



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter August 2018

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

**Arboretum
Gates Open**
8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 AM -7:00 PM

**Volunteer Work
Day**
Saturday, August 11
8:00AM-11:00 AM

Nature Walk
Saturday, August 25
9:30-10:30 AM

Kids Tour
Saturday, September 1
10:00 AM-11:00 AM

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

BRONZE PARTNER



Photo credit: Chuck Hubbuch

The Uses of Saw Palmetto by Chuck Hubbuch

Florida's native saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) recently made the news. It was added to Florida's list of Commercially Exploited Plants in July 2018. This means that commercial collectors of saw palmetto fruits must acquire landowners' permission and a state collecting permit before collecting the fruits. It joins native orchids, ferns, cycads and others already on the list. Cinnamon and royal ferns are on the list because they were collected for their masses of fibrous roots that were previously used as a growing medium for orchids and other epiphytes. The rest of the plants are protected from individuals and

Greg and Pat Cloud

SILVER PARTNER

**Anthony John Rigney,
PA & Rigney Family
of Jacksonville, FL
Russell Blueberry Farm**

GOLD PARTNER

**David W. Cromer DVM /
Baywood Animal Hospital
John & Sonie Frus**

Gate Keeper

Marcia Mederos

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nurseries that would dig them for use as ornamental plants in landscapes. Saw palmetto is unique on the list in that it is the fruits that are collected. It has been reported that fruits are being poached in protected lands. This is significant, in part, because the fruits are a very important food for black bears and other native wildlife in late summer and fall.

In the past, saw palmetto has been considered to be a weed in Florida. It is common in some areas and is difficult to kill and remove. In recent years, as so many natural areas have been cleared, saw palmetto has grown in popularity as a landscape plant. At about the same time, its fruits became popular as a non-prescription treatment for prostate issues for men. While medical researchers continue to debate its effectiveness, it is thought by some to relieve a wide variety of issues, including problems with urination, certain types of hair loss, coughing, headaches and sore throats. Research continues and it may be that saw palmetto or a compound derived from it will be found to have clear medical benefits someday. Talk to your doctor if you want to try saw palmetto supplements. It may have some side effects and interactions with prescription drugs. In particular, one medical website urges women who are pregnant or breastfeeding to not take saw palmetto supplements.

Native Americans have used saw palmetto for a variety of uses. Its fruits were eaten. The leaves were used to thatch dwellings and to weave baskets. Cordage was made from its fibers. The plant was a source of oil and wax. It was used to treat several health issues by the Native Americans, too.

Saw palmetto is a very adaptable, easy landscape plant, tolerating sun, shade, a wide variety of soils, and both moist and dry conditions. Young plants are slow growing at first but can become large, bushy plants in time. It is unusual among palms in that its stems can be cut to control its size and will sprout new shoots behind the cuts. Leaf color ranges from green to silvery blue. Saw palmettoes can be seen along the lake loop path at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens and along some of the nature trails.

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
Gold Partner \$1,000

John Bartram Society

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

To join or purchase a gift membership, click



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. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, contact arboretum4kids@gmail.com

[JOIN](#)
Thank you!



Tribute Bricks

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are asking for your support of our Tribute Brick and Tribute Bench fundraising projects at the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens. This time of the year is great for making tax deductible gifts and, as a reminder, we are a non-profit organization and not a city park. We have no paid staff and rely solely on volunteers - and your charitable contributions - to operate the Arboretum for everyone to enjoy.

Consider supporting us by purchasing an engraved brick paver or an engraved bench with the name of your choice, permanently imprinted on the brick and on a plaque on the bench, to honor or memorialize those who are dear to you. This is a visible honor that you can use, and that other visitors will appreciate as they enter the arboretum to walk the trails and enjoy the grounds. The Tribute Brick area will create a living monument of pathways bridging the past, the present and the future. Your placement of a bench will also be appreciated, creating places of rest for you and other guests. Your donation helps us today - and will be enjoyed now and for generations to come.

Your Tribute Brick will be located at the kiosk at the entrance to the Gardens, with benches placed in strategic locations throughout the arboretum grounds.

This year marks our 10th anniversary - and a great opportunity to celebrate the success of what's being called "the hidden jewel of Jacksonville" for its lakeside gardens focused on people's use of plants and extensive walking and hiking trails.

Thanks for considering the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens Tribute Bricks/Benches fundraising program in your annual giving.

Sincerely,
Martha Mazza
Tribute Brick Coordinator

Show the World You Love the Arboretum

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

OUR MISSION

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

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

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