

LIVING IN THE AVON HILLS

A CONFERENCE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

NATURAL HISTORY • ARTS • GARDENING • LAND USE • OUTDOOR REC • KIDS

•SCHEDULE•

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 - 9:00 | Registration & Check In Exhibit Hall Open |
| 9:00 - 10:30 | Welcome and Keynote Address: Larry Weber |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Break/Exhibits |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Session I |
| 12:00 - 1:00 | Lunch/Exhibits |
| 1:00 - 2:00 | Session II |
| 2:00 - 2:30 | Break/Exhibits |
| 2:30 - 3:30 | Session III |
| 3:30 - 4:00 | Submit Surveys/Exhibits |

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN FROM 8:00 - 4:00

•REGISTRATION•

\$20 OUTDOOR U MEMBERS

\$25 ADULT NONMEMBERS

\$10 CHILDREN AGES 5-15

\$35 WALK-IN ADULTS

NO WALK-IN CHILDREN

Registration fee includes:

Keynote presentation, three presentations, class materials, exhibit hall access, lunch and refreshments.

•REGISTRATION DEADLINES•

- Postmark by February 2
- Online by February 7
- Walk-in prices after February 7

ENLIVEN YOUR SPIRIT • FEED YOUR MIND • AWAKEN YOUR SENSES

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



• PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS •

attend presentations on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the day

• SESSION I 11:00 - 12:00 •

A. KIDS: SCATOLOGY

Doug "the Science Dude" Peterson, (Indoor Session)

Come get the scoop on animal poop in this interactive session! Learn how scat is produced and how to identify which animal left it behind based on its size, shape and location.

B. 10 PLANTS THAT CHANGED MINNESOTA *(also in session III)*

Diane Narem, University of MN Department of Horticultural Science
Come learn about the top ten plants that most shaped Minnesota and transformed how we live today.

C. GOING "NO-TILL" WITH YOUR GARDEN

Dr. Joe Storlien, CSB/SJU Environmental Studies Department

Why do we dig? The benefits of tilling a garden are often short-lived. Come learn how to apply the benefits of no-till management to your garden instead! These principles will lead to healthy soil, productive plants, and happy gardeners.

D. THE WORLD AT OUR FEET: EXPLORING MUSHROOMS

Dr. Kyle McClure, CSB/SJU First-Year Seminar

Discover the fascinating world of mushrooms in Central MN! Learn identification techniques for common edibles, foraging strategies, and the rich life at your feet in our fields and forests.

E. BUILDING A STRATEGY FOR INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

Angela Gupta, University of MN Extension

Ever feel overwhelmed by invasive species? Think you might have a problem but don't know where to start? Attend this session to learn how to assess and prioritize invasive species work.

F. MNI SOTA MAKOCE: THE DAKOTA HOMELANDS

Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, SCSU American Indian Center

Learn about and integrate Dakota values for caring for the land and consider your individual, family, and community connections by examining Minnesota as a Dakota place.

G. THE STATE OF SOLAR ENERGY

Fritz Ebinger, University of MN Extension - Clean Energy Resources Team

Solar development started going gangbuster long before Minnesota passed sweeping pro-solar legislation in 2013. Come learn about the economics of solar and the ways communities have managed solar since then, as well as what is on the horizon.

H. DESIGNING LANDSCAPES WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Steve Heymans, Prairiescapes

There are several elements of landscape design to consider when it comes to the use of native prairie plants: usable spaces, parameters, paths, maintenance, and plant arrangement. Learn how these elements can be applied in the designing of residential, commercial, and public landscapes.

I. VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES OF MN: MOSQUITOS & TICKS

Molly Peterson, MN Department of Health

Curious about what diseases can be transmitted by ticks and mosquitos in MN? This session will highlight vectors of public health concern in MN and the diseases they can transmit, as well as prevention methods and information about seeking treatment.

J. INTRODUCTION TO TIMBER FRAMING

Clark Bremer, Avon Hills Folk School

Do you love the design of the timber framed trailhead and bridge along the Chapel Trail? Interested in learning more about this method of construction? This session will cover the history of and local connection to timber framing, as well as provide visual examples and options for tools and classes!

K. SHORELINE RESTORATION: HOW TO NATURALIZE YOUR SHORE

Nathan Hylla, Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District

Shore restoration can return many desirable features to your shoreline. In this session, we will discuss how you can protect your shoreline, as well as the multitude of resources available to help you do so.

• SESSION II 1:00-2:00 •

A. KIDS: WHOOO'S EATING WHO?: OWL EDITION

Outdoor U Staff, (Indoor Session)

Ever wondered what an owl might have had for dinner? Join us to learn about owls and one of their strange eating habits - pellets! We will dissect owl pellets to find bones, fur, and other leftovers from an owl's late night snack.

B. MORE COLLEGEVILLE & ARBORETUM HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Peggy Landwehr Roske, CSB/SJU Archives

The archivist is back with new images and historical details on Native Americans, growth of the Abbey Arboretum, natural history, phenology, and more!

C. RAIN BARRELS 101

Adam Hjelm, Sauk River Watershed District

Installing a rain barrel is an excellent way to reduce run-off and pollution, as well as save money! Participants will learn the ins and outs of rain barrels, site selection, and other tips to use rain barrels most efficiently.

D. WILD RICE HARVESTING & MANAGEMENT

Nicholas Snavely, MN Department of Natural Resources

Come learn about wild rice, MN's official state grain, as well as wild rice ecology, management, harvest, and processing.

