living in the avon hills

feed your mind  awaken your senses  enliven your spirit

a conference for the whole family

Saturday, February 1, 2014
Saint John’s University
8:00 a.m.—4:15 p.m.

Natural History  Arts  Gardening  Kids  Land Use

agenda

8:00—9:00  REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS
9:00—10:30  Initiative Awards Presentation
            Keynote: Wildlife Science Center
10:30—11:00  BREAK/EXHIBITS
11:00—11:15  Session I
11:15—1:00  LUNCH/EXHIBITS
1:00—1:45  Session II
1:45—2:15  BREAK/EXHIBITS
2:15—3:00  Session III
3:00—3:30  BREAK/EXHIBITS
3:30—4:15  Session IV

registration

$30—adults
$10—children, ages 5-15
$40—teacher workshop

$40—walk-in adults
No walk-in children

registration fee includes:
keynote, entrance to four sessions, access to exhibitors, lunch, snacks at registration & breaks, materials & handouts.

deadlines

postmarked by Jan 24
submitted online by Jan 28
walk-in prices after Jan 28

special thanks to:

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Saint John’s Outdoor University
Avon Hills Initiative

additional funding provided by:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
session I. 11:00—11:45 (choose 1)

A. KIDS: Amazing Animal Adaptations  
**Wildlife Science Center**  
Wild animals have an amazing variety of characteristics that enable them to survive in their environments. Learn more about common MN animals, discuss endangered species, and become a wildlife detective.  
*Get a closer look at a live raptor to observe their unique adaptations!*

B. Growing Berries,  
**Dr. Bill Cook, Saint Cloud State University**  
Small fruits are arguably the easiest way to start an edible garden. Learn the basics of getting started with strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries from use in landscaping to regular care and maintenance.

C. The Buzz about Native Bees  
**Crystal Boyd, MN DNR**  
It may be winter now, but the bees will be buzzing this spring! Learn about the more than 300 native MN bee species and new pollinator projects happening at the MN DNR.

D. Pretzels and More!  
**Susan Kroska, Susan’s Artisan Bread**  
Perfect for the whole family! Learn how to make a variety of different kinds of pretzels and more. Enjoy sampling the results!

E. Green Homes made easy; A painless guide to doing it right  
**Michael Anschel, Verified Green, Inc.**  
This class will walk you through the major components of home building and remodeling and provide you with clear instruction for greening each one. Plumbing, Heating, Insulation, Framing, Floors, cabinets, interior finishes, Landscaping, etc. This fast paced session will energize you and give you the tools to green your home or remodeling project.

F. Agates Rock!  
**Sharon Smith, Agates Rock**  
Learn about the formation and distribution of Lake Superior Agates, including current trends in collecting and valuing the stones. View samples of agates from around the world.

G. Marketing Logs & the Avon Hills,  
**Bob Perleberg & Peter Gillitzer**  
Learn how to sustainably harvest logs to regenerate the forest and earn you cash. Also details about cutting wood so that it meets market standards and about a new market that can use lower quality logs.

H. A Brief History of Collegeville II,  
**Peggy Roske, CSB/SJU Archives**  
The archivist will be back with more historical details about the Arboretum. Learn about St. John’s golf course, ski hill, fish hatchery, toboggan run, and lots of other tidbits of Collegeville history.

I. Is a Conservation Easement for You?  
**John Carney, MN Land Trust**  
Are you concerned about long-term conservation of your land? Learn how you can permanently protect your land from development and if you are a good candidate for a conservation easement.

J. Riparian Habitat Restoration,  
**Heather Baird, MN DNR**  
View examples of habitat restoration along lakes and streams in MN. Learn about the process of restoration and how it relates to habitat and water quality.

K. Tick & Mosquito Transmitted Illnesses,  
**Elizabeth Schifffman, MN Health Department**  
What’s new with mosquito and tick-borne diseases in MN? Discuss updates with an emphasis on risks and prevention.

session II. 1:00—1:45 (choose 1)

A. KIDS: Mysteries of the Moon,  
**Saint John’s Outdoor University**  
What is the moon’s really made of? Why does it change shape? Could we live there? Join us for stories, games and hands-on activities!

B. Amazing Animal Adaptations  
**Wildlife Science Center**  
Wild animals have amazing ways to survive in their environments. Learn about common MN animals, discuss endangered species, and get a closer look at a live raptor to observe their unique adaptations!

C. Small-Scale Prairies & Eco-Friendly Landscapes  
**Steve Heymans, Steve’s Landscape Services**  
Every property, including residential lots, has the potential to become an ecologically friendly and low maintenance landscape. Learn the elements of design and benefits of native plants in small landscapes.

D. Plant-Powered Health: Answers from the Garden  
**David Kroska, MD**  
What is the role of plants in health and longevity? Get an overview of gardening, what to grow, and why for maximum health impact along with history of some common garden plants.

E. Peonies: King of the Perennial Garden  
**Diane Hansgen**  
Peonies are some of the oldest perennials known to gardeners. They are easy to grow and are among the most fragrant cut flowers. Learn the secrets of planting and enjoying peonies hardy enough for MN winters.

F. MN Aquatic Invasive Species  
**Chris Jurek & Courtney Millaway, MN DNR**  
Learn about aquatic invasive species in MN. See specimens of invasive plants & animals and discuss prevention & management options.

G. Minnesota Indians  
**Dr. Rob Galler, Saint Cloud State University**  
This presentation will provide a general overview of historical and cultural connections of Ojibwes and Dakotas to Minnesota and explore how tribal experiences connect with U.S. and Minnesota history.

H. Insulation Retrofits for Existing Homes,  
**Chris Froelke, Retro Green Energy**  
Learn about energy loss, heat loss and heat gain, indoor air quality, moisture issues, and poor insulation properties existing in homes. Get information on best practices to retrofit existing homes.

I. Stearns County Land Use  
**Angie Berg, Stearns Co. Envr. Services**  
Learn about updates to the County’s Zoning Code, technology initiatives including website enhancements, ePermitting and online mapping.

J. Ash Tree Management and Emerald Ash Borer,  
**John Korzeniowski, MN DNR**  
Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect, are threatening our ash trees in central MN. Learn the latest on what you can do to protect your trees.

K. Intergenerational Land Transfers  
**Dave Velde, Velde Moore Law Firm**  
Attorney Dave Velde will discuss a variety of legal options in MN that can be used to transfer land from one generation to the next. This talk will cover the basics by introducing the options, defining legal terms, and discussing which option best fits different situations.

K-12 Teacher Workshop: Project Learning Tree

- A workshop using hands-on lessons to bring the natural world into the classroom.
- Focuses on the forest as a window on the world.
- PLT teaches not only about trees, but also about land, air, and water to help students understand our complex environment.
- Open to educators, naturalists, scout leaders, and others interested in EE.
should also know the poetry of a landscape to protect, preserve, and...
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keynote presentation • 9:30 a.m.

Wildlife Science Center
The Wonderful World of Raptors: Predators of the Sky

An up-close learning adventure! Learn about many characteristics of raptors, fables and stories, conservation, falconry, and more. With artifacts, sounds, interactive tools, and 2 live raptor ambassadors, all ages will be inspired.

space is limited—register now!