

Nature Notes

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Wild Turkey

Fr. Fran Hoefgen, OSB



Meleagris spec.

- In 1782, with help from Benjamin Franklin, the turkey was one vote away from being the U.S. national bird!
- Turkeys eat what they can catch, from easy prey like plants and berries to more elusive frogs and snakes!
- Weighing up to 20 lbs and flying at 55 mph, the male turkey in flight is quite the sight!
- Turkeys have poor night vision and roost in trees each evening!
- The wild turkey had disappeared from MN by the early 1900s, but successful stockings beginning in the 1970s has brought their numbers up to more than 30,000 today!

Sources:

"National Wild Turkey Foundation." www.nwtf.org
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/wildturkey.html>

Wondering what is Nature Notes? Our weekly Nature Notes email will include natural history topics, upcoming events, and silly jokes! We hope to inspire you to get out and explore the Arboretum!

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

- Q: What do you call a gobbler who thinks she knows everything?
A: A smirky turkey!
- Q: How does a Turkey drink her wine?
A: In a gobble-let!

Outdoor Week 2011 Events:

Banff Mountain Film Festival

Thursday November 17, 7:30-10 p.m.

Pellegrene Auditorium, SJU

This show is tentatively sold out!

Please call 320-363-2136 for ticket availability.

Tickets not picked up or paid for were released for re-sale beginning Saturday, November 12.

Polar Bear Plunge

Saturday, November 19

Register at 12 noon, Plunge at 12:30pm

Are you ready to take a dip in the lake before winter sets in? Meet at the Lake Sagatagan beach for this annual Outdoor Week tradition! A bonfire and hot cocoa will be provided. Bring a towel and warm clothes to change into after your swim.

Upcoming Arboretum Events

MN Natural History Lecture: Nature Photography

Monday, November 21, 6:30-8p.m.

"Seeing Through the Lens: Photography in the Great Outdoors"

New Science Center, SJU

In this lecture, Ken Bachofer shares his experiences as a nature photographer, exploring nature as he sees it, from wide-angle scenic to intimate close-up!

Lichens Workshop

Monday, November 21, 3:00-4:00p.m.

Meet in PENGL 373, SJU (Herbarium)

Learn about this fascinating group of organisms in a workshop entitled "Lichens—Natural History & Identification" led by Joe Walewski, Naturalist from Wolf Ridge ELC. Weather permitting, we'll head outside, so dress appropriately!

Wolf Ridge ELC Information Session

Monday, November 21, 4:15-5:15p.m.

150 New Science Center, SJU

Like working outside AND teaching kids? Come learn about an amazing place in MN where you can do both! Listen to an informal presentation led by Joe Walewski, Director of Naturalist Training and MJ Bach (CSB '10), current Graduate Student Naturalist Intern. Summer and post-graduation jobs available!

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
320.363.3163
www.csbsju.edu/arboretum

For the week of November 16 to November 22