

# Nature Notes

For the  
week of  
Feb. 25-  
Mar. 3

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Whoooooo wants to learn about  
amazing owls this Thursday?



Photo courtesy of Arboretum Staff.

Jokes...so bad  
they're funny!

Q: What figure is  
like a lost parrot

A: A polygon!

Q: What type of  
books do owls like?

A: Hoot-dunits!

Q: What side of an  
owl has the  
prettiest feathers?

A: The outside!

Q: What is smarter

## Remarkable Owls!

- An average Barn Owl eats 725 pounds of mice in its lifetime! (That's about 11,000 mice!)
- Owls usually swallow their prey whole.
- Owls typically vomit two pellets a day, composed of undigested hair and bones.
- Many owls have facial disks and flaps near their ears which help funnel sounds to their ears.
- Owls can swivel their heads 270°.

Q: What is smarter,  
than a talking  
parrot?

A: A spelling bee!

Q: What do you call  
a crate of ducks?

A: A box of  
quakers!

Q: If a rooster lays  
an egg on the middle  
of a slanted roof,  
which side does it  
roll down?

A: Neither!

Roosters don't lay  
eggs!

- Owl have tiny muscles under their skin to erect their feathers to hold in air to keep warm. This process, called piloerection, is similar to "goose bumps" in humans.

- Some owls will store food in the wintertime when prey is plentiful. Later, the owl comes back and sits on the prey to defrost and eat it.

- All amazing owl facts from: Benson, David. *Owls of the North*. Wrenshall, MN: Stone Ridge, 2008. Print.

Want to learn more? Come to the 11th Annual Owl Hoot this Thursday!

## Upcoming Arboretum Events

### Want to Work for the Arboretum?

The Arboretum is hiring for Summer 2010 and the 2010-2011 academic year. Graduating seniors are also encouraged to apply for Environmental Education Fellowships. Learn more about all these [job opportunities here!](#)

### Learn More about Environment of Minnesota!

Join a the new class, ENVR 100B starting March 9th after spring break! This 2-credit class will open your eyes to the uniqueness of Minnesota, its environmental treasures, and the challenges it faces! The class is CD mod, days 246 at 1pm in the Peter Engel Science Center Room 244. Email [Dr. Lamberts](#) or call x3160 to learn more!

### 11th Annual Owl Hoot, Thursday Feb. 25, 6:30-9pm

Owls may dazzle us with their calls but they are also full of other amazing adaptations for survival. Learn about the twelve owl species that can be found in Minnesota and how they survive year round. An outdoor hike under the moon to call for owls living at Saint John's is also an option! [Register now!](#)

### Minnesota Natural History Lecture Series

Third Tuesday of the Month

March—May , 6:30—8 p.m.

Free—Arboretum members and students of all ages

\$5—Non-members/non-students

### **The Natural History of Maple Syrup Production, March 16**

*Steve Saupe, CSB/SJU Professor of Biology*

\*teacher-friendly, kid-friendly

Take a look at the mechanisms behind sap flow in maple trees, the conditions needed for sap to flow, and the process of maple syrup production.

### **Minnesota Woodlands and Climate Change, April 20**

*Eli Sagor, University of Minnesota woodland advisor*

\*teacher-friendly

Climate change is happening, but how will it affect central Minnesota woodlands? This presentation will review forces and historical developments that created our current forests including glacier activity, timber harvesting, development, and more. Learn what changes to expect in the future and how woodland owners can prepare for, and mitigate, an adverse effects.

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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