



## Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter January 2015

### HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

#### Bring Oak Leaves

Drop bags off during regular hours near the water fountain, but please do not block the sidewalk.

#### Fun Family Outdoor Activity

Saturday, January 3 & 17  
9:30 a.m.

For details visit

[www.stepoutinnature.org](http://www.stepoutinnature.org)

#### Volunteer Workday

Saturday, January 10  
9 a.m. - Noon

#### A Walk in the Woods

Fitness walk

Brisk 3 mile hike

Saturday, January 10 and 24  
8 a.m.

#### Nature Walk

with naturalist/biologist

Saturday, January 10 and 24  
9:30 a.m.



Photo credit: Melinda Simmons.

### WILDLIFE REPORT

#### Out of the Classroom and into Nature

On December 9th, a Florida State College of Jacksonville class toured the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens.

Eighteen students in Dr. Christopher Perle's Biology Laboratory course walked portions of the Lake Loop, Jones Creek, Lower Ravine, and Upper Ravine trails, while learning details about the species and environments they encountered. When the group gathered along Jones Creek it was pointed out that three storm water drains empty into the creek before it flows into the St. Johns River. This was a topic of particular interest to the students and they spent several minutes discussing the

**Photo Hike**  
Saturday, January 10  
2 - 3 p.m.

**Bridal Fantasy Show**  
Sawgrass Marriott Resort  
Sunday, January 11  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
VIP Brides 11:30 a.m.

Come by the Arboretum's display  
and learn about site rentals for your  
wedding at the Arboretum.

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

**Nature at Night**  
Member/Volunteer Only Event  
February 28, 2015  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**A Brush with Nature**  
**Plein Air Painting Event**  
April 16-18, 2015  
For more information go to  
[www.abrushwithnature.org](http://www.abrushwithnature.org)

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### **SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS**

#### **BRONZE PARTNER**

Laurence Gierum  
Robb & Pam Mitchell

#### **SILVER PARTNER**

Kevin Driscoll - The Driscoll

potential impacts of heavy rains washing lawn fertilizers and street pollution into the creek and river. Despite the chill in the air, these students, with a wide range of backgrounds and majors, appeared to enjoy their hike, the changing colors of the deciduous tree leaves, and their new knowledge.

### **Red Maple: A Tree For All Seasons**

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), grows too large for most suburban properties, but it is a beautiful tree at the Arboretum and along Jacksonville's roadsides. It is one of the most reliable trees for fall color in north Florida. Despite its name, fall leaves may turn yellow, orange, red or nearly purple. Look closely this month and you will see clusters of small red flowers at the branch tips. They are followed soon by bright red winged fruits. Red maple wood is used for furniture, paper pulp and firewood. Historically, the wood was used to make farm implements, baskets and household goods like bowls and spoons. Red maple is tapped for maple syrup. Several uses of red maple by Native Americans have been recorded. They include dyes and medicinal uses. Wildlife makes good use of red maples, too. Deer browse the new growth and a wide variety of animals eat the seeds.



Congratulations to everyone who has *Stepped Up* for *Step Out in Nature!* We are halfway through the competition and our goal of a million steps. There have been great turnouts for the monthly nature and fitness walks and the nature programs: Tracking in the Woods

**Group  
Marcia Mederos**

**GOLD PARTNER**

**bestbet Jacksonville**

**For more information about the  
Donor Programs, go to  
[www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/supportus](http://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/supportus).**

**Thank you!**

**Shop at Amazon Smile**

The Jacksonville Arboretum is registered with Amazon Smile. This amazon.com foundation donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity, while providing the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience using your same account and settings. Enjoy shopping and supporting the Arboretum at the same time by clicking [Buy at Smile!](#) or purchase through smile.amazon.com

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**Become a JAG Member**

We have revised our membership levels and added more benefits in appreciation of your support. Details are available on our website. By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day

and the Meet Merlin Owl Encounter. New and exciting things are in store for this spring semester with a Fun Family Outdoor Activity, on 1st and 3rd Saturdays, where kids will be learning, playing, and caretaking nature, in nature. Kids thrive and are healthier when they spend time outdoors, which is what Step Out in Nature is all about.

The competition will continue in the spring from January 3rd until March 16th. Aside from the programming, we encourage everyone to continue walking the trails and recording the trails walked on-line at <http://www.stepoutinnature.org/> to compete for great prizes. For more information on scheduled activities, visit our [website](#) or our Facebook page.

**CALLING ALL BRIDES!**

This past June, the Arboretum started offering site rentals for third party events. In addition to family reunions, memorial gatherings, and corporate retreats, the Arboretum is a beautiful choice for a nature-themed wedding ceremony and reception. If you are planning a wedding, please consider the Jacksonville Arboretum and its unique natural settings. To learn more, visit [www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/siterentals](http://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/siterentals).

The Arboretum will have a display at the upcoming Bridal Fantasy Event on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort. We have 25 free tickets to distribute on a first come basis. If interested, please send a request with name & number of tickets to [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org) and we will advise you where to pick them up (office in San Marco). For more information about the show, visit [www.JacksonvilleBridalShow.com](http://www.JacksonvilleBridalShow.com). Hope to see you there!

**A TIME FOR REFLECTION**

As we ring in a new year, let us pause and reflect a moment on the year just past. In 2014, the Jacksonville

operations and planned improvements, plus 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  
Council

**To join or purchase a gift  
membership, click  
[JOIN](#)  
and go to Support Us!**

**THANK YOU!**

Arboretum has continued make improvements to the property with additional plantings and signage and the installation of the Reflection Pointe Pavilion. We also introduced a new educational program series, Discovering Nature Nearby and continued the popular Step Out in Nature program. Work was started on several habitat demonstration areas. Our special events, including the inaugural Ar-bor-EAT-um Wine & Food Fest and the family-friendly Art of Nature proved very popular and raised funds for the Arboretum's operation & maintenance. Several programs to develop sustainable revenue streams were launched including a new membership program with additional benefits, a new Donor program, Site Rentals for third party special events, and Adopt-a-Species, the first in a series of Tribute Giving programs. This is an impressive list of accomplishments, especially since the Arboretum is an all-volunteer organization.

What the typical visitor experiences are the property improvements, tours, educational programs, and special events. But behind the scenes (or the scenery in our case) are many people who make these experiences possible, including our dedicated board members, many of whom handle multiple functions. Besides on-site work, our volunteers help with overall planning, financial & risk management, special projects, information technology, grant writing, fundraising, event planning, membership services, public relations, volunteer resources and more. This is a major undertaking for our small, but growing organization, which can always use more dedicated volunteers. If you have a specific expertise or interest in the areas mentioned above, make a New Year's resolution to give a few hours a month to the Arboretum. Send an email, with "volunteer" in the subject line, to [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org) and describe how you would like to help.

To all of our volunteers, THANK YOU for ALL that you do. You are the heart and soul of the Arboretum and together, we will embrace the New Year with renewed enthusiasm and resolve to move the organization forward.

**OUR MISSION**

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