

Nature Notes

For the
week of
October
6-12

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Enjoy your long weekend!



Photos courtesy of Saint John's Arboretum

The curious tumor of the Goldenrod...

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

- Q: What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed, but never sleeps?

A: A river!

- Q: What are caterpillars afraid of?

A: Dogerpillars!

- Goldenrods (Genus *Solidago*) are a common wildflower native to our area and can be found throughout the Arboretum.
- The ball-shaped growths found on the stems of goldenrods are called "galls".
- The Goldenrod Gall Fly (*Eurosta solidaginis*) is the creature responsible for the gall. This parasitic fly injects its eggs into the stem of goldenrod, causing the plant's stem to develop abnormally and form an obtrusive gall around the egg.
- Providing both food and protection, the gall case makes an ideal living chamber for the developing larvae.
- For approximately one year, the larvae remains in the gall, slowly developing into an adult. The adult then breaks out of the protective gall to seek a mate.

Source: http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/golde_rod_gall_fly.htm

Upcoming Arboretum Events

Eco-Challenge

Sunday, October 17th, 8am—noon

Participate in teams of two or four in a variety of challenge including biking, running, climbing and canoeing! There will be t-shirts and prizes. Stop by the OLC in Mary Hall to register or fill out the registration form [online](#).

Potential Prescribed Burns

Oct 12, 18, Nov 1, 3

Prescribed burns are an important land management activity for the Arboretum. Prescribed burns help suppress the growth of trees and invasive species, and they encourage the growth of native prairie plants as habitat for birds, mammals, and butterflies. We will only need 2-3 of the days to complete our work. Visit the [burn web site](#) to learn more, and complete the [online volunteer form](#) if you're available to help.

MN Natural History Lecture: Oak Regeneration

Monday, October 18th, 6:30-8pm

"Oak Regeneration: You Have to Want it!" presented by Tom Kroll, Arboretum Director & Land Manager. Learn the basic stewardship actions you can take to ensure the survival of the oak population!

Controlled Deer Hunt at Saint John's

Saturday, November 6th and Sunday, November 7th

Saint John's will host a controlled harvest of antlerless deer on Saint John's Abbey Land, which is also a game refuge. This will promote regeneration of the forest's plants and maintain a healthy deer herd. Hiking is not recommended on these days, and any hiker is required to wear blaze orange clothing.

Arboretum Photo Contest Entries Due

Deadline for submission: Tuesday, November 16th, 2010

Take photos in the Arboretum—anytime and anywhere in the 2,740 acres—and enter them in the annual Arboretum photo contest! Submission categories, previous winners, and more details are on the Arboretum website.

BANFF Mountain Film Festival World Tour

Thursday, November 18th, 2010

Journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks. Saint John's Arboretum is bringing the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour to Collegeville for one night in November! More details coming soon!

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!

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