

Nature Notes

For the
week of
September
29 –
October 5

Nature's Annual Festival of Colors



Photo courtesy of Deanna Jansky

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

Q: What do you call grizzlies that have no teeth?

A: Gummy bears!

Q: When is the moon the heaviest?

A: When it's full!

Get to know the artists behind the brilliant color scheme!

- The gradual change of our forest leaves coincides with the decreasing levels of chlorophyll and a few other factors including the length of night and the weather.
- Autumn leaves reflect a harmonious blend of unique colors: the pigments of Nature's "color palette" consist of chlorophyll for green, carotenoid and xanthophyll for yellow, and anthocyanin for red.
- The specific color of the leaf also corresponds with the species of tree: oaks generally turn red, aspen golden yellow, while maples range from scarlet to yellow.
- The tree species also determines when the color display occurs. Some oak trees reveal their colors long after many of the other trees have shed their leaves!
- Join the Arboretum in celebrating the beauty of this colorful masterpiece on Sunday, October 3rd at our annual [Collegeville Colors Event](#)! See the event section below for more information.

Sources: www.na.fs.us/spfo/pubs/misc/leaves/leaves.htm
"Why Maples Turn Color". Minnesota DNR.

Upcoming Arboretum Events

Collegeville Colors

Sunday, October 3, 1-5pm

Spend the first Sunday in October hiking in the woods at Saint John's as you enjoy the fall colors, artwork, theatrical performances, nature activities, and music along the trails - rain or shine! Pre-register before Oct. 1st and the ticket price is \$8 per person. Tickets cost \$10 per person after Oct. 1st. Interested in volunteering? We need help with set up, take down, and everything in between! Please email [Sarah Gainey](mailto:Sarah.Gainey) for more information and times and jobs available.

Volunteer Opportunity: Acorn Collecting

Thursday, Sept. 30th, 4:15pm until you need to leave

Regeneration of oak trees is an important project at Saint John's Arboretum. Do your part by helping collect acorns this fall! The gathered acorns will be sent to a tree nursery, sprouted, then returned for planting at Saint John's. Meet at the pendulum of the New Science Building, then walk out to the trails to collect. All equipment will be provided, dress to be outdoors! Please contact Sean Egan with questions at smegan@csbsju.edu.

Eco-Challenge

Sunday, October 17th, 8 am—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](#).

MN Natural History Lecture: Oak Regeneration

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

"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!

Arboretum Photo Contest

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.

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