

# SAGATAGAN Seasons

THE NEWSLETTER OF SAINT JOHN'S



Arboretum  
SAINT JOHN'S ABBEY AND UNIVERSITY

Winter 2008

## Dragonflies in Minnesota

*Cassie Herbst*

I never thought my admiration of dragonflies would lead me on a journey of setting county and possibly state records. On August 18th, 2007 I attended a dragonfly/damselfly workshop presented by Kurt Mead in Randolph, Minnesota, at the Maltby Nature Preserve. The beginning of the day was spent learning about dragonflies and damselflies, including topics such as their life cycle and to which family they belong. After learning the basics about the order of Odonata, Mead explained the guidelines for participating in the Minnesota Odonata Survey Project (MOSP). MOSP is a volunteer endeavor supported by Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with a goal of establishing the ranges and distributions of dragonfly and damselfly populations in Minnesota.

The range of dragonflies and damselflies in Minnesota is not well known, which is why there is a need for this survey. As a volunteer you are expected to capture, identify, report and preserve specie samples of Odonata. It is not uncommon to set new county or even state records. The workshop concluded with venturing out into the field to net dragonflies and damselflies. It was a cold and rainy day which affected our odds of catching dragonflies, since it is not known where dragonflies go when it rains. I was able to net a band-winged meadowhawk, a dragonfly that belongs to the family Libellulidae. I was the only person that day to net a dragonfly, so I was very pleased. The

group also netted several species of damselflies. Damselflies are easier to catch in the rain since they typically hang on to tall grass to wait out the inclement weather. The orders of Odonata rely on warm weather in order to move around as well as to maintain efficient metabolisms. After the group was nice and soaked from the rain, we reconvened back at the center to examine the samples we had collected in the field under a microscope.

Saint John's Arboretum is a perfect place to survey dragonflies and damselflies for Stearns County. So far I have collected several species which may set records for Stearns County (amber-winged spreadwing damselfly, Eastern forktail damselfly, band-winged meadowhawk dragonfly and ruby meadowhawk dragonfly). Some of these species are quite common to the area but have not officially been recorded as being located in Stearns County. The majority of my collection has taken place near the northwest section of Wimmer Pond off the boardwalk loop trail. The prairie offers a nice perching zone for dragonflies and damselflies, so this area has played a key role in my collection process. The shore of Lake Sagatagan offers a nice setting for collection as well as near the rain garden behind the guesthouse. Dragonfly and damselfly season ranges from April into October



A newly emerged common green darner dries its wings before taking its first flight.

Photograph by Cassie Herbst

depending on the species, so even though I began my collection for 2007 well into the Odonata season, I was successful in netting several species to examine. I have to admit that at first I felt bad about killing the samples I had collected, but there is only one dragonfly which is considered endangered — the Hine's emerald dragonfly. With the exception of the Hine's Emerald, dragonfly and damselfly populations are plentiful, so sampling one of each species does not threaten their existence, which is what I tell myself each time I preserve a new sample.

Netting dragonflies is not as easy as it sounds since dragonflies are able to see 360 degrees and can fly upside-down, backwards, and make sudden turns. There were many times when I was unsuccessful in the collection of a species I had not yet had the chance to examine because of the amazing flight abilities of dragonflies. I am currently waiting for spring so I can begin the gathering process for 2008. I am

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# Art from Nature

Eli Condon

I was first introduced to the Arboretum my first year of college (2001). Besides enjoying the land as a student, I furthered my knowledge and experience as a naturalist with the Saint John's Arboretum. The Arboretum played a crucial roll in the development of my mind, body, and soul. While in college, I could be found sitting by the gentle rippling waters of Lake Sagatagan, thinking, meditating, and dreaming.

While sitting on the dock, I would contemplate my courses, environmental studies and art. What was it that drew me to these two completely different subjects?

Environmental studies provided me with written scientific fact, but art afforded the visual cues to deeper questions. How could I pair these abilities and knowledge with my desire to encourage people to care about and take care of the natural world?

