



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter July 2018

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Arboretum Gates Open

8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 AM -7:00 PM

Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, July 14
8:00AM-11:00 AM

Nature Walk

cancelled for July

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

BRONZE PARTNER

Greg and Pat Cloud



Photo credit: Chuck Hubbuch

A Butterfly Magnet

by Chuck Hubbuch

Porterweed is a common name for plants in the genus *Stachytarpheta*. Some of these plants are cultivated for their attractive flowers and their traditional medicinal uses. Some for so long that their origins are no longer clear. Names of these cultivated species are commonly confused in literature and nurseries. Most are tropical and serve well as summer annuals in Jacksonville.

SILVER PARTNER

**Anthony John Rigney,
PA & Rigney Family
of Jacksonville, FL
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One is a perennial, tolerating winter temperatures in the upper teens Fahrenheit.

With some searching, four species can be found in Florida. All of them produce flowers that are very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. The name, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* has been confused with more than one species by various authors. Commonly known as blue or native porterweed, the true *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* is native to Florida and the Caribbean. It is a low-growing plant with lavender flowers.

Stachytarpheta cayanennensis (previously known as *S. urtifolia*) is probably native to the American tropics but is widespread now in the world's tropics. Its common names include blue snakeweed because of its long slender flower spikes or nettleleaf porterweed. It is an upright plant to three or four feet tall with dark blue flowers. This species is used in traditional medicines in the Americas and Asia - especially for respiratory problems, fever and liver disorders. *Stachytarpheta microphylla* is the red porterweed. Frequently called *Stachytarpheta sanguinea* in garden literature and the nursery trade, it is a compact plant with red flowers. These three flower through the summer and are great summer annuals here. They may survive mild winters but are not reliably cold hardy in Jacksonville.

Stachytarpheta mutabilis is called coral porterweed, giant porterweed, pink snakeweed and even changeable velvetberry (by the USDA). This species grows to six feet tall or more. Its flowers are coral-pink to royal purple in color. A plant of this species is in the pollinator garden at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. It

JAG Membership

By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's operations and improvements. All donations are tax-deductible. Details are available on our website.

Membership Levels

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

Supporters & Corporate Partners

Bronze Partner \$250
Silver Partner \$500
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\$10000+

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Thank you!

flowers hold a great attraction for butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and other pollinators. In local gardens, a few seedlings volunteer near the parent but the plant has not spread aggressively. Although most references state that this is a plant for south Florida (USDA Zone 10), this species has proven to be cold hardy to brief winter drops into the upper teens Fahrenheit. It may die back in winter but will return from the crown in spring. In traditional medicine, its leaves are reported to have been used as an external treatment for wounds, as an internal treatment for intestinal worms and as a laxative.



Trail News

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped weed and add new plants throughout the gardens on June 9. The Jacksonville Arboretum is run 100% by volunteers. Please visit the website to volunteer, join, or donate. We need each and every visitor to be involved at some level.



Tribute Bricks

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are asking for your support of our Tribute Brick and Tribute Bench fundraising projects at the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens. This time of the year is great for making tax deductible gifts and, as a reminder, we are a non-profit organization and not a city park. We have no paid staff and rely solely on volunteers - and your charitable contributions - to operate the Arboretum for everyone to enjoy.

Consider supporting us by purchasing an engraved brick paver or an engraved bench with the name of your choice, permanently imprinted on the brick and on a plaque on the bench, to honor or memorialize those who are dear to you. This is a visible honor that you can use, and that other visitors will appreciate as they enter the arboretum to walk the trails and enjoy the grounds. The Tribute Brick area will create a living monument of pathways bridging the past,

the present and the future. Your placement of a bench will also be appreciated, creating places of rest for you and other guests. Your donation helps us today - and will be enjoyed now and for generations to come.

Your Tribute Brick will be located at the kiosk at the entrance to the Gardens, with benches placed in strategic locations throughout the arboretum grounds.

This year marks our 10th anniversary - and a great opportunity to celebrate the success of what's being called "the hidden jewel of Jacksonville" for its lakeside gardens focused on people's use of plants and extensive walking and hiking trails.

Thanks for considering the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens Tribute Bricks/Benches fundraising program in your annual giving.

Sincerely,
Martha Mazza
Tribute Brick Coordinator

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Show the world you love us, by posting your Arboretum photographs at [#jacksonvillearboretum](https://www.instagram.com/jacksonvillearboretum) &

www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleArboretumGardens

We appreciate it!

OUR MISSION

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

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, 1445 Millcoie Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

Constant Contact 

Try it free today