

Nature Notes

For the week of
April 27 -
May 3

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Morels



Photo courtesy of John Miller

Harvesting *Morchella esculenta*

- Morels are edible, wild mushrooms! They are typically found in moist areas, usually near dead or dying trees.
- Spotting a morel can be tricky. Sometimes these mushrooms are cleverly hidden by foliage and even poison ivy.
- At an annual morel-hunting festival in Michigan, people race to collect as many morels as possible in 90 minutes! The record for one person is more than 900 morels!
- BEWARE the tricky [false morel!](#)
- **Important disclaimer:** make sure you have landowner permission as well as a [reliable field guide](#) or expert to confirm the species before picking mushrooms or any other plants!
- Picking mushrooms or other plants from the Arboretum is not allowed without direct permission.
- Read about the contagious "[morel fever](#)" in the spring issue of *Sagatagan Seasons!*

Sources:

- http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/2003/05/23_galballye_morels/
- <http://herbarium.usu.edu/fungi/funfacts/Morels.htm>
- <http://thegreatmorel.com/>
- Miller, John. "Morel Fever." *Sagatagan Seasons* Spring 2011
- National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms, p. 328

Upcoming Arboretum Events

Fruit at the Finish Triathlon

Saturday, April 30

Compete individually or as a team as you bike, run, and swim your way to the Fruit at the Finish! [Register online](#) and bring your payment to the OLC by April 27 (today!) or [register and pay by credit card at the Arboretum Marketplace!](#)

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7

8:30 a.m. - Noon (or until sold out!)

All items 15% off

Arboretum members get 50% off

Plants, shrubs, trees, and the tools you need to help them grow—all donated by local nurseries and businesses! Proceeds support environmental education programs.

Spring Birding Day

Saturday, May 7

6:00am-1:00pm OR 8:00am-1:00pm

Spend a morning hiking through the Arboretum with birders during peak migration! [Register today!](#) (Pre-registration NOT required)

Potential Prescribed Burns

May 3, 4, 5, 17, 18, 19

The Arboretum is gearing up from spring burning season! We have six tentative dates selected to complete the burns, but we only need about 2-4 to complete the work. Sign up for volunteer shifts using this [online form](#). Check out a [slide show](#) from one of last fall's burns!

Wilderness Advanced First Aid

Wed-Sun, May 25-29

Cost: \$300

Boost your resume with WFAA certification! Learn the basics of wilderness first aid at this five-day hands-on training in Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WFAA), hosted at SJU. Room and board options are available. [Register and pay now!](#)

Volunteers Needed!

Interested in volunteering with the Arboretum? We need your help at these upcoming events!

- **Plant Sale:** May 7, the shifts are 7-8:30 am, 8-11 am and/or 11-1 pm. Contact [Sarah Gainey](#).
- **Triathlon:** April 30, volunteers need to be at the Palestra by 6am, a shuttle is provided from CSB. Contact olc@csbsju.edu if interested.
- **Prescribed Burns:** Sign up for shifts with the [online form](#).

If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, please e-mail your name and graduation year to: arboretum@csbsju.edu.

We'll be in touch...

Your friends at the Arboretum

It's your backyard, so get out and play!

***Nature Notes is a weekly publication designed to keep you informed about exciting events offered by the Arboretum!

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