

# LIVING IN THE AVON HILLS

A CONFERENCE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016

SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

8:00 AM - 4:15 PM

NATURAL HISTORY - ARTS - GARDENING - LAND USE - OUTDOOR RECREATION - KIDS

## -SCHEDULE-

8:00-9:00 Registration & Check In  
Exhibit Hall Open

9:00-10:30 Keynote: Stan Tekiela

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-11:45 Session I

11:45-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:45 Session II

1:45-2:15 Break

2:15-3:00 Session III

3:00-3:30 Break

3:30-4:15 Session IV

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN FROM 8:00-3:30

## -REGISTRATION-

\$20 ADULTS

\$10 CHILDREN AGES 5-15

\$35 WALK-IN ADULTS

NO WALK-IN CHILDREN

Registration fee includes:  
Keynote presentation, four  
presentations, class materials,  
exhibit hall access, lunch and  
refreshments.

## -REGISTRATION DEADLINES-

- Postmark by January 22

- Online by January 27

- Walk-in prices after Jan. 27

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## -PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS-

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

### -SESSION I 11:00 - 11:45-

#### **A. KIDS: AMAZING OWLS**

*Outdoor University Staff* (Indoor Session)

Want to know more about owls and their amazing adaptations? Explore everything owls: from eyes to talons and ears to feathers.

#### **B. DESIGNING AND INSTALLING PRAIRIE LANDSCAPES**

*Steve Heyman, Steve's Landscape Services*

Native grasses and wildflowers can be integrated into many landscapes in lieu of the traditional turf grass and are both attractive and low maintenance.

#### **C. SOLAR 101**

*Jason Edens, Rural Renewable Energy Alliance*

Solar panels are an economical and environmental investment for any homeowner. Jason will be a guide through the state incentives, technology options and long-term economic benefits.

#### **D. STREAMS & FISH IN STEARNS COUNTY**

*Mark Pelham, MN DNR Fisheries*

Stearns County is home to many stream fishing opportunities which are dependent on the diversity of fish present and the stream function.

#### **E. BIOLOGY OF NATIVE POLLINATORS**

*Dr. Jim Poff, CSBISJU Biology Department, Retired*

The health of pollinators is connected to the health of plant communities. Pollinators have particular requirements that landowners can provide to encourage their presence.

#### **F. EIGHT RIVERS NORTH CANOE EXPEDITION**

*Adam Maxwell*

Six adventurers head out to explore Northern Canada along 920 miles of paddling to the Hudson Bay.

#### **G. TIDBITS OF COLLEGEVILLE HISTORY PART III**

*Peggy Roske, Alcuin Library SJU*

The archivist is back with new slides on Abbey Arboretum history: the golf course, ski trails (then & now), and more historical tidbits.

#### **H. WHERE DO AVON HILL'S BIRDS WINTER?**

*Bob Russell, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Retired*

A dynamic analysis of all breeding birds of the Avon Hills: where they winter, migration routes, changes in foraging and conservation.

#### **I. ABBEY WOOD SHOP TOUR**

*Michael Roske & Fr. Lew Grobe, Abbey Woodworking*

Get a close look at the Abbey Wood Shop and Abbey Woodworking.

#### **J. GET THE DIRT ON AVON HILLS SOIL**

*Dr. Joe Storlien, CSBISJU Environmental Studies Department*

Becoming stewards of good soil quality is important to ensuring the health of the Avon Hills. Learn about our local soils and what you can do to improve soils in your gardens and landscaping.

#### **K. BEGINNING YOUR NATURAL RESOURCE CAREER**

*Nicholas Snavely, MN DNR Assistant Area Wildlife Manager*

Find out what it takes to pursue a career in natural resources and discover vital tips for success in this vocation as you begin your professional journey.