As a senior at CSB/SJU, I was still grappling with these questions. I wanted my senior art project to connect people with nature, so I created

lamps based on sustainable practices. I started my senior art project like I did all my others, with a walk in the Arboretum. There I discovered beautiful dried leaves that glowed when the sunlight shone through them. They would make great lamp shades, but how was I going to create and shape these delicate leaves in a sustainable way?

A quick search on the Internet revealed a recipe for homemade glue, which was sustainable and earth friendly. I made the glue and left it in my studio; by the next day the glue had turned into a jello giggler. Then it struck me, I could put the leaves in the gelatin! Later that week I returned to

my studio to find the piece of "glue" rock hard. What a perfect "resin" to seal my delicate leaves.

In the weeks following this discovery, I went on many walks in the Arboretum to collect pine needles or berries. I combined these natural objects with various juices, such as orange or beet, which created amazing color variations. The shades were matched with refurbished lamp stands and compact fluorescent bulbs.

For the senior art show I hung my lamps and created an interactive display explaining how my lamps were created sustainably and why this was important. I also needed to create labels for each lamp, but I wasn't sure

share ideas about sustainability with a large number of people. I have continued to create environmental art in St. Paul, MN, displaying at local art galleries with pieces ranging from 10-foot tall installations on water pollution to refurbished end tables inspired by global warming. I was even interviewed by the Minneapolis television station WCCO for the 2007 fall St. Paul Art Crawl. Amidst my creation and display of art I still felt there was a missing link. I really enjoyed connecting people with ideas about conservation and sustainability, but were they getting my message? What about all the other environmental messages? Do these

reach the core of our society, or is there a missing link? I have recently started working for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and discovered these very questions arising relative to their conservation messages. While speaking with a colleague about these topics last week she mentioned an emerging field called conservation psychology. I had never heard of this field, so I

Photograph courtesy of Eli Condon



Former Arboretum employee Eli Condon uses nature in her art.

on the names of a few leaves and berries. I contacted Steve Saupe (biology professor at CSB/SJU) to help identify them. First he identified leaves, then seeds, and finally I took out a container of little yellow berries. Steve look astounded, he wanted to know if I had used the berries in my lamps.

"Of course!" I replied, "Aren't they lovely?"

"They are lovely, if you like poison ivy berries!" Steve replied.

Luckily, I never experienced any reactions to the nice yellow berries, but they did make a very beautiful shade.

The lamps were a great hit at the senior art show, and I was able to

did some research.

Definition of conservation psychology: *the scientific study of the reciprocal relationships between humans and the rest of nature, with a particular focus on how to encourage conservation of the natural world. This field is motivated by the need to encourage people to care about and take care of the natural world by using psychological theories.*

The definition sounded nice, but what do these conservation psychologists do? One example I found described how a conservation psychologist and like minded people meet at an Illinois zoo to study the impact of exhibits and media on the

**Art and Nature** continued on page 6

# Exploring the Seasons

*Theo Eggermont*

Some let the seasons pass only noticing differences in their wardrobe, experiencing the same manufactured smells, smooth textures, and phony colors. I search for anything other than the identical depressing off-white walls. To fully appreciate the seasons, constant exploration is imperative. Every week brings another a new color, a new smell, a new opportunity.

This is especially true in the upper midwest, where the seasons drastically differ. Summer can seem as hot as the tropics, winter as cool as the tundra. At dusk when the temperature drops, summer is nearly ideal. But until then it is hot and humid, every breath weighs you down like the burden of guilt. I couldn't tolerate it without those refreshing dips in the lake, the ones that cool you down in the opposite way hot chocolate warms you up in the winter. And although winter is full of opportunities — sledding, snowshoeing, skiing, snowball fights, and building snow people of every shape — you need the perfect day and five layers to enjoy it for long. For half of the season when there is no snow, but it is still 20 below, nothing beats staying in, roasting by the fire. Winter is like uninvited guests to a party that you begin to like and even love briefly, but then becomes increasingly rude in February and overstays their welcome. By March, any change is welcome. Any new, more vibrant colors, any temperature above freezing.

