



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter January 2014

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, January 11
9 a.m. - Noon

Looking for a fun way to lose the pounds gained over the holidays? Then come out to the Arboretum for our volunteer workday. You'll get some good exercise, meet some wonderful people and help us keep the Arboretum well-maintained.

We will have some tools and gloves available, but you are welcome to bring your own clippers and gloves. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.

A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, January 11 & 25
8 a.m. Fitness Walk
Brisk 3 mile hike

Saturday, January 25
9:30 a.m. Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist
Walks are free.

Save the Dates!



Barred Owl "Merlin" at The Art of Nature event.

Discovering Nature Nearby

Through the generosity of the TD Bank Foundation, the Arboretum received a grant enabling us to introduce a series of programs entitled Discovering Nature Nearby. These programs will provide fun and positive experiences that teach about the natural world and how to create and maintain a healthy relationship with it. Our goal is to provide a broader, more holistic view of nature to individuals and families within our community, so that all of us become more comfortable and knowledgeable about the world outside the urban environments in which we live. Within 30 minutes of most First Coast

Save the Dates!

Annual Air Potato Roundup!
Saturday, March 1
9 a.m. - noon

Air Potato is an extremely aggressive exotic invasive species that thrives in the Arboretum's bottomlands.

We need everyone's help digging vines and collecting potatoes to make a dent in the population of this pest plant. So please mark your calendar now and plan to help.

Thank You Donors!

Thanks to all who responded to our year- end donation campaign. We received over \$6,000, which will help us continue to improve the grounds and offer great programs and events.

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
\$ 100 Corporate
\$ 200 Friend
\$ 500 Sponsor

which we live. Within 30 minutes of most First Coast residents, the Arboretum is an easily accessible destination for you, your family and friends to come and enjoy these educational programs. The following programs will be offered over the next six months with detailed information available in subsequent newsletters. A separate notice will be sent out with details on January's program.

January 25, 2013	Owl Encounter
February 22, 2013	Survival
March 29, 2013	Birding 101
April 5, 2013	Edible & Medicinal Plants
May 2013 (date TBD)	Native Plants
June 2013(date TBD)	Geocaching with a smart phone

Resolve to Get Involved!

As we ring in a brand new year, many of us have made resolutions and will be trying to honor them throughout the year. Some that top most lists include losing weight, getting more exercise, spending more time with family and friends, and embracing a healthy lifestyle.

Volunteering at the Arboretum - what a wonderful way to start the New Year and fulfill some of those resolutions at the same time! We have all kinds of volunteer opportunities, for all ages and skill levels.

One important job is keeping the Arboretum looking great and our monthly workdays on the second Saturday from 9 am - noon, September through June, are a great way to contribute by working on plantings, trails, bridges and overlooks or a conservation workday as needs arise. Working in the great outdoors is good exercise and very refreshing, with the added benefit of watching the surrounding colors change from season to season.

We also host several events each year and in addition to volunteering during the events, we need individuals to serve on our event planning committees. This year, we plan to continue our member- only Owl Prowls and Campfires and host another fall event similar to The Art of Nature, our popular 5th year anniversary event this past November. Many have asked when our next plein air painting event, A Brush with Nature, will be held. We have hosted this very successful fundraiser for the past three years; however, it is such a major undertaking that the board decided to hold the

\$ 500 Sponsor
\$ 1000 Benefactor/Lifetime

To join, go to to our website
at

www.jacksonvillearboretum.org
and click on "Membership"

THANK YOU!

the past three years; however, it is such a major undertaking that the board decided to hold the event every other year. So look for its return in 2015. Major events such as A Brush with Nature and our anniversary celebration take about a year to plan, so we will soon be putting together our event planning committees. Many who have served on these committees are ready to commit again, but we need additional volunteers, especially those with experience in sales and marketing, fundraising, public relations, social media and/or event planning.

If you are already on the volunteer list, we look forward to your return in 2014. If you are not a volunteer but are interested please email: info@jacksonvillearboretum.org and put "Volunteer" in subject line. Let us know if you have specific skills or interests so we can match those with our needs.

For those who took our recent volunteer survey, thank you. We are now tabulating the results and should have a report soon. Your input is very important and will help us improve the volunteer experience.

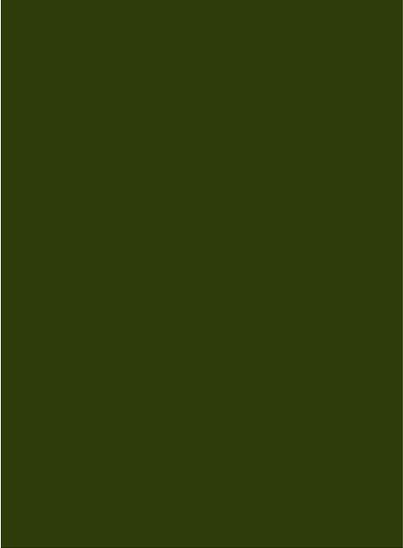
What's New?

At our December workday, the conservation corps learned about the understories of Sandhills and flat woods, and transplanted wire grass plugs to be installed in the Sandhills restoration area in the late Spring. The group also planted several flats of native wild flowers that Dr. Nisse Goldberg's botany class at Jacksonville University had grown for us. The students also wrote species profiles that will become part of the educational signage to be placed in the flat woods this summer. These two projects are being funded by a grant from the horticulture department at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

In January, the corps will change its focus to creating a small rosemary scrub area along the Rosemary Connector. We'd love your help. Please send an email to wyninger@comcast.net.

What's Blooming?

Although there aren't many flowers, trees or shrubs



Although there aren't many flowers, trees or shrubs blooming at this time of year, there is still plenty of color at the Arboretum. Golden-leafed hickories, red maples and vines are still providing a bit of autumn showiness. And if you take a closer look as you walk the trails, you will see colorful fungi and lichens, the beautiful deer moss that looks like a carpet of snow, or the orange glow of sun-dappled tannin-stained water in Jones Creek. Enjoy finding these and other natural treasures as you hike the Arboretum's trails during these crisp, clear winter days.

OUR MISSION

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