

Nature Notes

For the
week of
November
24 - 30

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Have a fantastic Thanksgiving!



Photo courtesy of: Mike Leedahl

Edible Nature:

A four-course meal with the Arboretum!

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

- Q: Why can't turkeys go to church?

A: Because they use FOWL language!

- Q: Why did they let the turkey join the band?

A: Because he had the drumsticks!

- Q: How can you send a turkey through the post office?

A: Through bird class mail!

- H'ordeuvres: Hog Peanuts

-This underground seed can be eaten raw or boiled. It's sweet taste and natural goodness will have you putting down that bag of kettle chips!

- Entree: Blue Grama Grass (pictured above)

-The seeds of this common prairie grass were possibly eaten during Prehistoric times! But the fruits are quite small, each containing a single seed.

- Dessert: Hackberries

-The fruit of the hackberry tree is sometimes called sugar berry and, you guessed it, is sugary sweet! The fruit ripens in September and hangs on the tree providing a yummy treat for critters all winter!

- The Beverage: Sumac "lemonade"

-Top off your meal with a cup of tart lemonade tea from Sumac berries! The tart taste comes from the high levels of tannic acid found in the berries.

- Important Disclaimer: Although there are many edible organisms in the Arboretum, remember there are many that are poisonous. Also, you should never harvest plants on public or privately owned land without permission.

Sources:

- Kindscher, Kelly. *Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie*. Kansas: University Press, 1987.
- Mound, Laurence. *Insect*.
- http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees_shrubs/deciduous/hackberry.html

Upcoming Arboretum Events

Enjoy your holiday weekend! We'll update you with some great winter events when you get back!

If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, please e-mail your name and graduation year to: 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