I once took splendor in spring, watching things sprout out of the saturated ground, seeing what was new. Then I opened my eyes, traded in my already colored-in coloring books for Monet's, my Disney's for Best Pictures'. Some defend spring saying, "It is so full of life." This is ignorant absurdity, I assure you the sole reason seedlings sprout is in hope that some day their leaves may culminate in robust redness, and perhaps so its seeds may drop in

celebration of life. Spring is a war in an overcrowded coliseum, each plant aggressively grasping for every ray of light, every millimeter of earth, every drop of water. The weak are violently choked, left to die, rot and decay. Contrarily, every part of fall is an all-inclusive celebration, and farthest from the slow mourning wake that some might have you believe.

The sumac, cloaked in dark red, arrives before the other vegetation, letting them know the time for celebration is near. Responding to the signal, the ironwood and impatient maples hastily follow suit. Those maples that endure are rewarded with what every tree strives for more than life, to splendor in heartwarming reds and oranges. When the sunlight hits them at four in the afternoon, they reach nirvana. The ash trees display their recognition by sprinkling down leaves of yellow confetti. They have no regrets about showing their skeleton in a suicidal tribute of jealousy. The milkweeds explode, shooting out seeds like white Roman candles with longer interludes. Even the sun understands opportunity and contributes an unparalleled grand finale among a proscenium of full spectrum yellows, greens, oranges, and reds. I understand why Independence Day was placed in July, to get a jump start on autumn's superior display. But the show always ends in disappointment like an inadequate dripping ice cream cone on a 90-degree day. You didn't have enough money to get the large. You are left craving more, wishing it didn't drip away so fast.

Like every rapidly melting ice cream cone and every firework show you can't look away from, fall is not to be enjoyed alone. My father spoke this wisdom during my first trip home from college in late fall. As he told me he wanted to go for a walk, I feared the overbearing parental advice about "making smart choices." We walked behind the park through the elms, oaks, and maples. Bushwhacking

through the woods, we stopped near the river and sat down. Silently we observed, collecting our thoughts. There my father spoke the words I remember most clearly and have taken to heart more than any others, "If you want to get to know someone, take a walk in the woods with them in the fall." My father applied his own advice that day as I would in the following years with my closest of friends. Surely you can take a walk to get to know someone anywhere, but taking a walk on an indoor track when you can walk in the woods in autumn, is like playing go-fish, when you could play chess.

Fishermen have spots they return to year after year to look for the "big one." I too have my spots, and with the same anticipation I return to them year after year. I seek that nirvana red on the big white oak in the middle of the farmer's field. It has avoided spring's competition, grew up without other trees mercilessly choking it out, resulting in branches the Swiss family Robinson dreamed about at night. I hope for that young maple with each arm-like branch reaching out with slightly red fingertips. I don't bring a camera or tell stories about the "one that got away." I fear that the picture would hang on my wall above my bed. If looking at it fulfilled my craving for adventure, my need to explore the seasons, it might as well be the coldest winter. I would stay inside next to a fire playing go-fish, neglecting my father's wisdom. You can only passively look at a picture with someone for so long, but you can actively explore fall for an eternity together. If I hung that picture, I fear I would forget that satisfying crunch, the smell of decomposing leaves, or the warmth of the sun on my face reflecting off the water, countered by the cool breeze blowing across the lake.

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*Theo Eggermont is a senior at Saint John's University. He is a student naturalist at Saint John's Arboretum.*

# Sugar Shack Renovation Begins

Stephen G. Saupe

The heart of any maple syrup operation is the sugarhouse where the sap collected from sugar maple trees is concentrated by boiling to produce syrup. Although the sap can be cooked in open kettles out in the woods, just as the monks at Saint John's did during their first syrup season in 1942, this task is considerably more enjoyable if it can be completed in the comfort of a sugarhouse. The early monastic sugar-makers learned this lesson quickly and in the fall initiated construction of a sugarhouse near the "Mount Carmel ski hill." Br. Michael Hurth directed the project, which was completed in time for the 1943 season. Like most sugarhouses which are more accurately called "shacks" because they are cobbled and pieced together from scrap lumber and leftover building supplies, the original Saint John's sugar shack was described as a "little green shed" or a "roofless shanty." It had an open roof to allow steam to escape as the sap was cooked. Nevertheless, there was so much steam inside the shack that it was nearly impossible to see across the building. To remedy the sauna-like conditions,

the monks built a variety of contraptions to try to funnel the steam out the roof ultimately opting to purchase a custom-built aluminum cover that worked well. Unfortunately, the sugarhouse burned down in 1970 (February). The cause of the fire is unknown but likely due to a clandestine student beer-party gone awry.

