

# Nature Notes

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

## Toads

Philip Kittock



*Bufo spec.*

- The American toad stalks its prey, then uses its front legs to push its catch into its mouth!
- Many toad species burrow beneath the frost line during winter!
- As the frost line moves deeper, the toad also adjusts, burrowing further into the soil!
- During winter, toads can be found anywhere from 5 to 23 inches beneath the soil!

Sources:

*Amphibians and Reptiles Native to MN*

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/reptiles\\_amphibians/frogs\\_toads/toads/american.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/reptiles_amphibians/frogs_toads/toads/american.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: Why are toads so happy?  
A: They eat whatever bugs them!
- Q: What does a toad say when it sees something great?  
A: Toadly awesome!

## Upcoming Arboretum Events

### Nature Photography Class

**Saturday, February 11, 8:00am-3:00pm.**

Take the next step toward better photographs of the natural world with a class lead by Ken Bachofer, MN Master Naturalist and nature photographer. This is an intermediate level class for users of single-lens reflex (SLR) or advanced compact digital cameras.

\*Pre-register by February 8th by 4:30p.m. See Arboretum website for more info.

### 2012 Winter Week Events

**Monday, Feb. 13**

Medallion Hunt begins

**Tuesday, Feb. 14**

Free skate on Lake Sagatagan - 6-8 PM

**Wednesday, Feb. 15**

Night ski - Time TBA

**Thursday, Feb. 16**

Broomball tournament - Flynntown at 4:00 PM

**Friday, Feb. 17**

Powder ridge trip

**Saturday, Feb. 18**

Quinzee building at 12:00 N

Bonfire at 1:00 PM

**Sunday, Feb. 19**

Ice fishing tournament - 10:00 AM—1:00 PM

See registration details.

### 13th Annual Owl Hoot

**Monday, February 20**

*Indoor Lecture: 6:30-8pm*

*Optional Outdoor Hike: 8-9pm*

Learn about the twelve species of owls that can be heard even in the coldest of Minnesota winters in an indoor lecture presented by Marco Restani, SCSU biology professor, then join us for an optional outdoor hike to call for owls living at Saint John's! Cost is free for Arboretum members and \$5 for non-members. Call 320.363.3163 or email [arboretum@csbsju.edu](mailto:arboretum@csbsju.edu) to sign up!

### Living in the Avon Hills Conference

**February 25**

**9:00a.m - 4:15p.m.**

Start the day listening to WCCO radio meteorologist Mike Lynch talk about the stars, then spend the afternoon learning about arts, land use, natural history, wildlife, alternative energy and much more!

\*Check out the available sessions!

**\$10**—Valid for the first 30 CSB/SJU students to register by Feb 17. Simply register online using **PROMO Code: student12**. You pay \$10 and the Environmental Studies department will pay the other \$10 for up to 30 CSB/SJU students!

**\$20**—Any CSB/SJU student registering *after* the first 30 CSB/SJU students. Register online using **PROMO Code: student12**. You must bring your student id to registration for these prices to be valid!

NOTE: These offers **do not include lunch**.

### Nature as Spiritual Practice Reading Group

**2nd Wed., Feb-May, 6:00-7:30p.m.**

*Next meeting: Wed., Feb.8th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.*

This reading group will venture with Dr. Steven Chase into his book, *Nature as Spiritual Practice*, an innovative text that shows in practical ways how delighting in the natural world can enhance spiritual life. Register and purchase texts on the Arboretum website.

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).

### 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](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum)

For the week of February 8 to February 14