

Nature Notes

For the
week of
March
2-8

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Community Tapping Day Is Here!



Photo courtesy of Bob Stein

Let the syrup season begin...

- The earliest tapping day recorded at Saint John's was February 25, while the latest was March 19!
- Tapping trees at Saint John's involves using hand drills, cordless drills, and a modified chain saw with a mounted drill bit to create the holes in the trees!
- A two inch drill hole taps directly into the xylem layer of the tree, which is where the sap comes from.
- Sap flow is entirely temperature dependent!
- Peak sap collection depends on a consistent temperature cycle that moves above freezing during the day and below freezing at night.
- Once temperatures stay above freezing and leaf buds burst open, the maple syrup season is over.
- Want to join us for our 2011 inaugural tapping day? See the details of the [Community Tapping Day](#) in the events section below!

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

- Q: Knock, knock.
A: Who's there?
Q: Yaw!
A: Yaw who?
Q: Why are you so excited?
- Q: What grows down when it grows up?
A: A goose!
- Q: What do moths study in school?
A: Mothomatics!

Sources:

- Saint John's Arboretum Environmental Education Curriculum
- Saube, Stephen. "Analysis of St. John's Maple Syrup Records."

Upcoming Arboretum Events

MN Natural History Lecture:

Seeing Through the Lens: Photography in the Great Outdoors

Presented by Ken Bachofer, Nature Photographer

March 21, 6:30-8pm

New Science Center, SJU

Join us for part two of this season's lecture series featuring three local nature photographers! Ken's presentation will use his photographs to explore nature as he sees it, from wide-angle scenic to intimate close-up. Along the way there will be many opportunities to discover interesting tidbits about nature and learn some hints for taking better pictures yourself.

Maple Syrup Season!

Community Tapping Day—Saturday, March 5

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Keep in mind we may finish early)

Join us on the inaugural tapping day for 2011! We will start the day off with blessings and songs, then the tapping will begin. We want as many people as possible to be involved that day—we need to tap 1000 trees in 3 hours! A shuttle from Gorecki will be provided at 8:30 a.m. for CSB students. Email [Sarah Gainey](#) to reserve a space on the shuttle!

Maple Syrup Festivals—Saturdays, March 26 & April 2

1:00—4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our annual maple syrup festivals! Sap collecting, syrup cooking, horse-drawn rides, demonstrations, and hot maple syrup make this a fun-filled event! Stay-tuned for more maple syrup events.

Maple Syrup Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of the syruping process at Saint John's. We need help with everything from tapping trees and sap collection, to cooking syrup and working at the Festivals. [Learn more](#) about how you can get involved and sign up on our [volunteer list](#)!

Forest Firefighter Training

April 21, 2011

Want to add certified forest firefighter to your resume? Just take a course this spring offered by The Nature Conservancy with assistance from MN DNR, and Saint John's Arboretum! Details for training location and [registration form](#) are online.

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!

Saint John's Arboretum
104 New Science Building
Collegeville, MN 56321-2000
320.363.3136

www.csbsju.edu/arboretum