Construction of a replacement sugarhouse began in the fall of 1971, and it was used for the first time the following spring. This project was completed by Fr. Sebastian Schramel, Fr. Fintan Bromenshenkel, Br. Marcellus Handorgan, and neighbor Ralph Meyer. The new sugarhouse was not rebuilt in its original location but on the north end of the radio tower or rugby fields where it now sits. Unfortunately, there was one design flaw with the new sugarhouse. Unlike the original shack in which the floor in front of stove was lower than the main floor, the floor of the new shack was all one level. This meant that to put wood into the evaporator the syrup-makers needed to bend over much further than before. After several seasons of this back-breaking work, in 1996 Br. Walter Kieffer supervised a renovation

project in which an addition was added on the south side. The floor of the addition was excavated about 18 inches lower than the main floor to permit easier wood loading.

Maple syruping at Saint John's was primarily a monastic endeavor until 2000 when Abbot John Klassen asked the Arboretum to become a joint partner. The Arboretum quickly accepted and developed the operation as a major educational resource by hosting festivals and visits by college and pre-college students and others. For example, in 2005 we hosted two festivals attended by more than 400 people, gave tours to more than 500 primary school children, and provided programs for several classes from CSB/SJU. With the increase in visitors to the operation, we soon realized that we needed more space. This would allow visitors to escape nasty weather and avoid herding kindergarteners and others just inches away from the extremely hot evaporator. As a result, we decided to put an addition on the east side of the existing sugarhouse. When complete, the new addition will extend the east wall approximately 14 feet providing about 350 square feet of additional space.

Bill Mock, with whom I share syruping responsibilities, is leading the project. Bill is a retired foreman from the Donlar Construction Company (St. Joseph) and is a genius at all things mechanical. I have been serving as his chief gopher and laborer. The renovation is being done in two phases. This fall we began, and just completed, stage one by building the floor for the new addition. Next spring, after the syruping season, we plan to erect the actual building.

To begin the project, we solicited a generous donation of lumber from the Saint John's wood shop. This was necessary to build a wood frame or form into which the concrete was poured. Since we also wanted to put a new layer of concrete on the existing floor, we needed to remove the lower

**Sugar Shack** continued on page 6



Photograph courtesy Stephen Saupe

Workers lay concrete for the expansion of the maple syrup sugar shack.

# The Student-Arboretum Connection

Richelle Caya

When I was researching colleges as a high school senior, I had never heard the word “arboretum.” I remember paging through an admissions guide book, doggedly trying to sift through the printed information and attempting to distinguish this place from the collection of other private colleges spread out in glossy form in front of me. It wasn't the statistics or awards printed on those pages that impressed me. It was the pictures. I looked at the colorful spring blossoms, at students canoeing across the lake in the summer time, and at the forests in their bright fall reds and golds.

Though I didn't know that the places in these pictures were all part of something called the Saint John's Arboretum, I knew that they showed a place where I could grow and even flourish. This was the feeling I had when I visited the campus for the first time and took the chapel trail along Lake Sag. For many of us students, it isn't just the academic programs – which are excellent – or the job placement rate – which I hope is excellent – but also the land that draws us to these institutions and makes us proud to call them home.

For most of my fellow students, spending time in the Arboretum is not part of our job descriptions. Many of us are attracted to Saint John's or Saint Ben's because of the land. But when classes are in session, schedules tend to get busy, and sometimes we forget the reasons that brought us here. By building a relationship with the student body, Saint John's Arboretum is making sure that this is not something that remains forgotten. The Arboretum hopes that within the coming years, all CSB/SJU students will have at least one positive outdoor experience during their time here.

So far, we are doing pretty well. This year for orientation new students were given the opportunity to volunteer for a one-day service project.

