

Join the Arboretum for Charles Darwin's Birthday Party Tomorrow!



Photo courtesy of Tony Peroutky.

Did you know?... Owls are nocturnal raptors. Their keen eyesight, hearing abilities, and silent flight make them successful hunters. Owls' eyes can account for up to 5% of their body weight, while their bones make up only 7-9% of their weight. Owls have a long flexible neck composed of 14 vertebrae- that's twice as many as humans! Owls' feathers have comb-like edges called fimbriae, which silent their flight in order to surprise prey. Want to learn more about these amazing birds of prey? **Join the Arboretum for the 10th Annual Owl Hoot this Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30pm!**

<http://www.owlpages.com/articles.php?section=Owl+Physiology>

Knock Knock!

Who's there?

Baby Owl!

Baby Owl who?

Baby Owl see you later, maybe I won't!

Knock Knock!

Who's there?

Owls!

Owls who?

Of course they do, everybody knows that!

Charles Darwin Birthday Party!- Thursday Feb. 12

This Thursday is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin! Join friends for cake and conversation in celebration of the life and works of someone who reshaped the way we think about the world. The fun runs from **4- 5pm** in New Science Center Room 150, with a song and toast at 4:30pm.

10th Annual Arboretum Owl Hoot- Tuesday Feb. 17

Join Sarah Gainey, Arboretum Environmental Education Coordinator, to learn what owls are up to this winter! Meet at the New Science Pendulum at **6:30pm**. Following the presentation, there will be an optional outdoor hike from **8:00- 9:00pm** to call for these feathered friends!

Moonlight Snowshoe- Tuesday Feb. 17

Join the Arboretum and the OLC for snowshoeing, hot chocolate, and fun! Please bring your favorite mug and snowshoes if you have them. If you need snowshoes, please register on the [Arboretum website](#). The fun begins at **8pm** at the OLC office in Mary Hall Basement (Room 033).

Data Mining in Mud: Exploring the Vegetation History of the Collegeville Region- Tuesday March 17

Join CSB/SJU Professor of Biology, Gordon Brown, to learn about the general vegetation history of Central Minnesota since the end of our last glaciations. Discuss what the muddy sediments of Lake Hilary reveal about vegetation change in the locale of the Saint John's Arboretum. Meet at the New Science Pendulum at **6:30pm**.

Maple Syrup Festivals- Saturday March 28 & April 4

Since the early 1940's the Saint John's community has participated in this annual rite of spring. Join the Arboretum for tree tapping, live music, a tour of the operation, maple syrup sundaes, and much more! It's sure to be a sweet time!

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