



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter
August 2017

**HAPPENING
THIS MONTH!**

**Arboretum
Gates Open**

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

**Volunteer
Workday**

Saturday, August 12
8 AM-11 AM

Nature Walk

Saturday, August 12
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

**SUPPORTERS
& PARTNERS**

BRONZE PARTNER



Photo by Chuck Hubbuch

Stuart & Haze Bergman
Anthony John Rigney,
PA & Rigney Family
of Jacksonville, FL
Russell Blueberry Farm
Dr. Todd Sack & Barbara
Sharp
Denise Trad-Wartan of
Trad's Garden
Center/Trad's Pest Control
Allen Skinner

SILVER PARTNER

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GOLD PARTNER

Robb & Pam Mitchell

Gate Keeper

bestbet Jacksonville
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Photo by Chuck Hubbuch

A Butterfly Magnet

Porterweed is a common name for plants in the genus *Stachytarpheta*. Some of these plants are cultivated for their attractive flowers and their traditional medicinal uses. Some for so long that their origins are no longer clear. Names of these cultivated species are commonly confused in literature and nurseries. Most are tropical and serve well as summer annuals in Jacksonville. One is a perennial, tolerating winter temperatures in the upper teens Fahrenheit.

With some searching, four species can be found in Florida. All of them produce flowers that are very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. The name, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* has been confused with more than one species by various authors. Commonly known as blue or native porterweed, the true *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* is native to Florida and the Caribbean. It is a low-growing plant with lavender flowers. *Stachytarpheta cayanennensis* (previously known

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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

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

John Bartram Society

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as *S. urtifolia*) is probably native to the American tropics but is widespread now in the world's tropics. Its common names include blue snakeweed because of its long slender flower spikes or nettleleaf porterweed. It is an upright plant to three or four feet tall with dark blue flowers. This species is used in traditional medicines in the Americas and Asia - especially for respiratory problems, fever and liver disorders. *Stachytarpheta microphylla* is the red porterweed. Frequently called *Stachytarpheta sanguinea* in garden literature and the nursery trade, it is a compact plant with red flowers. These three flower through the summer and are great summer annuals here. They may survive mild winters but are not reliably cold hardy in Jacksonville.

Stachytarpheta mutabilis is called coral porterweed, giant porterweed, pink snakeweed and even changeable velvetberry (by the USDA). This species grows to six feet tall or more. Its flowers are coral-pink to royal purple in color. A plant of this species is in the pollinator garden at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. It flowers hold a great attraction for butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and other pollinators. In local gardens, a few seedlings volunteer near the parent but the plant has not spread aggressively. Although most references state that this is a plant for south Florida (USDA Zone 10), this species has proven to be cold hardy to brief winter drops into the upper teens Fahrenheit. It may die back in winter but will return from the crown in spring. In traditional medicine, its leaves are reported to have been used as an external treatment for wounds, as an internal treatment for intestinal worms and as a laxative.

\$10000+

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Thank you!

Air Potato Efforts

Bill Lester with UF/IFAS Extension in Hernando County and Dr. Chris Kerr from FDACS DPI are working on a citizen science project involving air potato beetles. The goal is to educate residents on how to identify and better control air potato vines, and to gather data important to current research and beetle tracking. The team created a [website](#) with educational videos, pre and post tests and a blog to educate the participants and to keep them updated. Please check them out!

Trail News





The arboretum has been hit hard by the afternoon showers, particularly the Jones Creek Island boardwalk. Thankfully a durable boardwalk funded by REI could withstand the floods. The newly installed braces perfectly allowed the short bridge to rise with the waters and float.

Show the World You Love the Arboretum

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

OUR MISSION

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