



**Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter**  
**December 2014**

**HAPPENING THIS  
MONTH!**

**Volunteer Workday**  
Saturday, December 6  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**A Walk in the Woods**  
Fitness walk  
Brisk 3 mile hike  
Saturday, December 13 and 27  
8 a.m.

**Nature Walk**  
with naturalist/biologist  
Walks are free.  
Saturday, December 27  
9:30 a.m.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

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



Photo credit: Doug Ganyo

**WILDLIFE REPORT**

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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](http://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 below to take you to a special Amazon Smile landing page for the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens.

[Thanks!](#)

## Not Every Water Snake is a Moccasin

During this year's The Art of Nature event one of the Jacksonville Arboretum and Garden's native *Nerodia fasciata pictiventris* was observed sunning itself near the dock. This subspecies of banded water snake is found in Florida and South Georgia, while this particular specimen is commonly seen along the shore of Lake Ray. On average these reptiles reach 24 to 42 inches and darken with age, making their banding pattern less apparent. Although the snake observed by many during The Art of Nature event was not near the 62.5 inch record length for this organism, its size and black coloration suggest it is "long in the tooth". Fortunately for arboretum visitors, banded water snakes are not venomous.

## Camellias: More Than a Pretty Flower

The genus *Camellia* includes more than the well-known flowering shrubs (*Camellia japonica*, *Camellia sasanqua* and their hybrids). Commercial tea is made from the leaves of tea camellia, *Camellia sinensis*. Camellia oil, from seeds of *Camellia oleifera* and related species, is high-quality cooking oil. *Camellia handellii* is unusual. Its small flowers are fragrant. Each of these species is growing in the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens.

## The Art of Nature - Nov. 8, 2014

This event proved very popular once again with close to 900 people in attendance. With an extensive sculpture exhibit, educational demonstrations, children's art and craft activities, nature-related merchandise and food trucks there was no risk of boredom or hunger. Once again the Fairy Village won the People's Choice Award and proved that even the tiniest things can be big hits. Revenue brought in from admissions, vendor booths and donations was \$5,500.

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## 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 Council

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

## MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE ARBORETUM

As the year draws to a close, please consider the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens in your seasonal shopping and year-end giving plans. There are a variety of ways to show your support:

- Give the gift of membership to yourself, a relative or special friend. With new benefits offered this year, this is a gift that keeps on giving. At the Family/Household level, members receive free or discounted admission to over 300 American Horticulture Society member arboreta & botanical gardens throughout the U.S.
- Become a Bronze, Silver or Gold supporter in our Donor Program and ask your employer to match your donation, doubling your support for the Arboretum.
- Purchase a guided nature tour and learn more about the special habitats within the Arboretum. Treat yourself or a group of friends to a fun and active experience with nature.
- Adopt-a-Species is the first introduction in our Tribute Giving Program. For just \$30 a year, you can "adopt " one of six species that call the Arboretum home, including the barred owl, the gopher tortoise, the Florida rosemary, devil's walking stick, loblolly bay and the mighty live oak. A certificate and Fun Facts sheet with a photo comes with each adoption.
- A beautiful piece of art can grace your home and benefit the Arboretum. Local artist, Kathy Stark, has completed a large watercolor painting of the Arboretum as part of her Wilderness of North Florida Parks project. Her project includes a series of original watercolor paintings and sketchbook journal pages to chronicle the beauty of the natural parks within and around Jacksonville and to inspire people to visit and support

[www.jacksonvillearboretum.org](http://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org)  
and click on Membership!

**THANK YOU!**

these unique treasures. When completed, an affordable coffee table book will be published featuring the paintings and journal pages. The original painting and archival prints in varying sizes are available for purchase through [www.kathystark.com](http://www.kathystark.com). If you mention the Jacksonville Arboretum, Kathy will donate 20% of the original price and 30% of the print price to our organization.

- Are you looking for a nature-setting for a special occasion, such as a wedding, family reunion or other milestone event? Then consider an arboretum site rental. There are six beautiful sites to choose from, including Reflection Pointe Pavilion overlooking Lake Ray.
- Be part of our annual giving campaign by sending a tax-deductible year-end gift.
- Become a sponsor or patron of A Brush with Nature, the Arboretum's signature plein air painting event, taking place April 16-18, 2015.
- Remember Amazon Smile when you shop on-line. Just log in to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), name the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens as your charity and a portion of the price of your purchases will go to the Arboretum. Amazon Smile offers the same products, prices and services as Amazon.com and you can use your same Amazon.com account information.

For more information on the above opportunities, go to our website at [www.jacksonvillearboretum.org](http://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org) or contact us at [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org).

**YOU LIKE US - YOU REALLY LIKE US!**

[Our Facebook page](#) - has been steadily picking up traffic with a total weekly reach of nearly 16000



and 1500 total likes. Thanks to Lesley Royce for keeping the content current and interesting. Thanks, also to Lindsey Tague for promoting our special events.

### OUR MISSION

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