

Nature Notes

For the
week of
Sept. 2-8

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum

Have you been in the Arboretum for bird-watching?



Photo courtesy of Saint John's Arboretum Staff

Perhaps you have seen The Great Blue Heron!

Did you know:

- **Great Blue Herons stand up to 4.5 feet tall and have a wingspan of nearly 7 feet!**
- **There are 12 species of herons in North America. The Great Blue Heron is the largest and most wide spread heron in North America.**
- **Hérons are specially adapted to hunt their prey, including fish, insects, and mice. They will swallow fish alive, flip fish in the air so they go down head first, or stab their prey with a quick jab of their bill.**
- **Great Blue Herons commonly choke to death when trying to swallow prey too large for their S-shaped necks.**

Q: What do you give a sick bird?

A: Tweetment!

Q: Why do cranes fly south for the winter?

A: Because it is too far to walk!

Q: What kind of bird can carry the most weight?

A: The crane!

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great Blue Heron/sounds](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great%20Blue%20Heron/sounds)

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

<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/il940id.html>

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/great-blue-heron.html>

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Upcoming Events

Timberdash 5K Race Saturday, September 19, 10:30 a.m.—Noon
Join the Arboretum at this year's annual Timberdash 5K race! Come for a fun filled morning race through the trails of the Arboretum. Preregistration before Thursday, September 17th is only \$5. Register the day of the race for \$10. Registration includes snacks at the finish and an Arboretum bandana. Sign up on our website!
http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/fall/Timberdash.htm

Minnesota Natural History Lecture Series

Third Tuesday of the Month, September—May, 6:30—8 p.m.
Free—Arboretum members and students of all ages
\$5—Non-members/non-students

Fossils of Minnesota: Organisms Older than the Speaker Tuesday, September 15

Dr. Larry Davis, CSB/SJU professor of geology

Meet at the pendulum of the New Science Center of Saint John's University for the first lecture topic of the season.

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

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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