



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter October 2014

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Arboretum Hours

With summer over, the Arboretum will no longer stay open until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. Regular hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 7 days a week.

Special Event Closing

On October 25, the Arboretum will close at 1 p.m. for a special ticketed event.

ArborEATum

Wine and Food Fest

Saturday October 25
4-7 p.m.

Don't miss the party!
Buy your tickets now for this limited ticket event!
Wine & dine in the woods while sampling dishes from a dozen popular restaurants.
Select tastings from over 75 domestic & imported wines & custom craft beers
Entertainment by
North Florida Bluegrass Association



LET'S BUILD THE LARGEST DISPLAY OF FAIRY AND GNOME HOUSES IN JACKSONVILLE!

The Arboretum will be celebrating its 6th Anniversary on November 8, 2014. As part of this event, we are inviting the community to join us in creating a large display of fairy and gnome houses (as well as other fairy and gnome accoutrements) in the Palm Island on the south side of the lake.

& a special appearance by the
Jaguar's Jaxson de Ville
Rain or Shine
Must be 21 to attend.

[Purchase tickets here](#)

Or mail a check to:
Jacksonville Arboretum
P.O. Box 5763
Jacksonville, FL 32247

Photo Hike
October 11
2 p.m.

Volunteer Workday
Saturday, October 11
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

A Walk in the Woods
Fitness walk
Brisk 3 mile hike
Saturday, October 11 and 25
8 a.m.

Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist
Walks are free.
Saturday, October 25
9:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATES!

The Art of Nature
Saturday November 8
9-5 PM
6 year Anniversary Event
featuring
39 artists creating 19 sculptures
Nature-related demos and
merchandise
Live music, children's arts &

Fairy and gnome houses are easy and fun to make and participation is open to persons of all ages, as well as groups. So grab your glue gun, some sticks, bark, and packaged sphagnum moss (never living moss!!!), and let your imagination run free---there are no rules other than, in keeping with the event theme, The Art of Nature, coverings should be primarily natural materials. The Palm Island is shady so be sure to include a little color and some embellishments to make your project stand out (and fairies love flowers and shiny buttons and beads). To get some ideas, just "Google" "How to Build Fairy Houses". There are loads of instructions and photos on the web.

If you plan to provide a project for display, please let us know (via email to info@jacksonvillearboretum.org) so we can plan a large enough area. Most fairy houses are "birdhouse" size; gnome huts are a bit smaller (yogurt cups make great bases for gnome huts).

Set up will be the on the Friday before the event. You will need to drop your creation off at the Arboretum after 9 am on Friday, November 7th. Please be sure that your identification is on the bottom of your house or hut. After the event on Saturday, you can take your house or hut home, put it in your garden, or use it inside for a table display!

A Brush with Nature
'Plein Air' Painting Event
April 16 - 18, 2015
www.abrushwithnature.org

CALL TO ARTISTS

The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens is issuing a Call to Artists for artists interested in participating in "A Brush With Nature," a juried Plein Air Painting Event to be held on April 16-18, 2015 at the

crafts activities, food trucks and more!
\$5 admission
Children under 12 free
Don't miss this family-friendly event!

ALSO

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

SILVER PARTNER

Kevin Driscoll - The Driscoll Group
Marcia Mederos

GOLD PARTNER

bestbet Jacksonville

For more information about the Donor Programs, go to www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/supportus.

Thank you!

Shop at Amazon Smile

The Jacksonville Arboretum is now registered with Amazon Smile, a foundation set up by amazon.com that donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as on amazon.com and can use your same account and settings, but all purchases must be made through smile.amazon.com. So enjoy shopping and supporting the Arboretum at the same time! Best of all, there is no cost to you. Click on the link

Jacksonville Arboretum. This is a fundraising event to benefit the Arboretum and proceeds from all sales will be split 50% with the artist and 50% with the Jacksonville Arboretum. Eligible artists must reside within 250 miles of Jacksonville, Florida. The juror will be Marc R. Hanson, renowned plein air painter and teacher. Among his honors, he has been the featured artist for Plein Air Magazine.

Deadline for submission of Application is November 15, 2014.

