



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter May 2014

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Discovering Nature Nearby Series

Native Plants

Saturday, May 3
9 a.m. - noon

Presented by Pete Johnson
this installment in the series
concentrates on the native
flora present within the
Arboretum.

National Public Gardens Day

May 9

Still trying to come up with something to give Mom for Mother's Day? A blender, a toaster, bouquet of flowers? Why not surprise her with a Family Membership and spend some quality time walking some trails with Mom! In celebration of National Public Gardens Day, the Arboretum is offering a 10% discount on Family & Friend memberships. Please go to



New Pavilion at east end of Lake Ray dedicated on
April 25

Discovering Nature Nearby Native Plants Saturday, May 3 9-noon

The native flora present within JAG consists of a diverse assemblage of mostly woody shrubs and

the Jacksonville Arboretum link www.publicgardensday.org to print out the coupon.

Redeem at the Arboretum between 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on May 9 or 10.

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, May 10
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, May 10 and 24
8 a.m.

Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist
Walks are free.
Saturday, May 24
9:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATES!

Discovering Nature Nearby

Mark you calendars for upcoming programs in this

trees. Herbaceous plants are present, but limited by the exclusion of fire from the Arboretum for many years. This plant walk will be led by experienced field biologist Pete Johnson and other Ixia FNPS members familiar with northeast Florida's native plant species. We will walk the Live Oak and Rosemary Ridge Trails focusing on interesting woody shrubs in the Ericaceae, Lauraceae and Annonaceae plant families. We will also visit a wetland along the trail to view a rare plant to Duval County known as pond spice. We will also review plants appropriate for use in your landscape and they will also be discussed and viewed in mature form.

This is the fourth in the series of programs made possible with a grant from TD Foundation. This program is suitable for all ages, including families with children. Those under 18 must be accompanied by and under the supervision of an adult at all times.

National Public Gardens Day at the Arboretum Friday, May 9

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens is proud to join the American Public Gardens Association and 500+ public gardens nationwide in celebrating an annual day of awareness that honors the role public gardens play in promoting plant and water conservation, education and environmental leadership.

The annual tradition of celebrating public gardens on the Friday preceding Mother's Day weekend will continue this year on May 9, 2014 as Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens joins communities throughout the United States in celebration of National Public Gardens Day. Presented by the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), this annual day of awareness invites communities nationwide to explore the diverse beauty of their local green spaces and to take advantage of the conservation, education and environmental preservation resources public gardens provide.

series. Details in upcoming newsletters

Geocaching with a Smart Phone

Saturday, June 21
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.

Art in Nature

Saturday November 8

6 year Anniversary Event.

Featuring Art Exhibits, Entertainment, Food

sources, Demonstrations and workshops, Children's Art Projects, and newly added features

Saturday November 8, 2014

ALSO

Open Garden Day

Tour Ray Martin's private garden at 7990 Hunter's Grove Road, 32256. The

Garden will be open

Thursday, May 1 &

Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m.

- 2 p.m. both days and 5-7

See side bar for special coupon offer.

Consider the Wildlife

When visiting parks, arboretums, and other natural habitats, nothing is more thrilling than seeing wildlife! The Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens is home to many species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and insects. While viewing wildlife visitors feel a connection with nature that is unparalleled. It is human nature to want to maximize this experience--- to get closer to, to touch, and to feed them. However, it is important to ALWAYS consider what is best for the animal.

Feeding wildlife is a problem as it causes animals to associate food with people and to lose their fear of humans. When we feed wild animals not only do they become a nuisance and attract predators who become a nuisance, but also they can come close enough to bite. Feeding a bird on the picnic table may be fun but a flock of sparrows diving at your sandwich will not be fun. Similarly feeding a raccoon or squirrel may be thrilling but a bite from either can be deadly.

Fish feeding in Lake Ray is of particular concern. Feeding the fish causes them to congregate at the dock and wait for food. Sometimes the congregations of fish attract a dangerous predator such as an alligator. The alligator follows the fish to the dock and becomes a threat to our visitors. If an alligator is near the dock, it is our policy to have it removed by the Florida Wildlife Commission and their policy is to trap and destroy the nuisance animal.

