



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter September 2013

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Labor Day

Monday, September 2

This national holiday pays tribute to the social and economic achievements of the American worker, whose labor is responsible for much of our nation's strength, freedom and leadership. So take the day off, pat yourself on the back and enjoy some passive recreation at the Arboretum.

Childhood Obesity Awareness

Health & Nature Walk

Saturday, September 7
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Help us raise awareness and prevention of this devastating condition with a fun fitness and nature walk for kids and families.

A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, September 14 & 28
8 a.m. Fitness Walk
Brisk 3 mile hike

Saturday, September 28
9:30 a.m. Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist



Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)

with naturalist/biologist

Walks are free.

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, September 14
9 a.m. - Noon

Our volunteer workdays will begin again this month and on the second Saturday of every month thereafter though June 2014 when we break for the summer. As you know, we depend on our volunteers to help maintain and improve the trails and amenities at the Arboretum, so please mark your calendars and come out for these volunteer workdays. It's a great way to meet new friends while doing productive work that truly makes a difference!

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

We hope to see you in September!

Volunteer Survey

We had hoped to send out our volunteer survey in August, but it will may be another month or so before we can have it ready.

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

Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)

Walk & Share during September's Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

The Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens will commemorate Childhood Obesity Awareness Month (COAM) with a special health walk and nature tour for kids on Saturday September 7, 2013 from 9 -11 a.m. This is a great opportunity for families to join our guided walk along the Arboretum's trails while learning about its 13 different ecosystems.

Additionally, the Arboretum is requesting "tales from the trails". If you and your family come to the Arboretum for exercise and are "naturally" preventing obesity through healthy lifestyle choices, like trail walking, we want to hear from you!

Please send your stories about walking at the Arboretum and we will feature them on our website and on our Facebook page. We will take all the entries and randomly choose a winner for a free yearlong family membership and two t-shirts.

In partnering with Healthy Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Arboretum's Step Out In Nature program is gaining momentum in our efforts to improve the health of our community. We look forward to celebrating your successes as a family and as part of a community helping to ensure that all children grow up healthy. Please send your stories this month to Rachael Sulkers at rsulkers@esinc.cc.

What's Blooming?

Stop and view the brilliant red Firespike (*Odontonema strictum*) at the bottom of the North Garden along the Lake Loop as well as the striking purple blooms of the passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*) vine nearby. Around the corner in the East Garden, the firebush (*Hamilia patens*) is still blooming its heart out and all along the Lake Loop, the bright flowers of goldenrod (*Solidago sp*) and the iridescent purple berries of the American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) are sure signs that fall and its cooler temperatures are on the way. Although it is still hot, notice the red leaves that are beginning to fall from the Virginia creeper vines. They also know that there will be a fall one day!

In bloom along the Upper Ravine Trail is dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), which is our featured photo this month. It produces lovely little spotted, tubular, lipped flowers that rise above showy purplish to white bracts. Butterflies, wasps and bees are attracted to this leafy, aromatic plant.

and put "volunteer" in the subject line.

ALSO

Community Opening of the Cummer's Landscape Enhancement Project

Saturday, September 21
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Free Admission

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will be unveiling its new open air campus, including the public sculpture garden and its inaugural exhibition, The Human Figure: Sculptures by Enzo Torcoletti. There will music, art making activities, artist demonstrations and more.

www.cummer.org

St. Johns Riverkeeper

There are several events happening this month, so visit their website 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.

and bees are attracted to this leafy, aromatic plant.

Wild poinsettia (*Poinsettia cyathophora*) is most visible along the Upper Ravine Trail as it passes along the retention area in the parking lot. It is easily recognizable as a relative of the Christmas flower that decorates our houses seasonally. The Christmas Poinsettia is not native to Florida but is instead a native of Mexico first introduced in the U.S. by Robert Poinsett in 1825 while he was serving as first ambassador to Mexico. Above the retention area and along the Lake Loop you will see lots of hairy beggar's tick (*Bidens alba*) with its 1" white flowers, harbingers of the ingenious but annoying seeds that cling to your pet's fur and your children's socks!

What's New?

We have a new overlook on the Jones Creek Trail, just east of the dam at the end of the new gravel trails. This is a great place to sit, relax and reflect on the beautiful, lush hardwood forest before you.

The crew from the USS Farragut continued their trail work on August 17, clearing the area where camphor trees were removed and starting the new side trail through the clearing. There are still camphor logs available for the taking at the northeast corner of the Live Oak Trail...great for firewood, carving and turning. You will need to transport by hand or small cart to the parking lot. For more information contact: Carol Wyninger - wyninger@comcast.net

Volunteers with our Conservation Corps removed invasives along the Lake Loop's East Garden. We could still use some more volunteers for the Corps, so if interested please contact Merrill Varn at orts7@hotmail.com (904) 465-4016.

Miles Meyer, Scout leader extraordinaire, conducted a five merit badge nature program at the Arboretum this summer. The scouts in the program constructed two wren houses, two screech owl boxes and one bat box from sinker cypress donated by Florida Cypress. These boxes will be hung in the Arboretum after research is completed to determine the best location for each box. Thank you Miles and scouts for all your hard work and to Florida Cypress for its generous donation.

Celebrate the Arboretum's 5th Anniversary!

Mark your calendars now for a fun-filled family event on Saturday, November 9, 2013 when the Arboretum celebrates the fifth anniversary of its opening to the public. One of the special features of the event will be a unique exhibit of

Membership Levels

\$ 25 Student/Senior/
Limited Income
\$ 35 Individual
\$ 55 Family
\$ 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!

the fifth anniversary of its opening to the public. One of the special features of the event will be a unique exhibit of sculpture presented by the Northeast Florida Sculptor's Group (NEFS), offering the visitor an opportunity to view unique three-dimensional art in nature's settings. We will also have demonstrations, workshops, nature tours, music, food, storytellers, children's activities and a tribute to our military in honor of Veteran's Day the following Monday, November 11.

Next month's newsletter will have complete event information and schedule. Although the event is free, we do request a small donation of \$3 per person and \$5 per family.

5th Anniversary Sponsors

Please consider becoming a sponsor for our anniversary event. All sponsors will receive recognition at the event and have their names listed in our e-newsletter and on our website. For more information and to make a donation, please contact Gail Beveridge at gybmarch@comcast.net.

Tying a Teal Ribbon...

If you come out to the Arboretum this month, you will notice a teal ribbon at the entrance. **Turn The Towns Teal®** is a national campaign to promote awareness of ovarian cancer and its silent symptoms. Jacksonville's Shannon Miller, Olympic Gold Medal Gymnast and ovarian cancer survivor, is this year's Honorary Chair. The local campaign's goal is to take photos of landmarks, such as the Arboretum, well-known businesses, and prominent community leaders with a teal ribbon/bow around them to show the country that we support Shannon and the national campaign. And remember, you can practice Yoga with Shannon at the Arboretum by scanning the special QR codes around the Lake Loop. For more information on Shannon and her health and fitness initiatives, please visit www.shannonmillerlifestyle.com.

OUR MISSION

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