



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter June 2015

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Volunteer Gatekeepers Needed

info@jacksonvillearboretum.org

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, June 13
9 AM-Noon

Nature Walk

with naturalist/biologist
Saturday, June 13
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Photo Hike

Tuesday, June 9
6 PM-7 PM

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

BRONZE PARTNER

Eli & Martha Bekkum
Laurence Gierum



Pictures courtesy of Jane Pope

REI Volunteers Lend Helping Hands

During the May second Saturday volunteer workday a team of REI employees joined a crew of the Arboretum's regular volunteers in the native Rosemary (*Conradina spp.*) scrub habitat. This ecosystem is highly endangered with many of the species within it, including the Rosemary, being listed as endangered or threatened. The volunteers worked for over four hours clearing out encroaching plants and removing the debris. It was a lot of work that is very much appreciated.

**Robb & Pam Mitchell
Dr. Todd Sack & Barbara
Sharp**

SILVER PARTNER

**Kevin Driscoll - The Driscoll
Group
Marcia Mederos**

GOLD PARTNER

bestbet Jacksonville

For more information about the
Donor Programs, go to
www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/donor-programs/

Thank you!

Shop at Amazon Smile
The Jacksonville Arboretum
is registered with Amazon
Smile. This amazon.com
foundation donates a portion
of all sales to a shopper's
favorite charity, while
providing the same low
prices, vast selection and
convenient shopping
experience using your same
account and settings. Enjoy
shopping and supporting the
Arboretum at the same time
by clicking
[Buy at Smile!](#) or purchase
through smile.amazon.com

Become a JAG Member

We have revised our
membership levels and
added more benefits in



Pictures courtesy of Shannon Simon

Field Trip Fun For The Little Ones

On May 8th Ms. Shannon Simon's and Ms. Emy Knight's classes from J. Allen Axson Montessori School came for a field trip at the Arboretum. The roughly 40 kids, ages three to six, were split into groups of ten and rotated through four activities designed to teach the children about trees, flowers, pollination, what forests provide, and how to use their senses to explore nature. Arboretum volunteers with backgrounds in education led the children and their gracious chaperones on a nature scavenger hunt, helped them construct pinecone bird feeders, taught them a pollination song, and helped in the making of colorful "hand-trees" and leaf rubbings. Lots of smiling faces were evidence of a morning of fun learning at the Arboretum.

appreciation of your support. Details are available on our website. By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day operations and planned improvements, plus 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, click [JOIN](#) and Support Us!

THANK YOU!



Photo courtesy of MomentsForZen Flickr Creative Commons

Donate Extra African Iris Plants

The African iris genus, *Dietes*, is an interesting group of plants. Most of its six species are native to Africa, but one is native to Norfolk Island off the Pacific coast of Australia. The white African iris, *Dietes grandiflora*, is grown widely in Jacksonville because of its drought tolerance and long flowering season. Besides their use as garden plants, various species of *Dietes* are used in their native lands to treat dysentery, hypertension and other disorders. One species is used in death rituals. The Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens plans to plant some white African iris by the Reflection Point Pavilion. If you have any to spare, please consider donating them. Simply send an email to info@jacksonvillearboretum.org with African Iris in the subject line and let us know how best to reach you. Thanks!



Congratulations to S.O.I.N. Participants

Congratulations to the schools, students and their families who participated in the Arboretum's nature-oriented outdoor walking competition, Step Out in Nature, which ended March 16. Thanks to the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida Foundation for funding this program, which encouraged active living in the natural environment. In total, 1,538,284 steps were taken by elementary school students from over 200 families.

The top three winning schools and their prizes are:

1. Sabal Palm - \$300 Cash and a plaque
2. Kernan Trail - \$200 Cash and a plaque
3. Abess Park - \$100 Cash and a plaque

The top three winning individuals were from one family associated with Sabal Palm:

1. Adam Walton - \$100 Gift Certificate to Academy Sports, a plaque, and a t-shirt
2. Yusef Walton - \$50 Gift Certificate to Academy Sports, a certificate, and a t-shirt
3. Yesmeen Walton - \$50 Gift Certificate to Academy Sports, a certificate, and a t-shirt

Additionally, the top 25 students will receive gift certificates to Academy Sports, a certificate, and an Arboretum t-shirt. All students who entered the competition will receive a certificate of participation and a t-shirt. To see all the schools that participated, visit www.stepoutinnature.org.

School Is Out, Now Get Those Kids Outdoors

Fearful your children will spend the summer in front of the TV, on the computer, glued to smart phones and video games? Maybe you can't afford summer camps or your child is too young to attend. Why not buy a family membership to the Arboretum and enjoy outdoor activities whenever you want? With 3.5 miles of trails ranging from easy to more difficult, lots of picnic tables and benches, and the covered Reflection Point Pavilion by the lake, there is lots of fun to be had and much outdoor learning to do. Simply click here [Family Membership](#) to access the membership page for more details regarding prices and perks; then use the "Donate" button to pay by credit card or PayPal or send a check to the address listed. As one parent recently stated, "A fun morning trip to the arboretum practically guarantees my child will take an afternoon nap, which is well worth the membership fee."

OUR MISSION

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