E. HERBICIDES & EQUIPMENT FOR INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

Mike Reichenbach, University of MN Extension

Having issues with invasive plants that keep coming back? Come learn when and what herbicides are effective, how they should be used, and what equipment you might need for application to be effective.

F. THE PRAIRIE & OAK SAVANNAH RELATIONSHIP IN MN

Rob Bowen, Prairie Restorations, Inc.

The prairies and oak savannahs of MN have a complex and fascinating relationship, ever-evolving due to plant and human interactions. Learn about these tree and plant communities and how they've changed over time.

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G. AVON HILLS INITIATIVE EASEMENTS: HISTORY & FUTURE

Nathan Hylla, Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District
Curious about the Avon Hills Initiative Easement Program? Join us to learn about the history of easements in the Avon Hills, lessons learned over time, and how you can implement an easement to protect your land forever.

H. ENJOYING THE NATIVE PLANTS OF CENTRAL MN

Dr. Brian Johnson, Wild Ones Native Plants Organization
In Central MN, we are near prairies, deciduous woods, and pine forests, providing convenient opportunities to enjoy the native plants of these varied communities. This presentation will introduce more ways to enjoy native plants, including where to visit them and how to raise them from seed.

I. WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME & BATS IN MN

Melissa Boman, MN Department of Natural Resources
In 2016, white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease impacting bat populations across North America, was confirmed in one of the largest bat hibernacula in the state. This presentation will discuss the important role bats play in our ecosystem and ongoing monitoring efforts by the MN DNR.

J. POETRY IN THE AVON HILLS

Larry Schug & Dr. Kyhl Lyndgaard, CSB & SJU Writing Centers
We will explore the ecological beauty, natural setting, sense of place, and the impact of various forms of human interaction in the Avon Hills through poetry. Bring a poem by a poet that you would like to share with the group, and be prepared to write!

K. MINNESOTA'S UNDERWATER FORESTS

Courtney Millaway, MN Department of Natural Resources
Discover the diverse flora hidden beneath the waves. Learn about common aquatic plants found in Central MN along with rare aquatic plants found throughout the state.

• SESSION III 2:30- 3:30 •

A. KIDS: NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor U Staff, (Outdoor Session)
In this outdoor session, we will explore the surrounding woods to learn more about native animals. We'll look for animal signs and tracks, play games, and enjoy some fresh air! Please dress for the weather.

B. MEDITATIONS ON THE ETHICAL VALUE OF THE ABBEY ARBORETUM

Dr. Charles Wright, CSB/SJU Philosophy Department
Why preserve the Abbey Arboretum? Why not completely log or mine it? What about lease it to a developer? This presentation will review the evolving efforts by environmental philosophers to identify and articulate the ethical value of nature systems like the Saint John's Abbey Arboretum.

C. LET'S GO NUTS!: NUT CROPS FOR CENTRAL MN

Dr. Stephen Saupe, CSB/SJU Biology Department
Hazelnuts, black walnuts, and butternuts are among the nut-producing trees and shrubs that grow in central MN. This presentation will provide an overview of the biology of these plants with a special emphasis on growing hazelnuts.

D. HONEY BEES IN YOUR BACKYARD

Vern Heise, Tri-County Beekeepers Association
Get acquainted with the fascinating honey bees visiting your yard and learn about their amazing behavior. You might decide to keep bees yourself or simply become a good host to native bees as well as honey bees.

E. EMERALD ASH BORER & GYPSY MOTH IN MN

Angela Gupta, University of MN Extension
Worried about EAB and gypsy moths? Attend this session to learn more about early detection and management for land-owners. You may not be able to stop these pests, but you can prepare your woods!

F. 10 PLANTS THAT CHANGED MINNESOTA (also in session I)

Diane Narem, University of MN Horticultural Science Department
Come learn about the top ten plants that most shaped Minnesota and transformed how we live today.

G. REFLECTIONS ON COP23 IN BONN, GERMANY

CSB/SJU Panel
Since 2015, CSB/SJU has sent a delegation of students and faculty to the annual United Nations Conference of Parties (COP). In this session, hear from CSB/SJU participants from the November 2017 Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany.

H. IN A PATCH OF GOLDENRODS

Larry Weber, Author, Naturalist and Keynote Speaker
Goldenrods are thriving native wildflowers in MN, but have you really taken the time to stop and take a good look at the activity happening among these plants? In this session, we'll explore what can really be seen up close in a patch of goldenrods.

I. GLACIAL HISTORY OF MN & THE AVON HILLS

Alan Knaeble, Minnesota Geological Survey
Learn about the glacial history of the Avon Hills and the relationship that glacial materials and landforms have to the physical landscape, lakes, and vegetation of the area.

J. TAXIDERMY AT HOME: EASY, LOW BUDGET PROJECTS

Mike Leedahl, Watab Taxidermy LLC
Come find out about different taxidermy projects you can do at home without spending a lot of money, from European mounts for skulls to tanning small game hides for wall hanging. A list of tools and supplies will be available to take home.

K. "POND SCUM"?: WHY ALGAE DESERVE SOME RESPECT

Dr. William Lamberts, CSB/SJU Biology Department
Algae are generally thought of as a nuisance or mere pond scum. However, the argument can be made that algae make life as we know it possible. Come learn why algae deserve some respect.



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• KEYNOTE PRESENTATION •

“Observations of a Phenologist”

Larry Weber, author, educator and long-time phenologist, will speak about his well-documented observations of the rhythmic changes in nature over 40 years. In this presentation, we'll take a trip through the seasons, noting what happens “here and now” in nature.



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