### -SESSION II 1:00-1:45-

#### **A. KIDS: ANIMAL TRACKS & SIGNS**

*Outdoor University Staff* (Indoor Session)

Do you ever wonder about the animals that live around us? Animals leave evidence behind and these clues tell us about the animal's lifestyle.

#### **B. DESIGNING TRAILS IN THE LANDSCAPE**

*Dr. Mel Baughman, U of MN Department of Forest Resources*

Discover how to design trails for a wide variety of purposes and across obstacles like wetlands, hillsides, gullies and streams.

#### **C. WRITING ABOUT ENERGY**

*Dr. Kyhl Lyndgaard, CSBISJU Writing Center*

How do writers explore energy from a cultural standpoint and not just a technical one? Kyhl's new anthology *Currents of the Universal Being* offers some answers to this question.

#### **D. CENTURY OF DECLINE IN MN LAKE PLANT COMMUNITIES**

*Donna Perleberg, MN DNR*

The flora of our lakes has been in decline over the last century. By examining historical data, we will dive into this mystery and long term implications.

#### **E. THE BUZZ ON NEONICOTINOIDS**

*Carol Jansky, CSBISJU Biology Department*

Staying current on the scientific literature concerning safe pesticide use is extremely important. Discover the potential deleterious effects of neonicotinoids on pollinators.

#### **F. COME, TAKE A WALK WITH ME** (also in session IV)

*Casey 'Aqua-Man' Owen*

Drawing from two completed thru-hikes on the Appalachian and Pacific Coast Trails, Casey will present on how to become a long distance backpacker and the challenges you may encounter.

#### **G. JACQUES THE VOYAGEUR**

*Jack Driscoll*

Get a glimpse at the culture of fur traders through a reenactment.

#### **H. SURVIVING WINTER IN THE AVON HILLS**

*Dr. Clark Cotton, CSBISJU Biology Department*

Animals in the Avon Hills are challenged with winter survival. Examine the common strategies that animals use to combat winter chills.

#### **I. ALL ABOUT CIDER & APPLES**

*Adam Theis, Aaron Klocker, and Peter Gillitzer, Milk & Honey Ciders*

Choosing the best apples for your cider is an art. Milk & Honey Ciders is a local cider brewery and they love to talk about apples!

#### **J. NASTY PLANTS: A PRIMER ON POISONOUS PLANTS**

*Steve Saupe, CSBISJU Biology Department*

Did you know that plants rank in the top 20 reasons for calls to poison control? Dive into the mystery of poison ivy and other poisonous plants of the Avon Hills.

#### **K. STARTING A BUSINESS IN THE AVON HILLS**

*Brian Schoenborn, Stinson Leonard Street*

Gain valuable insights on the critical first steps to ensure your new business finds success and long-term growth in the Avon Hills.

## -PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS-

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### -SESSION III 2:15-3:00-

#### **A. KIDS: NATURE GAMES & EXPLORATION**

*Outdoor U Staff, (Outdoor Session)*

Explore the woods on a nearby trail, look for animal tracks and enjoy the fresh air. If weather is inclement, we'll play nature games in the gym.

#### **B. WILDLIFE HABITAT COMPONENTS OF CENTRAL MN**

*Nicholas Snavelly, MN DNR Assistant Area Wildlife Manager*

Gather methods to turn your land into habitat for a variety of wildlife and how to support existing habitats on public lands.

#### **C. GEOTHERMAL 101**

*Jim Cusack, Energetech Global*

A brief look at the basics of geothermal energy including technology and the key steps toward a successful installation.

#### **D. RAIN GARDENS 101**

*Adam Hjelm, Sauk River Watershed District*

With the wide variety of plants and materials available in this area, you can create a rain garden with a naturally wild look or an organized planting suitable for even the most refined settings.

#### **E. MONARCH BUTTERFLY LIFE-CYCLE AND CONSERVATION**

*Cora Lund Preston, Monarch Joint Venture & The Monarch Lab*  
Discover the common threats and what conservation practices can be implemented to protect the population.

