

Nature Notes

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum

For the
week of
July 20th to
July 27th

Nature's original water conservationist: the BEAVER!



Photo courtesy of Per Harald Olsen

Have you gotten a chance to see this furry, hungry fellow around the Arboretum? The beaver is nature's original water conservationist and land and wildlife manager. Many biologists believe that the beaver pond supports a greater variety and abundance of wildlife than any other ecosystem in the forest. Beavers live throughout Minnesota. They're found near rivers and other bodies of water, particularly where trees are nearby.

Beaver lodges can be spotted on lakes found nearby and within the Arboretum! These "lodge" home structures can reach heights up to 10 feet, and are generally made from sticks, bark, rocks, mud, and plant masses. With their strong jaws and teeth, beavers can chew through a six-inch tree in 15 minutes, and a single beaver can chew down hundreds of trees each year! The average weight of a beaver is 40 to 50 pounds, with an average length of 35 to 40 inches. However, some beavers can reach as much as 90 pounds, with a length upwards of five feet!

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snapshots/mammals/beaver.html>

Q: What do you say to a sad beaver?

A: Why the *log* face?

Q: How did the beaver get online?

A: He *logged* in!

Q: What do Beavers eat for breakfast?

A: *Oakmeal!*

Q: What is a beaver's favorite place?

A: *Holly wood*

Q: What did the beaver say to the tree?

A: It's been nice *gnawing* you!

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And Remember...

Upcoming Arboretum Events on Campus July 20th—July 27th!

- Dutch Oven Dinner. July 27th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, the Dutch Oven Dinner demonstration will be held July 27th by Larry and Johanna Davis in the New Science Center between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Learn how to cook amazing food with a Dutch oven, and you'll even get to eat the results! Must preregister by the end of Friday, July 24th!

Note: cost is \$8 for Arboretum members and \$10 for nonmembers. Children under the age of 12 are half-price.

http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/summer/Dutch%20Oven%20Dinner.htm

- Watab Island Campfire Desserts.

Thursday, (**TONIGHT!!**), July 23rd, 8:30—11:00 pm

Come out to Watab Island tonight for a wonderful summer night filled with fire, fun, and cooking various campfire treats! Where? Meet at Watab Island. When? Thursday, July 23rd, 8:30 pm –11:00 pm. Any questions? Please contact the Arboretum at ARBORETUM@csbsju.edu

<http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/csbsjueducation/StudentEvents.htm>

If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, please e-mail 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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