Over 200 students worked for an afternoon. The Arboretum also sponsors bonfires for any student groups that requests one. Sponsorship includes a short nature walk and lecture. Other student activities planned by Arboretum staff include midnight hikes, snowshoeing adventures, birding, and service projects.

Recently, the Arboretum sponsored a bonfire for Pseudonym, a poetry club on campus. Since Pseudonym was hosting a poetry reading at their bonfire, we decided to deliver our lecture in the form of a poem written by Arboretum student naturalists. The poem follows the adventures of Barney the barred owl as he learns about the Arboretum from a cast of animal characters including Rebecca the Raccoon, Sarah the Squirrel, Danny the Deer, and Tom the Turtle. Here is an excerpt of our poem:

...“There's just one more person you should meet.  
He doesn't live up high, but closer to your feet.  
He's old and wise and very kind,  
but sometimes difficult to find.”

And off Rebecca ran with Barney in tow  
toward Lake Sagatagan.

Rebecca led Barney down the Chapel trail.  
They searched and searched but to no avail.  
Until they spotted through the fog,  
It was Tom the Turtle on a log.

“Welcome,” spoke Tom, “So you want to know about the Arboretum?”

“The Arboretum is so wonderful even humans want to join the fun.  
Volunteers help maintain the land and enjoy themselves in the sun.  
Helping out with kiddo classes,  
picking up trash just to name a few,  
there are many ways the Arboretum could work with you.”

Now I'll let you get back to your pine,  
I think you'll enjoy the Arboretum just fine.

If you have any questions, make a list,



Photograph by Erica Manternach

Don't you just love working at the Arboretum? Richelle and Joey show off the Arboretum's prairie and flower costumes, respectively.

Just ask your friendly student naturalists.

Now, thanks to my Latin courses, I know that the word “arboretum” comes from the stem arbor, which means tree. Thanks to my student Encarta Dictionary I am able to look up the word arboretum and see that it is literally, “an area planted with many types of trees for study, display, and reservation.” But it's as a student naturalist with the Arboretum that I am really able to experience and appreciate the Arboretum and all it has to offer. My educational journey at CSB/SJU would not be complete without it.

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Richelle Caya is a sophomore at the College of Saint Benedict. The poem was also written by Joey Buhta, a senior at Saint John's University. Both are student naturalists at the Arboretum.

**Sugar Shack** *Continued from page 4*

blocks from the existing east wall so the concrete could be poured through the entire sugarhouse. Melissa J. (MJ) Bach helped us swing the maul to break out the blocks. Before pouring the concrete, we needed to remove everything from the existing shack. Amy Saupe, Danny Vitali, and MJ helped with this project. Perhaps the biggest job was removing the cast iron evaporator. In his typical brilliant way, Bill gently raised the firebox end of the evaporator with a long crowbar and then slid a two-ton jack beneath it. Driving a bobcat, Gary Pflueger from the Saint John's grounds crew skillfully lifted the opposite end of the evaporator and gently rolled the entire unit out of the north door. Once enough of the evaporator was through the door, Gary gently grabbed it in the middle and moved it away from the door. Everything worked great except that the evaporator was so heavy that the bobcat kept tipping forward. The concrete was poured by Mark Kremers and his crew from St. Joseph.

Putting the evaporator back in the shack was an equally delicate operation and went as smoothly. This time, Dan Vogel, Saint John's assistant land manager, was at the controls of the bobcat. Like Gary, he masterfully returned the evaporator to its original

resting spot assisted by his student worker Jason Hoffmann, all under Bill's watchful eye. The most difficult part of this operation was insuring the evaporator was completely level. Dan also helped to grade the soil around the new slab. Unfortunately some of the brick lining the firebox came loose when we moved the evaporator so Bill needed to cement it back. We're looking forward to completing the project next spring, when we will put up the walls and a new roof from the tin donated by the Donlar Corporation. The addition will provide lots of space for visitors, storage of supplies and well needed light because we will install several windows that were graciously provided by Camp Friendship through Jeff Wubbels in the Saint John's Dining Service.

