

# Join us for a Sweet Maple Syrup Festival this Saturday!

Only \$3 for CSB/SJU students and yes, you can charge your valedine!



Photo courtesy of Jenni Poliseno.

**What are lichens?...** There are between 14,000 and 20,000 species of lichens in the world! A lichen is a symbiotic relationship between fungus and algae, and sometimes cyanobacteria. Lichens are an integral part of our ecosystem. Grouse, deer, moose, flying squirrels, slugs, snails, and silverfish all eat lichens. Some insects, frogs, and birds use lichen for camouflage. Lichens have a number of uses for humans as well:

- Lichens are responsible for degradation of rocks, which fertilizes the soil for plants.

Lichens are good bioindicators of air quality.

- Lichens can be used as natural dyes.
- Lichens can be eaten by humans.
- New research suggests the antibacterial and anti-germination properties may make lichens useful in medicines and herbicides.

Walewski, Joe. *Lichens of the North Woods*. Duluth: Kollath+Stensaas, 2007.

- Want to identify a sugar maple tree? A good indicator is the presence of Whitewash Lichen.

**Q: Why couldn't the algae keep a girlfriend?**

**A: He wasn't a fungi!**

**Q: Why did Alice Algae and Freddy Fungus get married?**

**A: They took a lichen to each other! (However, after they fell in love and got married, their marriage was on the rocks!)**

## **Maple Syrup Festivals- Saturday March 28 & April 4**

Since the early 1940's the Saint John's community has participated in this annual rite of spring. Join the Arboretum for sap collecting, syrup cooking, horse-drawn rides, demonstrations, and hot maple syrup sundaes! It's sure to be a **sweet** time! Come to the Sugar Shack between **1- 4 p.m.**

## **Maple Syrup Volunteering**

Want to know more about the process of making maple syrup? Volunteers are always welcome to help collect sap, cook syrup, or help at our festivals. Email [arboretum@csbsju.edu](mailto:arboretum@csbsju.edu) and let us know you want to get involved!

## **The Voices of Minnesota Frogs- Tuesday April 21**

Join Frank Ziegler (SJU '03), member of the Minnesota Herpetological Society, to learn about frogs in our area. From the earliest spring peepers to the last sounds of summer, Frank will walk us through the frog calling season and help us to identify which species are calling and why. Meet at the New Science Pendulum at **6:30 p.m.**

## **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!

**If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, please e-mail the Arboretum at [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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