



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter March 2017

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Arboretum Gates Open

8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Starting March 14:
8:00 AM -7:00 PM

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, March 11
8 AM-11 AM

Nature Walk

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

Discovering Nature Nearby

Saturday, March 18
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Nature at Night

Saturday, March 25



Photo by Pamela Mattis

Girl Scout Troop 943 Tree Badge

On January 29, 2017 nine members of Girl Scout Troop 943 visited the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens to complete two sections of their

6-9PM

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

BRONZE PARTNER

Stuart & Haze Bergman
Laurence Gierum
Pat & Cliff Jeremiah
Robb & Pam Mitchell
Anthony John Rigney,
PA & Rigney Family
of Jacksonville, FL
Russell Blueberry Farm
Dr. Todd Sack & Barbara
Sharp
Denise Trad-Wartan of
Trad's Garden
Center/Trad's Pest Control

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

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requirements for the Tree Badge. The afternoon began with a discussion of differences in tree anatomy between several trees and then what these same trees have structurally in common. A lively conversation followed the tour that culminated in each girl presenting her drawing of an anatomically correct tree to the group. The afternoon moved on with the planting of a Myrtle Oak according to the National Arbor Day Foundations guidelines and each girl potting a Water Oak seedling to take home and nurture.



Photo by Chuck Hubbuch

Nasturtium

Nasturtium is known to botanists as *Tropaeolum majus*. The genus *Tropaeolum* is native to the Andes Mountains of South America. This species has been cultivated for so long that its origin is not clear. Most believe that it is a hybrid of two or more wild Andean species.

Thank you!

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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

This is an annual plant with trailing or climbing stems. Many of the modern hybrids have a dense, bushy growth habits. The leaf of nasturtium has a distinctive appearance. It is circular with a leaf stalk that attaches near the center. They are grown, primarily, for their colorful, one to two inch wide flowers. The flowers are shades of yellow, coral, orange or red and are sometimes two-toned. The leaves, flowers and seed pods are edible, usually eaten fresh in salads. They have a peppery flavor. Various references state that nasturtium contains vitamin C and more lutein than any other edible plant. Studies suggest that lutein helps protect the eyes from the effects of sun and age. However, one reference suggests that small children and people with gastrointestinal problems should avoid eating the plant.

Traditional uses include applying the leaves externally for skin injury and infections. The seeds contain an oil that has been used in making paints.

This plant grows best during cool weather and is popular for summers in northern parts of the United States. In Jacksonville, it is a cool-season plant but it will be damaged by frosts and killed by a hard freeze. Grow the plants in a container that can be moved under cover in the event of a frost or start the plants in early spring. Seeds germinate within two weeks and grow quickly. Typically, they are beautiful for a few weeks and then die as summer arrives.

Nasturtiums are planted at the walk-in entry of the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens behind the bamboo fence. They are growing well but had not yet started flowering by mid-February.

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Thank you!

Join us at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens for a FREE program

Discovering Nature Nearby



3rd Saturdays - September 2016 through May 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
(No program in December)

Each presentation will be followed by a hands-on activity. Materials will be provided for you to make your own nature journal for recording your observations or storing your photos. Bring out the naturalist or artist in you by recording what you see, hear and feel, taking photos, drawing or painting pictures, making leaf rubbings, starting a lifetime bird list or writing a poem.

 <p>Nov 19 Larry Figart, UF Extension Agency Most common trees at the Arboretum Make leaf rubbings for your journal</p>	 <p>Mar 18 Instructor, GTM Reserve Education Talk on Climate Change and will Conduct a carbon experiment</p>
 <p>Jan 21 Jessica Spencer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Invasive Plants Examples and hands-on activity</p>	 <p>Apr 15 Joan Kramer, Bee & Butterfly Expert Talk on Native Pollinators and Butterfly release, Insect collections</p>
 <p>Feb 18 Jack Hernandez, Co. Forester Annaleasa Winter, Fresh from FL Fire in Florida's Ecosystems Tools, safety gear, take-aways</p>	 <p>May 20 Amy Morie, Former Clay Co. Extension Agent, Wild Florida, Native Plants, Field ID exercise and/or walk</p>

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**Discovering Nature Nearby
Programs for 2017**



Fire in Florida's Ecosystem February 18

Jack Hernandez, Duval County Forrester, and Annaleasa Winter, Fresh from Florida, educated and inspired a multi-generational audience during the March Discovering Nature Nearby program, "Fire in Florida's Ecosystems". Their talk was informative with facts and visual prompts to make it interesting,

tools for demonstration, and materials for further research. After the talk, they took us for a walk in the Arboretum to learn about what a tree can tell us of its history from a core sample.

There were about 35 in attendance. Many participants also made a nature journal to record their sightings or write about their experiences as part of the hands-on segment.



Photo by Merrill Varn

Invasive Plant Roundup

On February 25, 2017 students from Greenwood, two WJCT employees, and five of our regular Conservation corps dug and pulled ardisia, elephant ear, privet, and Boston fern as part of the city wide Invasive Plant Roundup. It was an absolutely spectacular warm sunny Saturday. Thanks everyone for your help.

Show the World You Love the Arboretum

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