

# Nature Notes

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

## Indian Grass

Photo courtesy of Saint John's Arboretum



*Sorghastrum nutans*

- This plant hits its growth spurt beginning in late April, sometimes growing up to 8 feet a season!
- Although the flower itself is hard to see, those yellow stamens produce the pollen.
- This grass is the larval host and nectar source of the Salt and Pepper Skipper butterfly!
- Indian grass is also a nutritious addition to the diets of both grasshoppers and livestock!

Sources:

- [Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers](#)
- [Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie](#)
- [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=SONU2](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SONU2)

### Jokes...so bad they're funny!

- Q: Why did the grizzly catch a cold?  
A: He went outside in his bear feet!
- Q: What do you call a crying camel?  
A: A humpback wail!

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!

## Upcoming Arboretum Events

### Explore the Arboretum!

\*\*Check out the Arboretum trails and plan your journey with the updated [Arboretum Trail Map!](#)

### Facebook Contest: When Will "Big John" Depart?

Correctly predict the date "Big John" ([a loon that summers on campus](#)) departs for his fall trip south and be entered in a drawing to win a print of "Vespers," which was painted by SJU graduate James Meger! Find the post on the [CSB/SJU Facebook page](#) and make your predictions!

\*\*Predictions accepted through September 26th

### Arboretum Photo Contest

Entries due: Tuesday, November 15

Take your camera with you on your next venture into the Arboretum and then submit your photos to the annual Arboretum photo contest!

Submission details are on the [Arboretum website](#).

### Collegeville Colors

Sunday, October 2

1:00-5:00pm

Spend the first Sunday in October hiking in the woods, enjoying fall colors, live music, artwork and nature activities! [Pre-register](#) today for only \$8 per person.

### Save the Date!

### Halloween Celebration at the Melancon Greenhouse

Monday, October 31

6:00pm-8:00pm

*Peter Engel Science Center, SJU*

Come in costume and enjoy a stroll through the greenhouse! We will have treats and cake available for everyone as well as a special treat for our pumpkin coloring contest winner!

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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](mailto: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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