We are trying to protect all of the native species that call the Arboretum home. Please do not feed the wildlife, including the fish, and please help us educate visitors who might not have read this newsletter.

For more information about wildlife issues contact the FWC Regional office at 386-758-0525.

p.m. on May 3. Event is free but donations are welcome & will go to support the Home of New Beginnings. For more information, please call 904-641-5327

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

What's New?

In the palm garden on the South side of the lake, we added three dwarf or Blue Stem Palmetto palms (*Sabal minor*). These trunkless fan palms are planted in the palm garden proximate to the large Sabal (Cabbage) palms.

In addition, perennials (or annuals depending upon winter weather) have been added in the North garden (along the most southerly path on the north side of the lake) for the benefit of wildlife of the flying variety (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and butterflies): Pentas 'Ruby Red' (*Pentas lanceolata* "Ruby Red"), Drummond Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*), Cape Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*), Skyflower, Golden Dewdrops (*Duranta erecta* "Sapphire Showers"), Rosemary 'Tuscan Blue' (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Tuscan Blue'), Dwarf Firebush (*Hamelia patens* 'compacta'), Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*), Scarlet or Texas Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Baby Sage (a *Salvia microphylla* hybrid), Hot Lips Sage (*Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips'), Purple Majesty Sage (*Salvia* 'Purple Majesty'), Anise Scented Sage (*Salvia guaranitica* 'Black & Blue'), Trailing Lavender Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis* (not *L. camara*)), PW 'Diamond Frost' (infertile) (*Euphorbia graminea*), Orange Hummingbird Mint (*Agastache aurantiaca* 'Just Peachy'), Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), Lion's mane; Lion's ear (*Leonotis leonurus*).

What's Blooming Around The Lake Loop?

In the South (Palm) garden, the walking iris (Neomarica) are in bloom. This plant is not a true iris but has flowers that resemble iris. East of the Lake, the Louisiana iris, native Chapman's Rhododendron (*Rhododendron chapmanii*), and native Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) are nearing the end of their bloom. In the gardens on the north side of the Lake, native White Indigo (*Baptista alba*) and Drummond Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*) continue in bloom. They will be joined shortly by Coreopsis spp. Also many of the

our website.
In addition to our revised membership program, we will soon launch a new program for individual and corporate donors.

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

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

THANK YOU!

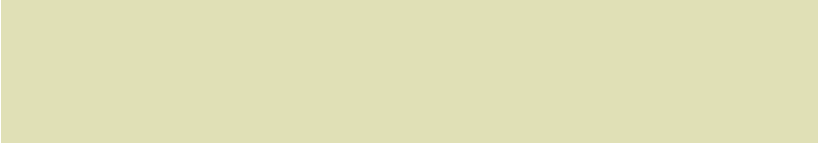
newly added perennials (listed above) are currently in bloom.

Conservation Efforts on the Live Oak Trail

Volunteers have mowed, sawed, and burned then raked, sowed, and planted and finally, in late April, completed the first step in our sandhill and flatwood demonstration project. This is all thanks to hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours by Florida Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy-Southeastern Ecological Restoration Team, Jacksonville University Ecology and Botany classes, the crew of the USS Farragut, Sandalwood High School's GreenState Environmental Club and our own Conservation Corps. Special thanks are due to Jacksonville Zoological Garden- Horticulture Fund for plants, tools, and supplies to begin the project.

If you haven't walked the trail lately, you need to come see the ferns and azaleas in the swale and the wiregrass and pawpaws in the sandhill. It has only been a month since the burn and already there are thousands of sprouts- we hope they are mostly fire-tolerant sandhill species. It is a work in progress and we will need to burn every few years to discourage weeds. Next year, with continued community support, we can plant additional native species throughout the demonstration areas.

If you are interested in being part of our Conservation Corp, please contact us at info@jacksonvillearboretum.org and ask to be added to the conservation email list. We will keep you posted on all our volunteer opportunities.



OUR MISSION

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