For Application and/or further information, please e-mail: ABWNArtists@gmail.com



KICK STARTING OUR 3RD STEP OUT IN NATURE PROGRAM

In partnership with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation and Healthy Jacksonville Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, the Jacksonville Arboretum will once again offer its Step Out in Nature program. This is a fun and fitness competition for Jacksonville area public schools that encourages students to compete for most steps walked at the Arboretum between September 2014 and March 2015. All of the Arboretum's trails are measured in the number of steps it takes the average adult or child to complete them. In addition to fitness training, walkers will enjoy the wonders of traversing the 13 ecosystems that make up the Arboretum. Students can register to compete and track progress at www.stepoutinnature.org. The system will automatically calculate the number of steps taken based on the trails walked.

below to take you to a special Amazon Smile landing page for the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens.

[Thanks!](#)

Become a JAG Member

We have revised our membership levels and added more benefits in appreciation of your support. Details of our new program are available on our website.

By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day operations and planned improvements and your donation is tax-deductible.

Membership Levels

\$ 40 Single
\$ 55 Dual
\$ 70 Family
\$ 100 Friend

Supporters & Corporate Partners

\$ 250 Bronze Partner
\$ 500 Silver Partner
\$1,000 Gold Partner

John Bartram Society

\$ 2,500+ Gatekeeper
\$ 5,000+ Steward
\$10,000 President's

While the competition is limited to public elementary schools, the program is open to any child or adult who wants to participate and take the challenge of seeing how many steps they can take towards fitness, just register as an individual on the program's website.

As part of the program, the Arboretum is offering the following programs until March:

- Outdoor Adventure Kids Bootcamp: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday at 9:30am (An outdoor, low-impact, fitness program for elementary aged kids, all levels welcome).
- A Walk In The Woods: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 8am (Fitness Walk, brisk hike, all ages are welcome)
- Nature Walk with a Naturalist/Biologist: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 9:30am (The second Saturday walk will feature family friendly activities and the 4th is aimed for adults and/or older children).

Since this is a competition, prizes will be awarded to the top 3 Duval County Public Elementary schools, the top 25 children from elementary school and recognition will be provided to all children who participate.

It is our hope that the competition will introduce children and their families to the fun and value of exercising outdoors together. Along the way, they will also learn about the natural world that surrounds us. Nourishing an appreciation for the outdoors at an early age is essential to fostering a healthy lifestyle and a lifelong respect for our environment.

Mosses

Our rainy September means that October will be a great month to checkout mosses at the Arboretum.

Council

To join or purchase a gift membership, go to our website at

www.jacksonvillearboretum.org
and click on Membership!

THANK YOU!

Mosses are waxy little plants with no leaves and no stem that use each other to stay upright. Their inability to stand is why you never see just one little moss plant; it's always a group. That grouping also helps them retain water in the area. A waxy covering across their bodies helps keep water from evaporating. You will usually find them in moist areas out of the direct sunlight. Try checking the swales along the Live Oak and Lower Ravine Trails.

The most important feature of mosses is that they have no vascular system. A vascular system in plants is a series of tubes that can transport water and nutrients over a distance. Mosses absorb water mainly through their leaves. Without a vascular system, mosses cannot grow very large. They are rarely taller than one inch high.

Another important characteristic of these little guys is that they require water to allow their haploid reproductive cells to combine. Unlike flowering plants, the dominant stage of mosses is their haploid or gametophyte stage (only one set of chromosomes). The diploid or sporophyte stage is generally no more than a brown stalk growing from the little green plant.

Along the Live Oak Trail and in the ravine you can find carpets of sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* sp). This species is known for its ability to absorb 100 times its dry weight in water. Peat moss (partially decomposed sphagnum), mixed with a lightener such as perlite, is used in the horticulture trade as part of practically all soilless media. It is sometimes used to increase soil organic matter but in the extreme southeast it is not recommended because it decays too rapidly. There is also concern among environmentalists about the sustainability of peat harvest even though harvested fields are reseeded with live shredded sphagnum.

OUR MISSION

*Cultivating a unique environment for recreation,
education and inspiration.*

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens | 1445 Millcoe Road | Jacksonville | FL | 32225