We invite everyone down to visit us this spring, join in the syrumping fun, and to see our new floor and the concrete slab. As always, you will be welcomed in true Benedictine fashion.

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*Stephen Saupe is a professor at Saint John's University. He is still searching for a crystal ball to predict the maple syrup season.*

**Art and Nature** *continued from page 2*

publics understanding, attitudes, feelings, and behaviors towards animals and conservation. From their data, they made recommendations on how to improve exhibits or indicated why some exhibits successfully conveyed the conservation message.

How amazing! There are other people who have discovered the missing link between scientific fact and human understanding. I am also realizing how this very idea has influenced my work with the environment. From creating children's games at the Arboretum, to taking college students on the chapel trail, to my art projects, it seems that

everything I have been learning, doing, and creating is interconnected.

It is only now that I am realizing that both my environmental studies and art courses really weren't different after all. Learning, reading, and caring about many aspects of our world creates within us an interconnected web, a web that intertwines our souls with nature.

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*Eli Condon works at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in the Ecological Resources Division. Besides nature, Eli enjoys traveling around the world and tasty exotic cuisine.*

**Dragonflies** *Continued from page 1*

anticipating that I will have a good year for collection, since I will have the entire season to collect samples, and I am planning on visiting some bogs and marshy areas in the Arboretum in hopes of finding different species to sample.

I have been fascinated by dragonflies for as long as I can remember and for many different reasons. When I was younger, dragonflies often reminded me of fairies, which is what first sparked my interest in these magnificent creatures. I remember how I loved watching dragonflies in flight as a girl; as an adult I now know why their flight was so intriguing to watch. Dragonflies have inhabited the earth for the last 300 million years and at one time were large enough that people may have been afraid of them since they could have easily made meals of humans. Though dragonflies are no longer as large as they once were, they are still fearsome predators. The Dragonhunter, which is part of the family Gomphidae, has been known to eat hummingbirds and is immune to wasp stings and the toxins found in monarch butterflies making both these insects' suitable meals. Male dragonflies are very territorial when it comes to breeding and mate sites. Dominant males often chase away competition and are the ones which will mate. Typically males stay near water sources or wetlands waiting for females to arrive. Often females avoid the wetlands until they are prepared to mate. The mating process is very competitive, and the female may lay eggs from more than one partner. The more I learn about dragonflies and damselflies, the more I find myself fascinated and yearning to learn more. I look forward to the day the Odonata survey for Minnesota is completed because it will be interesting to know which species call this state home.

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*Cassie Herbst is the 2007-08 Environmental Education Fellow at Saint John's Arboretum. She has recently started raising dragonfly nymphs and is happy to report they are already eating fish.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Moonlight Snowshoe**

Monday, January 21

**7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Meet at Pendulum in the New Science Center**

Join the Arboretum staff for our annual moonlight snowshoe hike through the woods at Saint John's and enjoy hot chocolate afterwards. Beginner and advanced routes will be offered, suitable for adults and children of walking age. Preregistration is required by January 18; free for Arboretum members; \$4 for nonmembers; free if you bring your own snowshoes.

## **Nature Journaling: Drawing to Learn**

Tuesdays, Jan. 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Peter Engel Science Center Room 338**

This will be a basic introduction to drawing and watercolor techniques that are useful in recording observations in a nature journal. This course will introduce you to some new tools and provide you with guidance and the opportunity to get the practice that will make you a better observer of nature. Instructor is Jim Poff from the CSB/SJU biology department. Cost is \$40 for Arboretum members; \$50 for nonmembers, plus materials (a materials list will be provided when you register). Preregister by January 18th.

## **Planet Earth Showings**

January 21, February 18,  
March 10, April 21, May 5

**7:00 – 9:30 p.m., Peter Engel Science Center Pellegrine Auditorium**

See the spectacular BBC special on a big screen! Every third Monday the Arboretum brings you two episodes of the documentary followed by a professor-led discussion. Free and open to all Arboretum members and friends. Check the Arboretum Web site for details.

## **Second Showing of A Road Runs Through It**

Tuesday, February 12

**7 p.m., Gorecki Dining Center 204**

*If A Road Runs Through It* tells the story of the challenges rapid change and development have brought to the Avon Hills region of Stearns county. The film was directed by Mark Conway and Nick Hayes and produced by Nikki See, with Fredde Sam Lazaro as executive producer.

