



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter October 2013

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, October 12 & 26
8 a.m. Fitness Walk
Brisk 3 mile hike

Saturday, October 26
9:30 a.m. Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist

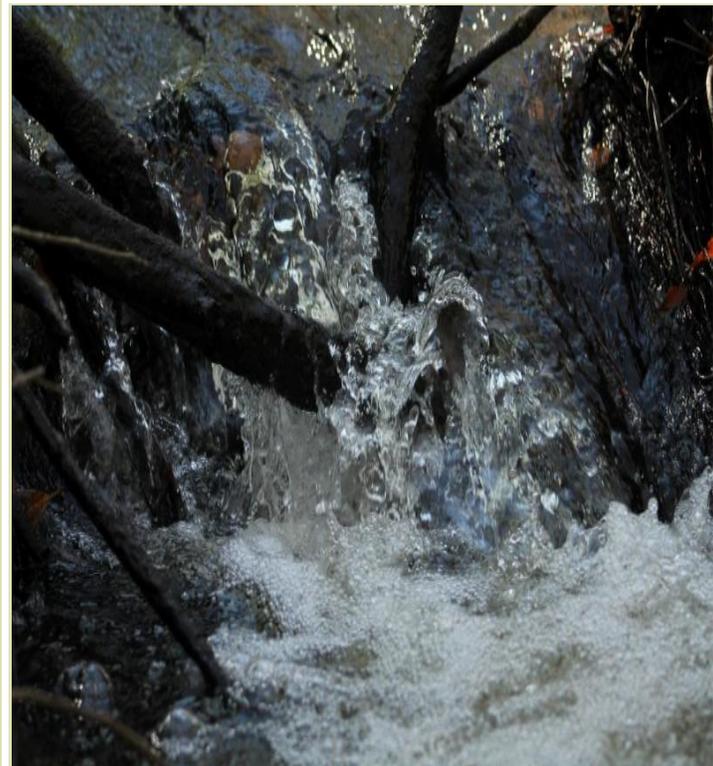
Walks are free.

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, October 12
9 a.m. - Noon

We still have much work to do to get the areas around the Lake Loop under control and looking good for our upcoming anniversary event in November. So please come out to help and bring friends and family members, too.

We have a variety of tasks, some requiring minimal physical exertion and others requiring a lot of stamina, so you can select the task that fits your particular abilities. It's a great way to meet new



Cascading Water - Image by Donovan Geoghegan

INSPIRED BY NATURE

It all started with the gift of a Canon T3 Rebel camera and a visit to the Arboretum. From that moment on, 12 year old Donovan Geoghegan was hooked - here was nature in all its wild beauty with infinite subject matter to capture - from the expansive shots of hardwood forests and a lily-pad strewn lake to close up intricacies

fits your particular abilities. It's a great way to meet new friends while doing productive work that truly makes a difference!

We will have some tools and gloves available, but you are welcome to bring your own clippers, gloves and bug spray. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.

Since our anniversary event falls on the second Saturday of the month, our November workday will be the first Saturday instead, which is November 2.

Hope to see you at one or both upcoming workdays!

Join Us! Become a JAG Member

By becoming a member, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day operations and planned improvements. Members receive discounts to special programs & events and your membership is tax-deductible.

Membership Levels

\$ 25 Student/Senior/
Limited Income
\$ 35 Individual
\$ 55 Family
\$ 100 Corporate
\$ 200 Friend
\$ 500 Sponsor
\$ 1000 Benefactor/Lifetime

To join, go to our website at

to capture - from the expansive shots of hardwood forests and a lily-pad strewn lake to close up intricacies of a cascading waterfall and colorful fungi. With guidance from his grandmother Marla Meier, who hosts an on-line photography magazine, and through hard work and experimentation, Donovan honed his craft. His photographs are beautiful and inspiring and proved to be his ticket into Douglas Anderson School of the Arts this term, where at 14 years old, he is starting 9th grade. He believes this is his calling and aspires to being a National Geographic photographer.

Although he takes photographs wherever he goes, the Arboretum remains a special place, perhaps because it's a family affair. His grandmother, Mary Belet, first brought him and his cousin, Robbie Belet, out to the Arboretum to walk the trails and to learn more about nature. Robbie was the top individual winner in our first Step Out in Nature fun and fitness competition during the 2011-2012 school year. They, as well as their grandfather, Stewart Belet, then became involved with the Arboretum's Volunteer Workdays.

