

Nature Notes

For the
week of
Oct. 27
to Nov. 2

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Bored with typical Halloween costumes?

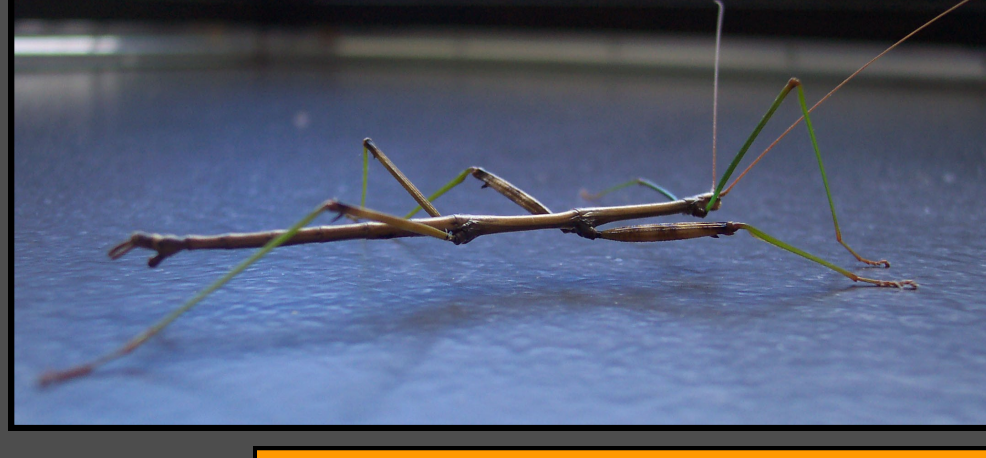


Photo courtesy of Jerry Kuter

Try out one of these naturally spooky, nature-inspired disguises!

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

- Q: If you throw a pumpkin in the air, what comes down?
A: Squash!
- A: Knock-knock.
B: Who's there?
A: Wolves say.
B: Wolves say who?
A: Wolves say Happy HOWL-oween!!

Walking Stick

- This insect ranges in size from a half-inch to a giant 21 inches long!
- Although this insect has the most efficient of natural camouflages, the walking stick also fakes its death to avoid predators.
- Little is known about this elusive insect, making it all the more mysterious!

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/stick-insect>

Pitcher Plant

- Generally found in northern Minnesota, the pitcher plant grows best in bogs and swamps.
- Because of the poor nutrient levels of swamp soil, this plant must feast on living creatures in order to survive.
- This plant drowns its victims in a hood-like leaf lined with tiny hairs that create a slippery surface, neatly trapping the prey inside.

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/young_naturalists/insectivores/index.html

Weeping Willow

- The willow thrives along bodies of water where plentiful moisture encourages extensive growth.
- But this location also contributes to the willow's perception as an ill omen. Alexander the Great passed by a willow tree along the Euphrates and a bough touched his forehead, signifying the approach of his death.

<http://www.2020site.org/trees/weepingwillow.html>

Upcoming Arboretum Events

OLC Equipment Rentals

Take advantage of the weather, whatever its flavor, and rent equipment to get outside with your friends—either from the OLC at Saint John's or from the HCC at Saint Bens! Check out the [list](#) of equipment available.

Abbey Solar Farm Tour

Wednesday, October 27th, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Preregistration for the public tours is **REQUIRED** by the Friday before each tour. The event is **FREE** for CSB/SJU/OSB students, employees, and Arboretum members. Cost is \$5 for the general public. Email [Sarah Gainey](#) or call 320-363-3133 to register.

Halloween Celebration at the CSB/SJU Greenhouse

Friday, October 29th, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Come in costume to the Greenhouse in the Peter Engel Science Center and enjoy a stroll amongst a wide variety of plants! There will be treats and cake for everyone! Enter the pumpkin coloring contest—the winner receives a special treat!

Potential Prescribed Burns

November 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.

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

Email submissions to: arbphotos@csbsju.edu

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.

MN Natural History Lecture: The Saint John's Loons

Monday, November 15th, 6:30-8pm

"Loons at Saint John's" presented by Carol Jansky, CSB/SJU Lab Coordinator. Join us this month for an intimate snapshot of the loons from spring reproduction to fall migration. Learn more about the loon project on the official [loon site!](#)

BANFF Mountain Film Festival World Tour

Thursday, November 18th, 7:30pm

Pellegrine Auditorium, SJU

[Reserve your ticket](#) today!

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! Stop by the [OLC](#) or use the [online registration form](#) to reserve your ticket. **FREE** for CSB/SJU students, \$5 for Arboretum members, \$10 for the general community. Space is **EXTREMELY LIMITED**, so reserve your ticket early!

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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