## **9th Annual Owl Hoot**

Thursday, February 21

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Meet at Pendulum in the New Science Center**

Owls are especially active at this time of year. Come and learn what they are busy doing during an indoor presentation, and then hike with us outdoors under the full moon to call for them. Cost is free for Arboretum members; \$2 for nonmembers.

## **Nature Photography**

Thursday, February 28

**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Meet in New Science Center**

Learn how to expose, compose, crop, clone and correct to achieve that great nature shot with your digital camera. Returning with Part 2 of Nature Photography, avid photographer and MN Master Naturalist Ken Bachofer will review and build on last year's introductory class, looking deeper into exposure and composition; then onward to digital processing and preparing your photo for web presentation or printing. Cost is \$3 for members; \$6 for nonmembers. Preregister by Feb. 26.

## **Maple Syrup Festivals**

Saturdays, March 29 & April 5

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Park near Saint John's Preparatory School**

Join us for what has become our most popular event of the year! Sap collecting, syrup cooking, horse-drawn rides, demonstrations, and hot maple syrup sundaes await the whole family during this fun-filled event! Cost is \$3 for adult Arboretum members, free for child members; \$7 for adult nonmembers, \$3 for child nonmembers. Preregistration is preferred but not required. Receive \$1 off each person (up to \$10) if you preregister by the Friday before the festival you are attending.

## **5th Annual Plant and Garden Tool Sale**

Saturday, May 10

**8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or until sold out, Pendulum in the New Science Center**

Welcome spring by stocking up at our annual plant and garden tool sale. New this year – prairie plant seeds will be available! Arboretum members receive 50% off on all items. Memberships are available for purchase on the day of the sale.

## **Spring Birding Day**

Saturday, May 10

**5:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; or 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Meet at Pendulum in the New Science Center**

Spend a morning hiking through the woods with birders during peak migration. Early risers will be stunned by the abundance of birds active early in the day. Coffee and rolls will be served at 8:00 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 for Arboretum members; \$16 for nonmembers. Preregistration required.

*To volunteer, register, or get more information about Arboretum events,  
please call (320)363-3163 or e-mail [arboretum@csbsju.edu](mailto:arboretum@csbsju.edu).  
Don't forget to check out our Web site at [www.csbsju.edu/arboretum](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum)*

*Sagatan Seasons* is a quarterly publication of Saint John's Arboretum.

**Arboretum Staff:**

Thomas Kroll, *Director/Land Manager*  
Sarah Gainey, *Assistant Director/Environmental Education Coordinator*  
Rachel Peterson, *Writer/Office Coordinator Fellow*  
Cassie Herbst, *Environmental Education Fellow*  
Dan Vogel, *Forest Technician*

**Student Employees:**

Melissa Bach            Joey Buhta  
Richelle Caya          Theo Eggermont  
Jason Hoffmann        Mike Lenczewski  
Erica Manternach

**Arboretum Advisory Council:**

Terri Barreiro          Stephanie O'Keefe  
Alison Binsfeld        Bob Russell  
Mike Brown            Stephen Saupe  
Scott Daninger        Larry Schwietz  
Bruce Dickau           Sean Suter  
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**Ought to Be in Pictures**

Congratulations to Liam Cofell-Dwyer, winner of Best in Show in the Arboretum's first photo contest! Liam's photo, as well as the photos of all eight Best in Category winners, were on display at the 2007 Open House and are currently showcased on our Web site: [www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb\\_highlights/PhotoContest.htm](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/PhotoContest.htm). Check our Web site soon for details of the 2008 Arboretum Photo Contest!

Have you seen *If A Road Runs Through It*, the documentary about the Avon Hills? You can watch the whole thing online: [www.csbsju.edu/undertoldstories/media/avondocumentary.htm](http://www.csbsju.edu/undertoldstories/media/avondocumentary.htm), or you can request a free DVD by e-mailing [arboretum@csbsju.edu](mailto:arboretum@csbsju.edu).

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