

Do finals have you loony?



Photo courtesy of Liam Cofell Dwyer.

Enjoy your studies in the Arboretum!

Did you know?...

- The loon is the state bird of Minnesota.
- Minnesota ranks second to Alaska in loon population at 12,000.
- Loons carry their young on their backs to protect them from predators such as fish and turtles.
- In September, loons migrate to the Atlantic Coast from North Carolina to Florida.
- The red eyes of loons help them see and hunt underwater.
- Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour!
- The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones. This added weight helps loons dive as deep as 250 feet in search of food!
- Loons can stay underwater for up to five minutes.
- Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100- to 600-foot "runway" in order to take off from a lake.
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snapshots/birds/commonloon.html>

Q: What do you call a bunch of loons playing hide-and-seek?

A: Fowl play!

Q: Why do loons carry fish and frogs in their beaks?

A: Because they don't have any pockets!

Will Steger presents “Eyewitness to Global Warming” - April 29

Will Steger is a recognized authority for the Polar Regions, including their environmental issues, and is an eyewitness to the effects of global warming. He has spent more than 45 years traveling through the Arctic regions, advocating for the Earth’s preservation and advising about permanent solutions to our climate crisis. You have three chances to hear him speak: **9:30- 10:30 a.m.** at the Prep School Weber Center, **4:00- 5:30 p.m.** in the Pellegrene Auditorium in the Peter Engel Science Center at SJU, **or 7:00- 8:00 p.m.** in the Atwood Ballroom at Saint Cloud State University.

Are you an SJU student looking for a summer job?

The Arboretum is currently hiring for two 6-person crews to do land maintenance work this summer. See the student employment website for the job listings. Interviews start this week so apply now!

Spring Plant Sale- May 9

Come stock up on plants and garden tools at the Spring Plant Sale. The sale takes place at the New Science Pendulum from **8:30 a.m.- noon**, or whenever we are sold out!

Spring Birding Day- May 9

Saint John's Arboretum and the Minnesota Ornithologists Union (MOU) have partnered to bring you a day of hiking through an "Important Bird Area" in Minnesota during peak migration! We have seen 100+ species in past years at Saint John's! In addition to birding, participants will have a chance to hear from local birding experts. Learn more and pre-register online!

Bird Migration in Minnesota- May 19

Learn all about the great migratory birds of Minnesota! This session will be led by Bob Russell from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and SJU alum. Meet at the New Science Pendulum at **6:30 p.m.**

If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, please e-mail 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 56321-3000
320.363.3136
www.csbsju.edu/arboretum