



**Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter**  
**March 2018**

**HAPPENING  
THIS MONTH!**

**Arboretum  
Gates Open**

8:00 AM-5:00 PM  
\*Starting March 20  
Tuesday and Thursday  
8:00 AM -7:00 PM

**Interpretive Plant  
Clinic**

Saturday, March 3  
9:30 AM- 10:30 AM

**Volunteer Work  
Day**

Saturday, March 10  
9:00AM-12:00 PM

**Nature Walk**

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

**Kids Tour**

Saturday, March 10  
10:00 AM- 11:00 AM



Photo credit: Chuck Hubbuch

**The Happy Tree**  
by Chuck Hubbuch'

## Discovering Nature Nearby

Saturday, March 17  
9:30 AM- 10:30 AM

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Thank you!

Two species of *Camptotheca* grow in Asia. Only one has a commercial value, *Camptotheca acuminata*. The Chinese name for *Camptotheca acuminata* translates to "happy tree".

Traditionally, it was used in China for a wide variety of problems including colds, cancer, liver disorders and digestion issues. In scientific studies, it was found to contain compounds for medicines to treat cancer in the brain, liver, lungs, ovaries, digestive tract and for leukemia. Also, it inhibits the replication of certain viruses. The reports I read say that the natural compound is highly toxic (so don't do this at home) but several compounds derived from it in the lab are safe and effective. According to one report, the estimated commercial value of these compounds was one billion dollars in 2003.

*Camptotheca* is in the same plant family as tupelo, the *Nyssaceae*. The happy tree is an attractive, deciduous tree with large oval leaves. The leaves have deeply impressed veins. The trunk is straight with smooth gray bark that becomes furrowed with age. Young trees grow rapidly into an upright conical shape. The small, white flowers are produced in spherical clusters that remind me of the flowers of our native buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*. The cluster of seeds is also spherical and turns yellow before it ripens and falls off.

The happy tree is cultivated as an ornamental tree in China. Happy tree seedlings and seeds can be found in mail order sites. They are uncommon in Florida but grow well here. They are at their best in a moist, organic soil in full sun. Reports from China state that they grow to sixty feet or more in

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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

### **Supporters & Corporate Partners**

height. The young tree at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens grew from seeds donated by the Armstrong State University Arboretum in Savannah, Georgia in the late summer of 2015. Already, the tree is over six feet tall. You can see it at the south end of the Lake Loop, not far from the pavilion.

Our native relatives of the happy tree, the tupelos, have a few traditional medicinal uses. Uses have included causing vomiting and treating intestinal worms. None of the traditional uses of the tupelos has translated into modern medicinal uses.

### **One Person Can Do So Much**

by Angela Chene

In a traffic-heavy, paved-over city like Jacksonville, visiting the Arboretum feels like a cool, green sanctuary away from the maddening world. People visit for all kinds of reasons: parents with kids' who have boundless energy, painters with crazy talent, college students working on degrees, and people like me- meditatively listening and watching it all.

There are a few tidbits of etiquette and rules that we should all keep in mind so everyone can enjoy all the Arboretum has to offer.

Have you noticed little bamboo fences popping up here and there like dandelions? Those protect gopher tortoise habitat, delicate baby plants and new transplants that can't seem to catch a break

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**Thank you!**

from off-trail foot traffic. In general, stay on marked trails. Little kids and dogs can't even read the signs to stay on the trails, so it's up to you.

As enticing as the trails are, they're not for bikes. Definitely ride your bike to the Arboretum, but chain it up in the parking lot and then walk in.

No one wants to be that person that mows down a sweet little old lady on a blind curve. Bikes are hard on trails anyway, so show some respect.

To me, seeing kids get excited about nature is one of the best things here. Collecting those painted rocks makes them giggle with glee, but please place them where no one has to go stomping off trail to get them. And remind kids to be careful what they touch, since not all plants play nice.

Even our canine companions seem to love the Arboretum, but they need to be on a leash that's eight feet or shorter. And you already know this, but I'll say it anyway: pick up that poo, and save yourself from a steaming pile of bad karma. Plus, it's bad for the environment to just leave it there.

You can see all the official rules on our website or on the big board by the parking lot. A good rule of thumb is to think how you'd want people to treat your yard (or not) and act accordingly at the Arboretum. Spring is here, so let's get out there!

**Interpretive Plant Clinic**

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

# Interpretive Plant Series



1st Saturdays October 2017 through March 2018 (excluding December)

9:30 a.m. in the Picnic Area (the picnic area is wheelchair accessible)



Chinese fringe tree, *Chioanathus retusus* 'ET'  
Collection, Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens

## Chuck Hubbuch

Acting Curator  
Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens

has many interesting stories to tell  
about the Arboretum's plants

Come and enjoy his series about the many uses of plants by people  
using examples in the Jacksonville Arboretum Gardens plant collection.

This will be oriented toward adults, but children are welcome.

1445 Millcoe Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

[info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org)

## Discovering Nature Nearby

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



DISCOVERING  
**NATURE  
NEARBY**

JACKSONVILLEARBORETUM.COM

**SPRING 2018**



**3rd Saturdays January to May 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the Picnic Area**  
The picnic area is wheelchair accessible

**Jan 20**



Danielle D'Amato, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will talk about an important resident of the arboretum, the gopher tortoise explaining their habitat needs and what we can do to help protect this important species.

