator is to make the work day as attractive and enjoyable as possible.

- Regularly scheduled days provide continuity and community among volunteers
- Matthaei and the Arboretum both schedule volunteer days once/month. Matthaei has traditionally had more formal gardens, but is now increasing its areas of native plants.
- Frequent problems that should be dealt with in advance are lack of parking, and lack of bathrooms.
- Advise volunteers of all such problems in advance, and try to help solve them. Meet at the bathroom, and proceed as a group from there.
- Enforce a maximum 3-hr work period: leave them wanting more rather than exhausting them.
- Remember that the goal is as much environmental education as actual work: encourage discussion and questions and answers.
- Encourage a sense of comraderie, shared interests, and shared contacts to create a stable, enjoyable, and welcoming group.

Finding Volunteers

- Invite volunteers to sign up their email addresses for brief updates: thank them, tell them about the next work day, invite them to bring family, friends, neighbors.
- make calls to the high schools, which have volunteerism as a graduation requirement: cold calls asking around for the person best to talk to about this, or Ira Bernier at Community High.
- call scout troops and church orgs
- contact the choir: NAP, the Stewardship Network, SE Mich Land Conservancy
- have all volunteers call you back so you can weed out the nonserious ones
- advise in strongest terms what volunteers should wear.

Washtenaw area volunteer coordinators, wash.avc@umich.edu

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