



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter September 2017

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Arboretum Gates Open

8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Tuesdays and Thursdays:
8:00 AM -7:00 PM
ends September 7

Kids Tour

Saturday September, 9
10:00AM-11:00 AM

Discovering Nature Nearby

Saturday, September 16
9:30 AM-10:30 AM
[Flyer](#)

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, September 9
8 AM-11 AM

Nature Walk

Saturday, September 9
9:30 AM-10:30 AM



Old Mexico prickly pear, a spineless selection of *Opuntia gomei*
Photo by Chuck Hubbuch

Prickly Pears - The Genus *Opuntia*

Chuck Hubbuch

Opuntia is a large group (genus) of about 300 cactus species that ranges from Canada through much of South America. Although we tend to think of cacti as desert plants, Florida has four native species, three of which are native to Jacksonville. Several more are cultivated here. Increasingly, botanists are

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dividing the genus into smaller groups so you will see names like *Cylindropuntia*, *Nopalea* and *Grusonia* applied to former members of this genus. The typical *Opuntia* has stems in the shape of flattened pads. These are the types commonly called prickly pears. The pads are skinned, sliced and cooked in some parts of their range. In Mexico, cooked *Opuntia* pads are known as nopales. The fruits of many species are edible and some are very tasty. *Opuntia ficus-indica* is a tree-like species that produces a sweet fruit with a flavor and texture that reminds me of watermelon. In season, you may find these in your local markets.

Another tree-like species, *Opuntia cochinitifera*, was once very important in the production of a cloth dye. A small scale insect fed on this plant. When these insects were scraped off, dried and ground, they produced a brilliant red to purple dye. Today, cochineal dye is an approved safe food coloring and finds its way into candies, drinks and lipstick. Sap from pressed pads has been used to strengthen the adobe in home construction and is being investigated for modern applications. Some of the species have traditional medicinal uses and some are used as hedges and fences.

These cacti are important as food and homes for wildlife and for erosion control. A few have become weeds after being introduced to other countries such as Australia and South Africa.

The eastern prickly pear, *Opuntia humifusa*, can be found growing naturally at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. The native shellmound prickly pear, *Opuntia stricta*, is planted in the parking lot. Two species from the southwest may be found in the parking lot planting, also. They are *Opuntia cacanapa* 'Ellisiana' and *Opuntia gomei* 'Old Mexico'.

The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens is registered with Amazon Smile, a foundation that donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity. Using your normal account and settings you will find the same low prices and availability. Enjoy shopping and supporting us by visiting smile.amazon.com

JAG Membership

By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's operations and improvements. All donations are tax-deductible. Details are available on our website.

Membership Levels

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

Supporters & Corporate Partners

Bronze Partner \$250
Silver Partner \$500

Trail News



Last work day the volunteers were busy weeding along the trails to keep the arboretum beautiful. Everyone is invited to garden workdays on the second Saturday of each month. Come weed and learn!

Gold Partner \$1,000

**John Bartram
Society**

Gatekeeper \$2500+
Steward \$5000+
President's Council
\$10000+

**To join or purchase a
gift membership, click**

[JOIN](#)

Thank you!

Kids Tour of the Arboretum

This tour is designed to teach kids the relationship between people and the environment.

The group will be taken around the arboretum and shown what plants can be used for purposes such as food, medicine, fibers, culture, and environmental factors. Kids will learn that plants are essential to life as we know it.

This free tour is designed for kids roughly ages 7-12 and will begin the second Saturday of September. From there, it will be held every second Saturday of the month. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the picnic area and will continue until 11:00 a.m. This program will not only get the kids outside and letting out some energy, but it will also teach them facts and skills they can take to their families and schools.

Please email arboretum4kids@gmail.com as spots are limited

McKenna Korzeniewski is a senior at UNF, double majoring in Global Environmental Studies and ReligiousStudies. She has been working in horticulture since 2010. She currently interns at the Jacksonville Arboretum and is the Peace Corps Ambassador for UNF. McKenna recently studied abroad at Chiang Mai University in Thailand and hopes to go into agriculture education in the future.

Discovering Nature Nearby



Dr. Natasha Vanderhoff, Jacksonville University Associate Professor of Biology and Marine Science, will present a walking lecture on birds on September 16, 2017. This free lecture, open to the public, is part of the Discovering Nature Nearby series which is through a grant from TD Bank, Rayonier Advanced Materials and Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens.