**Feb 17**



Alice Shinkos, UF Master Naturalist and Artist will present: "Nature Journals for Beginning Naturalists of All Ages". Join in the creative fun while documenting nature by drawing, painting and writing.

**Mar 17**



Annaleasa Winter, Fresh from Florida, and Dave Holley, Duval County Forrester, will talk about trees. They will demonstrate how to make handmade paper and leaf rubbings.

**Apr 21**



Dr. Tony Rossi, UNF Entomology Professor will present an Insect Discovery Walk and Talk. Identification of species and insect collections will be available for viewing.

**May 19**



Second Annual Butterfly Release with collections, posters and demonstrations of our most common Florida butterflies. Native species will be available for participants to release.



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**More Nature Opportunities**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays Nov 2017 & Jan - Mar 2018 9:30am  
Chuck Hubbsch's JAG Plant Interpretive Series  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Nature Tours starting at 9:30 am



**RAYONIER**  
Advanced Materials  
1445 Millicoe Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

## Journaling like a Naturalist



Photo credit: Alice Shinkos

At the February 17 Discovering Nature Nearby program, participants received written and verbal directions on how to observe nature. To record their observations everyone was given an instruction page, documentation pages and a journal. As they walked about they were encouraged to write or draw what they saw. Several families were in attendance and much fun was had by all during their exploring and observing.

### **Time Change**

With the beginning of daylight savings time this month the Arboretum will be open until 7:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday. The change begins on Tuesday March 20th and ends Thursday September 6th, 2018.

### **Air Potato Roundup**

# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual First Coast Air Potato (and other invasive plant) Round-up



***Come Join the Fun and Help Preserve Our Conservation Lands!***

Volunteers are needed to help rid our natural areas of Air Potato vine and other invasive plants. Invasive species smother our native plants and are one of the **greatest ecological threats to natural communities in Florida.**

Gather all your friends and family & participate in this fun event! No registration necessary unless you're bringing a large group. Just grab your garden gloves and head over to one of the many work sites! **All participants will be entered into a random drawing for great prizes!**

## Event Work Sites:

### Deep Creek Conservation Area - Edgefield Tract

473 County Road 207A  
East Palatka, FL 32131  
**Site Captain:** Tyler Green  
[Tgreen@sjrwmfd.com](mailto:Tgreen@sjrwmfd.com)

### Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens

1445 Millcoo Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32225  
**Site Captain:** Merrill Varn  
[info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org)

### Walter Jones Historical Park

11964 Mandarin Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32223  
**Site Captain:** Gabriele Dempsey  
[gkdjax@gmail.com](mailto:gkdjax@gmail.com)

### Dutton Island Preserve

793 Dutton Island Road West  
Jacksonville, FL 32233  
**Site Captain:** Felicia Boyd  
[fboyd@timucuanparks.org](mailto:fboyd@timucuanparks.org)

### Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens

370 Zoo Parkway  
Jacksonville, FL 32218  
*Volunteers meet @ the zoo Picnic Grove at the back of the main parking lot.*  
**Site Captain:** Chris Dailey  
[daileyc@jacksonvillezoo.org](mailto:daileyc@jacksonvillezoo.org)

### St. Johns River State College

**Orange Park Campus**  
283 College Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065  
*Park & meet in the Health Bldg parking lot*  
**Site Captain:** Karen Meyer  
[KarenMeyer@sjrstate.edu](mailto:KarenMeyer@sjrstate.edu)

### Tree Hill Nature Center

7152 Lone Star Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32211  
**Site Captain:** Mark Mummaw  
[mark@treehill.org](mailto:mark@treehill.org)

### Camp Chownenwaw County Park

1517 Ball Road  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043  
**Site Captain:** Ann Stodola  
[Ann.Stodola@claycountygov.com](mailto:Ann.Stodola@claycountygov.com)

### Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

500 Wonderwood Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32233  
*Stop at park office and identify as a round-up participant.*  
**Site Captain:** Daniel Lambert  
[DLambert@coj.net](mailto:DLambert@coj.net)

**Saturday March 3, 2018**  
**9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**



For more information contact Jessica Spencer at 904-232-1696 or [Jessica.E.Spencer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jessica.E.Spencer@usace.army.mil)  
For information on a specific site, please contact the listed site captain.  
To learn more about invasive plants, visit: [www.floridainvasives.org](http://www.floridainvasives.org), [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org) or [www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu)

## 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

## Kids Tour of the Arboretum



This tour is designed to teach kids the relationship between people and the environment.

The group will be taken around the arboretum and shown what plants can be used for purposes such as food, medicine, fibers, culture, and environmental factors. Kids will learn that plants are essential to life as we know it.

This free tour is designed for kids roughly ages

7-12 and will be held every second Saturday of the month. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the picnic area and will continue until 11:00 a.m. This program will not only get the kids outside and letting out some energy, but it will also teach them facts and skills they can take to their families and schools.

**Please email [arboretum4kids@gmail.com](mailto:arboretum4kids@gmail.com) as spots are limited**

McKenna Korzeniewski is a senior at UNF, double majoring in Global Environmental Studies and Religious Studies. She has been working in horticulture since 2010. She currently interns at the Jacksonville Arboretum and is the Peace Corps Ambassador for UNF. McKenna recently studied abroad at Chiang Mai University in Thailand and hopes to go into agriculture education in the future.

### **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](https://www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleArboretumGardens)  
We appreciate it!

#### **OUR MISSION**

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

