

# Nature Notes

For the  
week of  
Oct. 7-13

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Enjoy a beautiful long weekend!

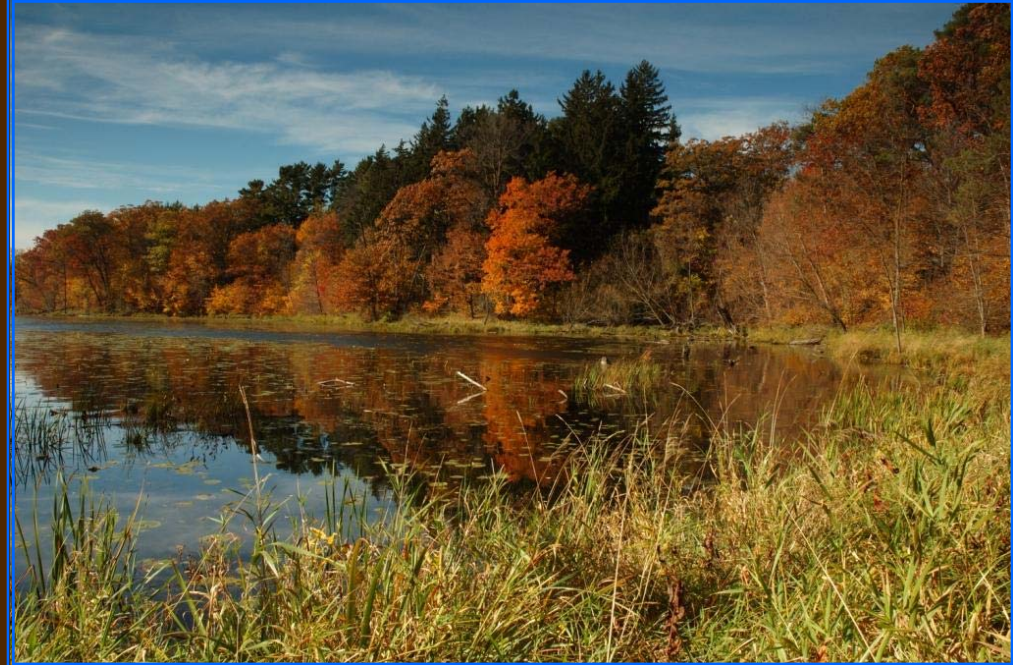


Photo courtesy of Tony Peroutky.

Jokes...so bad  
they're funny!

**Q:** How do you get an  
elephant down from a  
tree?

**A:** Put him on a leaf and  
wait until autumn!

**Q:** What did the oak say  
to the lumberjack?

**A:** Leaf me alone!

**Q:** Why did the leaf go  
to the doctor?

**A:** He was feeling a  
little green!

## Why do leaves change color?

- As the days become shorter and shorter, trees produce less and less chlorophyll until they cease to produce chlorophyll. When little chlorophyll is present in the leaves, the carotenoid (a yellowish pigment) already present in the leaf, shows through.
- Temperature, precipitation, and cloud cover dramatically influence the colors of leaves.
- The best leaf colors result from:
  - A warm, wet spring
  - A mild summer (not too hot or dry)
  - A fall filled with warm sunny days and cool nights

## Upcoming Arboretum Events

### Project Earth Conference Thursday, October 8, 8am-3pm

Help us host 200 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for a conference with numerous outdoor sessions. Help is needed with directing student groups, assisting presenters, registration, and more. Contact Sandy Cordie at [scordie@resourcetraining.com](mailto:scordie@resourcetraining.com) if you are available to help that day.

### Minnesota Natural History Lecture Series

Third Tuesday of the Month

October—May , 6:30—8 p.m.

Free—Arboretum members and students of all ages

\$5—Non-members/non-students

### *Alternative Energy in Minnesota* Tuesday, October 20

Dr. Derek Larson, CSB/SJU professor of environmental studies

Meet at the pendulum of the New Science Center of Saint John's University.

Check the Arboretum Web site for updates to this year's lectures!

[http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb\\_highlights/Minnesota%20Natural%20History%20Lecture%20Series.htm](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/Minnesota%20Natural%20History%20Lecture%20Series.htm)

### Buckthorn Pull and Trail Maintenance Saturday, Oct 24, 9am-12pm

Gather your friends or club members to volunteer at Oak Hill Community School in St Cloud! The school needs help with two projects in the Big Woods behind their school. There are several trails winding through the woods that are in need of widening and cleaning up. They will also be working on removing European Buckthorn, an invasive species, from the woods. Email [arboretum@csbsju.edu](mailto:arboretum@csbsju.edu) for more information!

### 2009 Arboretum Photo Contest Entries Due November 17

Submit up to 5 photos per category per person. A panel of judges will choose the "Best in Category" for each age group. See the [Arboretum website](#) for categories and more information!

If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, please e-mail [arboretum@csbsju.edu](mailto: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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