



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter June 2014

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Photography Hike
Tuesday June 10
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Workday
Saturday, June 14
9 am - Noon
Help us maintain your Arboretum and keep it looking good. Volunteer Workdays are a great way to engage in outdoor activities while giving back to the community. We 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
Fitness walk
Brisk 3 mile hike
Saturday, June 14 and 28
8 a.m.

Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist



Discovering the Wonders of Nature

Photo by Priscilla Ford

Thanks to Late Bloomers

The Late Bloomers Garden Circle, a member of the Garden Club of Jacksonville, recently made a generous donation of \$5,000 to the Arboretum. These funds will be used to enhance our new pavilion overlooking the east end of Lake Ray. Plans are underway to add a low

Walks are free.
Saturday, June 28
9:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATES!

Discovering Nature Nearby

Mark your calendars for upcoming programs in this series. Details in upcoming newsletters

Geocaching with a Smart Phone

Saturday, July 19
9 am - 10:30 am

Member/Volunteer Owl Prowl

Saturday, September 6,
6-9 PM

An evening under the stars.
Entertainment, Games,
Prizes, Hot Dog Roast,
S'mores, Guided tours and
much more.

Ar-bor-EAT-um

Wine and Food Fest
Saturday, October 25

Art in Nature

Saturday November 8

6 year Anniversary Event.
Featuring Art Exhibits,
Entertainment, Food
sources, Demonstrations and
workshops, Children's Art

stone wall that can double as bench seating around the open patio at the back of the pavilion. A decorative iron railing will be incorporated into the wall as a special feature. Thanks to all the wonderful ladies of the Late Bloomers Garden Circle for making these enhancements possible.

Photography Hike June 10

We're now on Instagram and would love to see all the great photos you have taken at the arboretum.

Remember to tag "jaxarboretum" in any images taken on site. To help you shoot even better pictures, we are offering a photography hike Tuesday, June 10th 5:30-6:30pm. Bring your i-Pad, i-Phone, or camera and lots of questions. Meet Donovan and Mary at the trailhead just before the hike.

Discovering Nature Nearby

Geocaching with a Smart Phone, the last program in our series, has been rescheduled from June 21 to Saturday, July 19 from 9:00 - 10:30 am. Look for more information in our July newsletter.

Extended Hours Tuesday Evenings

You sent several emails and numerous verbal requests for the arboretum to stay open later so we are extending hours until 7pm Tuesday evenings on a trial basis. The level of usage will determine whether we maintain, add, or discontinue the hours. The next step is up to you; please vote with your feet so we know what you want. We must keep the parking lot and trails safe for all evening visitors. If you are interested in helping by becoming an evening ranger please contact us at info@jacksonvillearboretum.org. On Tuesday evenings, the in gate will close at 5pm. Visitors will use the out gate to both enter and leave.

Projects, and newly added
features
Saturday November 8, 2014

ALSO

Shop at Amazon Smile

The Jacksonville Arboretum is now registered with Amazon Smile, a foundation set up by amazon.com that donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as on amazon.com and can use your same account and settings, but all purchases must be made through smile.amazon.com.

So enjoy shopping and supporting the Arboretum at the same time! Best of all, there is no cost to you. Click on the link below to take you to a special Amazon Smile landing page for the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens.

[Thanks!](#)

Become a JAG Member

We have revised our

All of our gatekeepers are volunteers. Please be courteous and leave promptly at closing so they can get home for dinner.

Introducing New Donor Programs

The Arboretum recently revised its general membership program, streamlining the various levels and introducing many new benefits as a thank you to our supporters. This month, we are introducing our new Donor Programs, for those individuals and/or businesses who wish to support the Arboretum at a higher level of giving. As a 501 c(3) non-profit, the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, Inc. depends solely on donations of time and money to fund operations and maintenance. As a member and/or donor, you become a vital part of our mission of cultivating a unique environment for recreation, education and inspiration.

Below is a brief description of these programs. For more information and to donate, please visit our website at www.jacksonvillearboretum.org.

SUPPORTERS & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Partners & Supporters are a distinguished group of donors who annually support the Arboretum's mission at one of three levels. Donors receive benefits exceeding those of general membership and may also elect to receive Family/Household member level benefits. Employee company-match programs are encouraged for individuals at this level. To promote annual giving, donations made will be cumulative, working toward admittance in the John Bartram Society, the premier level of support. For instance, the donations of an individual or business giving ten \$250 donations over time will then be recognized as a Gatekeeper in the John Bartram Society, with additional benefits and special recognition. Supporter & Corporate Partners include Bronze, Silver and Gold levels at \$250, \$500 and \$1,000 respectively. See website for benefits at each level.