Dr. Vanderhoff's talk will include facts about bird migration and the importance of stopover sites for refueling. Brochures about migration will be available. Come enjoy a relaxed talk and walk in the beautiful Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. The program begins at 9:30 in the picnic area. There will also be a hands-on component after the walk to make nature journals and draw bird images. Begin journaling and recording your bird list by writing, photographing, drawing, painting or by electronic means.

Interpretive Plant Series

Starting in October on every first Saturday Chuck Hubbuch will be leading a plant clinic. This clinic is

geared for adults but children are welcome. Chuck Hubbuch is acting curator of the Jacksonville Arboretum

[Flyer](#)

Nature at Night



Become a member now and you can attend this fun event for Volunteers and Members ONLY. Roast Hot Dogs, S'mores, Corn Hole, Guided night time Tours and Scavengers Hunt for the kids.

Tribute Benches



"A tribute bench at Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens provides not only a place for visitors to rest and reflect, but also represents a tangible gift that can be enjoyed by all while paying tribute to the honoree.," said Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens Board Chairman Lawrence C. Gierum. "Purchasing a tribute bench allows you to honor those of your choosing in a meaningful way, and your generosity will add yet another amenity that will enhance the visitor experience at our venue for years to come."

As a capital improvement, each bench donation is 100 percent tax deductible. A volunteer installer will have the bench in place four-to-six weeks after the order is made, with acknowledgment letters sent to the donor and the honoree or their family.

Honorees are recognized by name with a custom 2-by-8-inch brass plate embedded on each bench.

Each Tribute Bench plaque has a standard of two lines, up to 25 characters per line, which includes spaces. A third line of text can be added for an additional \$2.

Two styles of benches are available: a bench with arms and back for \$2,000, or a slab-style bench for \$1,500.

Residents and supporters of the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens can now purchase a tribute bench to honor friends and family in a meaningful way and help the nonprofit agency raise operating funds at the same time.

For more information or to order a tribute bench, visit <https://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/dedicate-a-bench/>.

In Memory of Willis

Lawrence C. Gierum, an attorney with Driver, McAfee, Peek & Hawthorne, P.L. who held the position of president-elect on the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens Board of Directors, was unanimously voted in as board president with the unexpected passing of previous board president Willis Jones in late May.

"I'm honored to lead this group of board members, but wish it hadn't happened under these circumstances," said Gierum, who has served as a board member since 2014. "Willis was not only a great board president, but also a very good friend

and colleague. We'll all miss the kindness, humor and professionalism Willis brought to the Arboretum Board, both as a board member and while serving as the board's president over the last two years."

A sales director with Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits (formerly Southern Wine and Spirits), where he worked for 36 years, Jones represented his company and assisted in providing corporate sponsorship for many well-known fundraising events in Jacksonville and throughout Florida. Charities included the Good Guy and Good Girls Invitational, Charity for Research for Childhood Cancer, Gator Bowl Association, the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Defending Freedom Warrior Weekend, St. Vincent's Health Care Benefits, Children's Home Society, Delicious Destination, The Red Rose Ball, the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, the Cummer Museum Ball and Gala and the Northeast Florida's March of Dimes Signature Chef's Event. Upon hearing of Willis's passing, board member Martha Mazza wrote a poem in his honor

Willis, an honest, kind-hearted man
Who gave respect and honor
To anyone who crossed his path,
Thinking of others
More than himself,
He listened well
To what others had to say,
Displaying friendship
With action,
He carried himself
With a meekness inviting,
Allowing one
To be himself around him,
He had a dynamic work ethic
Willing to do whatever was needed
All for integrity and ethics sake,

During his tenure on the Arboretum Board, Jones

also created the nonprofit's annual signature event held in October - the ArboEATum Wine in the Woods - featuring many of the best restaurants, wine distributors and caterers in Northeast Florida. "We plan to continue on the ArborEATum wine and food fundraising event that Willis created as our primary fundraiser," he said. "We've set the date for this year's event for Saturday, Nov. 4 and nearly all the restaurants are returning this year - along with the involvement of Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits."

Show the World You Love the Arboretum

Show the world you love us, by posting your Arboretum photographs at [#jacksonvillearboretum](https://twitter.com/jacksonvillearboretum) & www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleArboretumGardens
We appreciate it!

OUR MISSION

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

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, 1445 Millcoie Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225