



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter August 2013

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, August 10 & 24
8 a.m. Fitness Walk
Brisk 3 mile hike

Saturday, August 24
9:30 a.m. Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist

Walks are free.

No Volunteer Workdays in August

Our regular volunteer workdays will resume in September, so mark your calendar for Saturday, September 14, 9 a.m. - noon and the second Saturday of each month thereafter.

We thank all of our volunteers who have helped with our work days this past



Lake Ray Overlook

Call for Volunteers!

The Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens is creating a Conservation Corps. This will be a group of volunteers who will work under the supervision of the Conservation Committee on projects such as:

- control/eradication of exotic invasive plants
- removal of spatterdock from Lake Ray
- construction of compost bins

year. Your efforts made a big difference and we hope to see you in September!

Volunteer Survey

We will be sending out a volunteer survey later this month and ask that our current volunteers and those who would like to volunteer take a few moments to give us your valuable input. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the Arboretum and we want to know more about your experiences, interests and how we can improve.

We are also working on a volunteer database to help us match individual skills and interests with our specific volunteer needs. Once we have the survey results, our list of needs and the database completed, we plan to have a volunteer orientation to acquaint existing and new volunteers with all of the opportunities available at the Arboretum.

In the meantime, if you have a special skill or expertise that you can offer as a volunteer, please let us know. Go to info@jacksonvillearboretum.org and put "volunteer" in the subject line.

ALSO

The Pitmen Painters
A Lee Hall Play
presented by
The 5 & Dime, A Theatre
Company and the
Cummer Museum of Art &
Gardens
August 2 & 3 at 8 p.m.
August 3 & 4 at 1 p.m.
at The Cummer.

The play retells the story of a

-preservation/restoration of high value habitat areas.

No experience necessary...we will train you...
No minimum number of volunteers hours..
Projects can be done on weekdays or weekends..

If this is your cup of tea, contact Merrill Varn at
orts7@hotmail.com or Carol Wyninger at
wyninger@comcast.net for more information.

Save the Date & Call to Artists

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens will be celebrating its Fifth Anniversary on Saturday, November 9, 2013. The celebration will include live music, food, children's craft, workshops, demonstrations and other events to be determined. As a part of the celebration, Northeast Florida Sculpture (NEFS) and Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens (JAG) will collaborate on a presentation of sculpture throughout the garden. This is a non-juried event and has no theme - but use of natural materials and nature-themed creations are encouraged.

For a copy of the Call to Artists and Application Form, please e-mail mhgourds@comcast.net

What's New?

Live Oak Trail Improvements

Visitors to the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens Live Oak Trail may have noticed some cleared areas along the northwest corner of the trail as it winds through what used to be pine flatwoods.

The eastern portion was overtaken by exotic invasive camphor trees many years ago. The First Coast Invasive Working Group, composed of volunteers from several north Florida environmental agencies, removed the camphor trees. There is still some trunk wood stacked along the trail waiting to be moved to a central disposal area. This wood is also available to anyone who would care to remove it. You would need to transport it to the parking lot on foot. Please let us know if you are interested. It is apparently a handsome carving and turning wood. There are still thousands of camphor seeds in the soil and battling the recurrent seedlings will be an issue for some time in the future. New planting will be deferred until the area is free of camphors.

The western portion was flail mowed four years ago as part of Florida Division of Forestry's urban wildfire reduction program. We hope to establish species native to flatwoods throughout the southeast in this area. The plantings will have a plant to people (ethnobotanical) connection, provide resources for wildlife, and enhance the beauty of and add interest to the trail. Crew members of the USS Farragut have taken on the project of creating a new side trail through the clearing,

group of Newcastle (UK) miners in the 1930's whose lives change when they mistakenly enroll in an Art Class. They went on to gain worldwide attention as artists known as the Ashington group. This script tells the story of what happens when working class laborers are exposed to the arts and have the opportunity to realize their potential.

www.cummer.org

Save the St. Johns River Ferry A1A Bike Ride

Sunday, August 11
9 a.m. - Noon

Rising Tides, the young professionals of The St. Johns Riverkeeper is hosting this bike ride from Jacksonville Beach (Mellow Mushroom) to the Ferry.

Suggested donation is \$10.

For more information
www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org

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

continuing to clean up the camphor area, and clearing two wildflower beds that we hope to seed this fall. Keep an eye on the exciting developments in this part of the arboretum.

Thank you to the crew members of the USS Farragut for assistance with clearing a side trail and wildflower beds along the Live Oak Trail!!

East Creek & North Lake Garden Improvements

On July 13th, we hosted a great group of volunteers from the Boeing Company (at Cecil Commerce Center) who participated in Boeing's Global Day of Service. These volunteers, along with a few of our regular "construction group" volunteers, completed stabilized paths through the East Creek Garden (we still have a little work to do on a planned scenic overlook for Jones Creek) and the North Lake Garden. Many thanks to all of the Boeing volunteers and our "regular" volunteers for this much needed project. Also thanks to AAction Recycling for a great deal on the paver fines we used for the path stabilization.

West Garden Improvements

Later in the month, we also removed vines, smilax, small laurel and water oaks, and other bushes from the West Garden to minimize competition with the great oaks for light and soil resources, enhance security, and provide areas of open space for events and activities. Soils tests indicate that soils in this area are very deficient so we are also incorporating additional top soil and adding elephant manure. Once the new soil is in place and leveled, we will add flowering trees to the perimeter and seed the open area. Many thanks to Ken Cranford and Koncept Kreations, Inc. for their work on this project.

Eagle Scout Project

The most recent Eagle Scout project at the Arboretum was recently completed. There is an unopened City right of way that extends into the Arboretum from Merrill Road. The road provides access to a JEA substation. This area has been abused by people dumping trash, yard waste, and materials on the Arboretum. The Eagle Scout candidate, Andrew, installed a gate with decorative posts (which he built) and cables on either side of the road to control this entrance point. Thanks to our neighbor, JEA, for donating an unused gate for the entrance, and to Andrew, his scout troop, and a few of our other great volunteers for their work on this project.

What's Blooming around the Lake Loop?

Loblolly Bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) and Aralia (*Aralia spinosa*) are blooming now in the Lake Loop area. Elderberry is also blooming and setting berries. The Latin name for elderberry is *Sambucus canadensis*. An alcoholic beverage that is very popular in Spain, Sambuco, is made from elderberries. Later this month, the golden rod (*Solidago spp.*) should be in bloom around the Lake Loop.

\$ 100 Corporate
\$ 200 Friend
\$ 500 Sponsor
\$ 1000 Benefactor/Lifetime

To join or renew, go to our website at

www.jacksonvillearboretum.org
and click on "Membership"

THANK YOU!

Research Programs & Projects

A big thank you goes to Miranda Wilson, a PhD. graduate in Biology from Georgia Tech, for her guidance and dedication as our volunteer Head of Environmental & Conservation Research Programs during the past six months. In that limited timeframe, Dr. Wilson solicited, planned and supervised two service projects for an environmental science class at UNF; wrote application and guidelines for research projects; wrote guidelines/suggestions for use of the Arboretum for university/high school class projects; set up summer research opportunities for UNF students; and advertised for, interviewed, and supervised summer research projects.

Dr. Wilson recently accepted a position teaching biology and environmental science at The Westminster School in Atlanta, where she will also be coaching women's soccer and cross-country running. She will continue as an Arboretum volunteer by compiling a list of projects appropriate for high school and university students. We wish you well, Miranda, in your new career and thank you again for all your assistance at the Arboretum!

OUR MISSION

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