

Nature Notes

For the
week of
July 7 -
July 13

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Abbey Energy Farm



Photo courtesy of Josie Stang

Did you know?

- Minnesota has a similar solar resource to Houston, Texas.
- The Abbey's solar farm is currently the largest system in Minnesota—1820 panels on 4 acres!
- Visit the [CSB/SJU Sustainability](#) web site for more information about solar energy at Saint John's!

The Abbey's Solar Array

- How do solar panels work?
 - Energy from the sun hits the solar panels.
 - In the areas that absorb the energy, electrons are excited to move.
 - The panel is constructed so that electrons can only move in one direction once they get excited.
 - That electricity moves along the wires into the campus' electrical grid.
- The Abbey's solar farm is expected to produce 4% of the campus' annual energy needs, enough to power 65 houses for a year.
- View a [live data feed](#) to see what the Abbey solar farm is producing right now!

Upcoming Arboretum Events

Abbey Solar Farm Tours

Saturday, July 10 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 14 10:30—11:30 a.m.

The community is abuzz with interest in St John's Abbey's new solar farm. Join us for a public tour to learn more about renewable energy! Email [Sarah Gainey](#) or call 320-363-3133 to sign up! Free—Arboretum members and students of all ages \$5—General Public

Summer Shindig Volleyball Tournament

Tuesday, July 13 5:30—8:30 p.m.

Students on campus this summer are challenged to put together a winning team in our classic summer event at the Watab volleyball courts next to the Watab parking lot. Look for live music, juicy burgers and brats, and a good time!

Dragonfly workshop

Sunday, August 1 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

The Minnesota Odonata Survey Project (MOSP) is hosting a free workshop at Saint John's Arboretum. Visit www.mndragonfly.org for more information.

Dutch Oven Dinner

Monday, August 9 5:30—7:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand is our Dutch oven cooking demonstration and wonderful meal. While the food is cooking, enjoy a wildflower walk in the prairie by Arboretum staff. Reserve your spot [online!](#)
\$10 Arboretum members and students
\$15 Nonmembers
Children under 12 half price.

Night Canoe during a Meteor Shower

Monday, August 9 9 p.m. to 9 am.

Canoe to the middle of Stumpf Lake to watch the Perseids Meteor shower! Sleep out on Watab Island! This event is open to CSB/SJU students.

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 56321-2000
320.363.3136
www.csbsju.edu/arboretum