#### **F. CHALLENGE ACCEPTED: 12 MONTHS OF ADVENTURE**

*Adam Maxwell & Neva Widner*

One young couple sets out to find adventure every month of the year through Minnesota's changing seasons.

#### **G. OJIBWE SEASONAL LIFE**

*Mercedes Tuma-Hansen*

Just as present day Avon Hills residents adapt to the changing seasons, the Ojibwe people had to find effective ways to continue daily life in this ever changing landscape.

#### **H. BEARS OF THE WORLD**

*Kristina Timmerman, CSBISJU Biology Department*

Explore the diversity of bears around the world from an ecological perspective.

#### **I. BUILDING A STRIP BUILT KAYAK**

*Tom Froehling*

Discover the methods and challenges to building a strip built kayak from design to finish.

#### **J. SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

*Judy Purman, CSB Sustainability Office*

Sustainability is environmental impact, economic viability and social justice in balance, but we often forget about social justice. We will explore how our decisions and climate change affect the poor.

#### **K. CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE AVON HILLS**

*Tom Kroll, Saint John's Outdoor University & Abbey Arboretum*

Conservation easements allow landowners to voluntarily zone their land to permanently protect conservation values. \$1.3 million is expected to be available on July 1, 2016 to reimburse Avon Hills landowners for some of the future development value that is lost by creating easements.

### -SESSION IV 3:30-4:15-

#### **A. KIDS: NATURE CRAFTS**

*Outdoor U Staff, (Indoor Session)*

We'll bring things from nature and art supplies. You bring a positive attitude and a creative mind. Take your project home with you!

#### **B. A PRAIRIE PATCH IN YOUR YARD**

*Dr. Elizabeth Wurdak, CSBISJU Biology Department*

A step-by-step explanation of how to convert a front or back yard into a small prairie. Find out about suppliers, maintenance and pest management.

#### **C. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Madeline Norgaard, Great Plains Institute*

Discover how saving money and creating an energy efficient home can be achieved through low or no cost home improvements and behavior changes.

#### **D. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES**

*Courtney Millaway, MN DNR*

The more we know about aquatic invasive species, the easier it is to prevent the spread. Come to observe preserved specimens and learn what you can do to maintain our lakes. Meet the starry stonewort, one of the newest aquatic invasive species to invade central Minnesota.

#### **E. INTRO TO MINNESOTA PHENOLOGY**

*Chris Buyarski, Minnesota Phenology Network*

Discover the basics of monitoring phenology, analyze historical datasets, and important reasons to monitor phenology from a citizen scientist's perspective. Learn how you can get involved.

#### **F. COME, TAKE A WALK WITH ME**

*Casey 'Aqua-Man' Owen*

Drawing from two completed thru-hikes on the AT and the PCT, Casey will touch on how to become a long distance backpacker and the challenges you may encounter.

#### **G. REDISCOVERING NORTH AMERICA**

*Dan Flynn and Adam Trigg*

Learn about the incredible, 5,200 mile journey of six young men who paddled from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean over nine months in 2015.

#### **H. LBJ'S: IDENTIFYING THE SPARROWS & FINCHES OF THE AVON HILLS**

*Bob Russell, US Fish and Wildlife Service, retired*  
The basics on how to identify the Little Brown Jobs of the Avon Hills using field marks and songs as well as habitat conservation needs for LBJ's.

#### **I. MAPLE SYRUPING IN YOUR BACKYARD**

*Tom & Ben Carlson, Wildwood Ranch Maple Syrup*

Explore backyard maple syruping from traditional methods to the modern methods to produce quality Maple Syrup.



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## REGISTER TODAY!



-KEYNOTE PRESENTATION-

“Feathers: A Beautiful Look at a Bird’s most Unique Feature”

Stan Tekiela, nature photographer and field guide author, will speak on his book *Feathers* as we explore stunning photography and facts about the signature feature of birds.

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