

Nature Notes

For the
week of
Sept. 30-
Oct. 6

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Prepare your cameras for a burst of color!

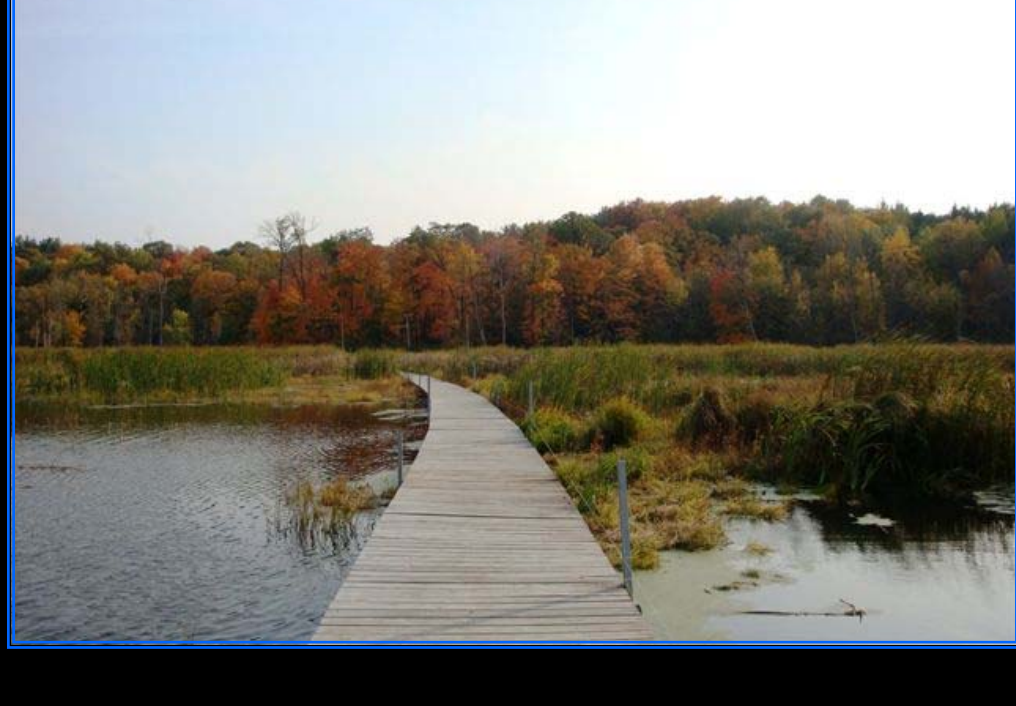


Photo by Saint John's Arboretum Staff

These jokes quack me up!

Q: What kind of weather excites ducks?

A: Fowl weather!

Q: What do ducks like with soup?

A: Quakers!

Q: Why do some ducks fly south for winter?

A: Because it's too far to walk!

Q: What side of a duck has the most feathers?

A: The outside!

Q: What do you get if you cross a duck with fireworks?

A: A firequacker!

Q: Why do ducks lay eggs?

A: If they dropped them, they would crack!

Q: Why did the duck cross the road?

A: The chicken had the day off!

Q: What do you call a crate of ducks?

A: A box of quakers!

Ducks are amazing!

Ducks have several adaptations:

- **Feathers:** Ducks have an oil gland on their backs at the base of their upper tail feathers. The oil makes their feathers water proof!
- **Beak:** Most ducks have flat beaks with bumps along the edges that strain water from food. The edge of the bill has sensitive touch receptors which detect the presence of food.
- **Bones:** Ducks have hollow bones which aid them in flying up to 1,000 miles each day at speeds over 40 miles per hour!
- **Air Sacs:** Ducks are able to float and sink by filling or emptying air sacs. Their feathers also hold air which keeps them warm and allows them to float.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/kids/out-in/2001/02/1.htm>

Want to learn more? Attend the Ducks Unlimited Event on Monday (see below for more info).

Upcoming Arboretum Events

Homecoming Open House Friday, October 2, 2-3:30pm

The Arboretum Staff will be hosting an open house in honor of Saint John's homecoming celebration. Come and see our accomplishments over the years and talk with the staff. Meet us at our offices in the New Science Center, just down the hall from the pendulum.

Collegeville Colors Sunday, October 4, 1-5pm

Volunteer at the Prep School and along the trails while enjoying music, activities, and food! We need help with set up, take down, and everything in between! Please email Rosalie at eefellow@csbsju.edu for more information and times and jobs available.

Ducks Unlimited Event Monday, October 5

Welcome Terry Kostinec to the SJU campus! Kostinec is the regional director for Central Minnesota Ducks Unlimited. Look for emails with more details from the SJU Ducks Unlimited Club. Email ducksunltd@csbsju.edu for more information. The purpose of Ducks Unlimited is to protect and restore habitat for waterfowl and wildlife and promote interest in hunting.

Project Earth Conference Thursday, October 8, 8am-3pm

Help us host 200 7th and 8th graders for a conference with numerous outdoor sessions. Help is needed with directing student groups, assisting presenters, registration, and more. Contact Sandy Cordie at scordie@resourcetraining.com if you are available to help that day.

Minnesota Natural History Lecture Series

Third Tuesday of the Month

October—May, 6:30—8 p.m.

Free—Arboretum members and students of all ages

\$5—Non-members/non-students

Alternative Energy in Minnesota Tuesday, October 20

Dr. Derek Larson, CSB/SJU professor of environmental studies

Meet at the pendulum of the New Science Center of Saint John's University.

Check the Arboretum Web site for updates to this year's lectures.

http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/Minnesota%20Natural%20History%20Lecture%20Series.htm

Buckthorn Pull and Trail Maintenance Saturday, Oct 24, 9am-12pm

Gather your friends or club members to volunteer at Oak Hill Community School in St Cloud! The school needs help with two projects in the Big Woods behind their school. There are several trails winding through the woods that are in need of widening and cleaning up. They will also be working on removing European Buckthorn, an invasive species, from the woods. Email arboretum@csbsju.edu for more information!

2009 Arboretum Photo Contest Entries Due November 17

Submit up to 5 photos per category per person. A panel of judges will choose the "Best in Category" for each age group. See the [Arboretum website](#) for categories and more information!

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

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