Nourishing an appreciation for the outdoors at an early age is essential to fostering a healthy lifestyle and a lifelong respect for our environment and the natural wonder of places like the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens. Donovan, Robbie and their families have certainly embraced the benefits of an active and engaging relationship with the natural world around us.

CELEBRATE ART IN NATURE

It's hard to believe it's been five years since the Arboretum opened to the public in November, 2008. To mark this historic milestone, the Arboretum will celebrate its fifth anniversary with Art In Nature, a family-friendly festival on Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (rain date on Sunday, November 10 - same hours). Although there is no entry fee, we suggest a donation of \$3 per individual or \$5 per family.

An outdoor sculpture exhibit hosted in partnership with the Northeast Florida Sculptors will be a special feature of the event. Approximately 25 sculptures will be placed along the trails, primarily around the Lake Loop, Jones Creek and the Ravines trails. Visitors will see a diversity of artistic expressions, some made of natural materials that will decompose over time and others of more permanent materials. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience fine art in a natural outdoor setting and you can vote for your favorite to win the

at
www.jacksonvillearboretum.org
and click on "Membership"

THANK YOU!

opportunity to experience fine art in a natural outdoor setting and you can vote for your favorite to win the People's Choice Award.

Art in Nature can take many forms and we will offer a full range of artistic expressions in the Arboretum's beautiful natural settings, including storytellers from the the Beaches League of Storytellers and the Jacksonville Public Library, a digital photography workshop with Lee McDonald, numerous nature-related demonstrations, folk music from Jacksonville Old Time Jam, and guided nature walks. You can also watch chain saw artist, James Gandy, work his magic on an old camphor tree stump along the Live Oak Trail. Children's activities will include face painting, a scavenger hunt, and an art project with found natural objects. Nature related merchandise, Arboretum T-shirts, honey and memberships will be available as well. Up in Smoke's food truck will be there, too, so bring your appetite for some great barbeque!

The celebration will wrap up with a brief awards ceremony, a tribute to our military in recognition of Veterans Day on Monday, November 11, and a cake to share.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this special fifth year anniversary celebration. It is really all of you - our members, volunteers, donors, sponsors and visitors - who have developed and nurtured this unique natural wonderland in the midst of our city for the enjoyment of all. So give yourself a treat and come join the fun!!

WHAT'S BLOOMING?

Have you hiked back to the Depression Marsh lately? Though under water much of the past summer, it is now drying and the redroot is in bloom. Though a single wooly cream-colored flower itself is not stunning, it is very attractive in masses and is a butterfly magnet. So far we have seen black swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenus*), Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*), zebra swallowtail (*Eurytides Marcellus*), gulf fritillary (*Argraulis vanilla*), buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) and queen butterfly (*Danaus gilippus*). Let us know if you see other species.

Feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) also think this plant is a delicacy and we have had problems with them rooting in the depression marsh in the past. We had them trapped and hope they don't return. One species we would love to see pay a visit is the endangered sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), which considers the redroot seeds a favorite food

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Earlier in the year you might have mistaken redroot for an iris but it is actually a member of the bloodwort family. A red sap produced by the roots and rhizomes can be used to dye cloth a handsome peachy tan. The Creek Indians fried the roots in oil and dyed their hair claret red. The plant is classified as poisonous, however, there are numerous records indicating that Native Americans used concoctions of the plant roots to treat coughs, pneumonia, and bowel problems. Seminoles used it as a narcotic

WHAT'S NEW?

After a summer break, our Volunteer Workdays started again on Saturday, September 14. We had a great turnout with everyone working hard for three hours to tackle the weeds that proliferated during the summer. We made good progress, cleaning up the parking lot entry island, the trail head entrance, the meadow at the east end of the lake as well as cleaning up the palm grove. There's still much to do and we want the Arboretum to look its best by our special anniversary event on November 9, so please plan to come out for our next workday on October 12 and our November 2 workday. Since our event is on the second Saturday, the November workday has been moved back a week.

We really depend on you, our volunteers, to keep the Arboretum looking good. And remember that students can get community service credit for volunteering during our workdays. So we welcome our youth, but all kids must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or other adult throughout the workday.

OUR MISSION

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