JOHN BARTRAM SOCIETY

This is the premier level of support, reached through a

membership levels and added more benefits in appreciation of your support. Details of our new program are available on our website.

By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day operations and planned improvements and your donation is tax-deductible.

Membership Levels

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

SUPPORTERS & CORPORATE PARTNERS

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

JOHN BARTRAM SOCIETY

\$ 2,500+ Gatekeeper
\$ 5,000+ Steward
\$10,000 President's
Council

To join or purchase a gift membership, go to our website at www.jacksonvillearboretum.org and click on "Membership"

THANK YOU!

gift in the amounts noted for each level or through cumulative giving at this or the Supporters & Corporate Partner levels. Those who attain each milestone within the John Bartram Society through cumulative giving are rewarded with additional benefits. The Society includes Gatekeeper at \$2,500, Steward at \$5,000 and President's Council at \$10,000. See website for details.

ALLIGATOR IN THE LAKE

We are excited to announce that there have been several sightings of a small gator in Lake Ray. Please do not feed the fish while the gator is in the lake. Alligators eat fish. If you feed the fish the gator will come to where the fish are. If the alligator begins to hang around the dock then it will be considered a nuisance animal and we will need to have him trapped since we cannot risk an encounter with a visitor. Alligators can push off the bottom with their tails and leap quite high. As always, no swimming and no dangling your hands or feet in the water.

If nuisance alligators are trapped, they are generally sold to restaurants hence the Florida Wildlife Commission adage, "A fed gator is a dead gator". If there is a gator in the lake, feeding the fish is feeding the gator. Please help educate other visitors who may not receive this newsletter.

Automatic Gate

After two years of design work and rework and on-site trials and re-trials, the University of North Florida electrical engineering students have installed our automatic gates and they are operational. Dr. Alan Hill supervised the senior project of Trevor Parker, Minh Le, Warren Mancera, and Jarrell Floyd. Thanks to all of them. The gates will be open by 8am each morning. The in gate will swing closed at 5pm. A gatekeeper will check to be sure that all cars are gone before manually closing the gate.

All of our gatekeepers are volunteers. Please be courteous and leave promptly at closing so they can get home for dinner.

What's Blooming Around the Lake Loop?

West of the Lake (the area next to the picnic area) Blackeyed Susans are beginning their bloom. This is a fairly large area that will be filled with bloom in the next week or so (assuming the weather cooperates). It should be a nice show.

North of the lake, Drummond Phlox and *Coreopsis* are completing their bloom. In the "Flies" garden (which is on a path nearest the lake on the north side), Passionflower vine, Pentas, Cape Plumbago, Dwarf Firebush, Trailing Lantana, Mexican Sage, and Penstemon continue to bloom. Gulf Fritillaries and Sulphurs have been spotted enjoying these plants (no Zebra Longwings, yet).

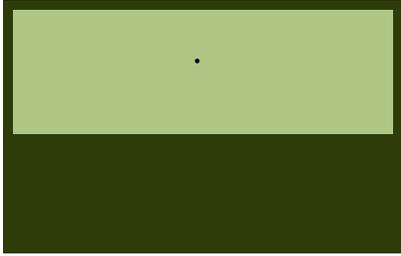
At the East end of the lake in the meadow, Blanketflower, Fleabane, *Coreopsis*, and Elderberry are still blooming. There is also a small patch of *Coreopsis* still in bloom just east of the Palm Garden on the south side of the lake.

Heat and drought will affect the bloom period so see them while you can!

Summer Safety Tips

June has arrived with it's long days and high temps. Remember the following safety tips and keep this summer one of good memories.

- Beat the heat- This time of year, the best time to visit the arboretum is 8am-noon. Peak heat hours are 2-4 pm and it cools only a couple of degrees by dark.
- Stay hydrated- Carry water. If you are active outdoors, you should drink fluids every 20 minutes.
- Protect yourself against bug bites- Avoid ticks and disease carrying insects by using appropriate repellents and, as always, stay on



the trails.

- Wear sunscreen- The arboretum is generally quite shady but it is a good idea to be cautious and wear a low to medium SPF screen.

OUR MISSION

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