

# Nature Notes

For the  
week of  
Sept. 2-8

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum

## Have you been in the Arboretum for bird-watching?



Photo courtesy of Saint John's Arboretum Staff

### Perhaps you have seen The Great Blue Heron!

**Did you know:**

- **Great Blue Herons stand up to 4.5 feet tall and have a wingspan of nearly 7 feet!**
- **There are 12 species of herons in North America. The Great Blue Heron is the largest and most wide spread heron in North America.**
- **Hérons are specially adapted to hunt their prey, including fish, insects, and mice. They will swallow fish alive, flip fish in the air so they go down head first, or stab their prey with a quick jab of their bill.**
- **Great Blue Herons commonly choke to death when trying to swallow prey too large for their S-shaped necks.**

**Q: What do you give a sick bird?**

**A: Tweetment!**

**Q: Why do cranes fly south for the winter?**

**A: Because it is too far to walk!**

**Q: What kind of bird can carry the most weight?**

**A: The crane!**

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great Blue Heron/sounds](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great%20Blue%20Heron/sounds)

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/young\\_naturalists/herons/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/young_naturalists/herons/index.html)

<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/il940id.html>

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/great-blue-heron.html>

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## Upcoming Events

**Timberdash 5K Race** Saturday, September 19, 10:30 a.m.—Noon  
Join the Arboretum at this year's annual Timberdash 5K race! Come for a fun filled morning race through the trails of the Arboretum. Preregistration before Thursday, September 17th is only \$5. Register the day of the race for \$10. Registration includes snacks at the finish and an Arboretum bandana. Sign up on our website!  
[http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb\\_highlights/fall/Timberdash.htm](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/fall/Timberdash.htm)

### Minnesota Natural History Lecture Series

Third Tuesday of the Month, September—May, 6:30—8 p.m.  
Free—Arboretum members and students of all ages  
\$5—Non-members/non-students

*Fossils of Minnesota: Organisms Older than the Speaker* Tuesday, September 15

**Dr. Larry Davis, CSB/SJU professor of geology**

Meet at the pendulum of the New Science Center of Saint John's University for the first lecture topic of the season.

Check the Arboretum Web site for updates to this year's lecture schedule!

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