

Nature Notes

For the
week of
March
9-15

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

The Quinzee



Photo courtesy of Bryn Stieh

Finding warm shelter in a snow pile...

- Pronounced KWIN'zee, a quinzee is basically a pile of snow that has been hollowed out!
- The word quinzee originates from an indigenous group in North America called the Athabaskan.
- The inside of this snow shelter can be a cozy 30 degrees, even if the outside temperature is below zero!
- The first step in building a quinzee is to find a sheltered spot in the woods and build a pile of snow.
- Step two involves hollowing out the mound and creating an entry point at slight slant. Not just an entrance, this tunnel collects cool air, keeping your quinzee nice and toasty!
- Quinzees are ideal for about two to three people, not meant as campus party houses (hint, hint).

Sources:

- http://www.wta.org/magazine/WA_trails_01_10_Quinzee.pdf
- <http://www.call-wild.com/quinzee.html>

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

- Q: Why is the slippery ice like music?
A: If you don't C sharp you'll B flat!
- Q: What are caribou calves given to wear?
A: Hoove-me downs!

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!

Maple Syrup & Coffee at Alcuin Library

Monday, March 21

Give the day a sweet start with of a drop of Maple Syrup in your Monday morning coffee!

Student Sugar Shack Tour

Wednesday, March 23, 4-6pm

Learn about the maple syrup production process during a CSB/SJU student tour of the Sugar Shack!

Maple Syrup Sundaes at the Reef

Thursday, March 24, 5-8pm

Join the Arboretum for dessert at the Reef and top off your ice cream with the sweet goodness of Saint John's Maple Syrup!

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!

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