



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter
June 2016

**HAPPENING
THIS
MONTH!**

**Volunteer
Workday**

Saturday, June 11
9 AM-12 PM

Nature Walk

Saturday, June 11
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

**Arboretum
Extended
Hours On
Tuesday &
Thursdays**

8:00 AM-7:00 PM

**Save The
Dates!**



Ruby-throated hummingbird photo courtesy of Frank Boston.
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Hummingbirds and other Bird Pollinators

Arbor-EAT-um
Saturday, October 22

**SUPPORTERS
& PARTNERS**

BRONZE PARTNER

Laurence Gierum
Pat & Cliff Jeremiah
Robb & Pam Mitchell
Anthony John Rigney,
PA & Rigney Family
of Jacksonville, FL
Dr. Todd Sack &
Barbara Sharp

SILVER PARTNER

Eldon & Martha
Bekkum
Kotas Family
Foundation/
GE Foundation
Mary Anne & Anwar
Saadeh
Southern Wine &
Spirits

GOLD PARTNER

bestbet Jacksonville
Kevin Driscoll -
The Driscoll Group
David & Bonnie
Foster
Marcia Mederos

In Jacksonville, the ruby-throated hummingbird is the most important bird pollinator. Flowers that are pollinated by hummingbirds tend to have long, tubular shapes and are bright blue, pink, orange or red in color. More important to a hummingbird, however, is the sugar content of the nectar. They will check a wide variety of flowers and then return repeatedly to flowers with nectar that they like. They move pollen from flower to flower on their feathers. Typical hummingbird flowers are those of aloe, firecracker plant, firebush, red buckeye, erythrina, pentas, salvia, honeysuckle, cross vine and trumpet creeper. However, hummingbirds are adaptable. They explore our gardens and learn quickly that bottlebrush, butterfly bush, porterweed, necklace pod and other plants produce flowers that are good sources of nectar.

In the western United States, white-winged doves feed on the nectar and help pollinate the flowers of the saguaro cactus. Lorikeets with specialized tongues feed heavily on nectar and are considered to be the primary pollinators of some Australian plants. Sunbirds, sugar-birds, white eyes, honeycreepers and honeyeaters feed on nectar and pollinate flowers in other parts of the world. Some of them carry pollen on their feathers while others move pollen from flower to flower on their feet.

When bird-pollinated plants from other parts of the world are brought to Florida gardens, other native birds may learn to feed on their nectar. The common yellowthroat warbler has been observed by a few people feeding on the nectar of bird-of-paradise flowers. Prothonotary warbler, catbird and mockingbird have been observed feeding on the nectar of bottlebrush trees. However, these birds do not appear to be important pollinators for these exotic plants.

Hummingbirds and several plants with flowers that attract them may be seen at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. Typically, hummingbirds are at the Arboretum from March to October.

For Donor Programs Information, click [Donor](#) Thank you!

Shop at Amazon Smile

The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens is registered with Amazon Smile, a foundation that donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity. Using your normal account and settings you will find the same low prices and availability. Enjoy shopping and supporting us by visiting smile.amazon.com

JAG

Membership

By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's operations and improvements. All donations are tax-



A few of the May 21st work day volunteers in the Ravine Marsh.



Before the work began.



After the clearing was completed.
All photos courtesy of Merrill Varn.

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
Gold
Partner \$1,000

John Bartram Society

Gatekeeper
\$2500+
Steward \$5000+
President's
Council \$10000+

To join or purchase a gift membership, click [JOIN](#) Thank you!

Ravine Marsh Restoration

On May 21st, five of stalwart volunteers and one newbie arrived for three hours of fun in the mud at the Ravine Marsh Demonstration Area. Plantings from last year were weeded and areas were cleared for new plantings next month.

Want to come help in June?

If so, contact info@jacksonvillearboretum.org to join our conservation corps and help with small restoration areas throughout the property. If it is a particularly nasty workday (like the one in May), there are homemade chocolate chip cookies as a reward.



Bottlebrush photo courtesy of Wendell. License for use:
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Some New Plants at the Arboretum

The Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens plant collection is based on plants that are useful to people. Looking for plants that are suitable for the collection turns up some interesting plants and surprising uses. Many of the traditional uses as medicines have not been substantiated in labs. Some of the other traditional uses have little value in modern society. However, some of these plants have become important in our

modern culture.

For example, we tend to think of bottlebrush trees (*Callistemon*) as having little value other than their landscape use. In Australia, the wood is used for a variety of purposes, their leaves are used for tea and the leaves have been used as antibiotics and as insect repellents by the Aboriginal people. Recent studies verify that leaf and flower extracts inhibited bacterial growth in the lab. With so many reports of antibiotic resistant bacteria, there is a great need for effective new antibiotics. A modern commercial drug from one bottlebrush species is already on the market to treat a rare inherited disorder. Bottlebrush compounds have been shown in labs to be effective in killing insects and intestinal worms. One Australian website reports that a couple of *Callistemon citrinus* flower spikes in cold water makes a refreshing tea. It was not explained but, presumably, this is due to the sweet nectar in the flowers.

The split leaf philodendron (*Philodendron bipinnatifidum*) is used in local landscapes to provide a bold, tropical look. Care must be taken in handling this plant because its sap will irritate the skin. Traditional uses include splitting the roots to use the pieces as cordage and broom straw, applying the irrigating sap externally to treat small wounds and rheumatism, and eating the seeds to kill intestinal worms.

We knew that the olive tree provided us with edible fruits and oil but the number of uses was surprising. If you read your labels, you will find that many soaps, shampoos and cosmetics identify olive oil as an ingredient. Olive wood is a close-grained, dense wood that is not used often because of the great value of the living tree. However, it has been used in turnery, carving and in furniture. Olive leaves and leaf tea uses from around the world include traditional treatments as a mouthwash, for infections, as a sedative, to treat diabetes, for gout, to treat for tapeworms, for ingrown toenails, for diseases of the digestive tract and to treat high blood pressure. Oil from the fruit has been used as a traditional treatment for burns, wounds, arthritic joints and even broken bones.

Each of these plants may be found in the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. Many new plants have been added this year and we continue to search for more interesting plants and plant uses to add to the growing collection.

Disclaimer

Many people around the world do not have ready access to doctors, hospitals and pharmacies. They must turn to the resources at hand to treat their injuries and disorders. These reported uses are offered as items of interest not as recommendations for you to try at home.

Pictures Please

Please keep up with those Arboretum picture posts to Instagram [#jacksonvillearboretum](https://www.instagram.com/jacksonvillearboretum) and facebook www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleArboretumGardens. It helps the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens non-profit identify Arboretum inhabitants and encourages more visitors to the on-site donation box. Thanks!

OUR MISSION

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