



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter October 2016

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Arboretum Gates Open

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Extended summer hours
ended

Arbor-EAT-um

Saturday October, 22
3 PM-6 PM

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, October 8
8 AM-11 PM

Nature Walk

Saturday, October 8
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Discovering Nature Nearby



ARBOR EAT UM
WINE & FOOD FEST

Join Us for Wine in the Woods

The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens will host its third Arbor"EAT"um event on October 22nd from 3 PM to 6PM. Many of Jacksonville's beloved restaurants will provide samples of their signature dishes, while craft beers and over 100 different wine selections are offered for tasting. The event will be held lakefront with live musical entertainment by Sidetrack Duo. Arboretum members receive a 10% discount on tickets, which can be purchased on-line through the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens' web

Saturday, October 15
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

BRONZE PARTNER

Stuart & Haze
Bergman
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

site or by clicking [Arbor"EAT"um tickets](#). We can not wait to see you there!

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)

 <p>Oct 15 Alex Diaz, UNF Photography Professor Photographing nature, Talk & Walk Bring your camera, cell cameras OK.</p>	 <p>Feb 18 Jack Hernandez, Co. Forester Annaleesa Winter, Fresh from FL Fire in Florida's Ecosystems Tools, safety gear, take-aways</p>
 <p>Nov 19 Larry Figari, 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>May 20 Amy Morio, Former Clay Co. Extension Agent, Wild Florida, Native Plants, Field ID exercise and/or walk.</p>

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1445 Millcoe Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225 info@jacksonvillearboretum.org

Discovering Nature Nearby Programs for 2016-2017

University of North Florida Photography professor, Alex Diaz, will lead a program on nature photography Saturday October 15th at 9:30 AM. Come out to the Arboretum's picnic area for our second Discovering Nature Nearby program brought to you

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-deductible. Details

by TD Bank, Rayonier Advanced Materials, and the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens. Each third Saturday of the month through May 2017, with a break in December, expert presenters educate the public on a wide variety of topics. All ages and abilities are welcome free of charge, although contributions to our donation box are greatly appreciated. Bring your camera, bug spray, and a keen eye. We would love to see your work posted on the [Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens Facebook page!](#)



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!

Photo courtesy of Chuck Hubbuch.

Thank You JU Sigma Chi!

Members of the Jacksonville University Sigma Chi fraternity joined us on the garden work day that occurs on the second Saturday of each month. This gave us the opportunity to tackle the strenuous task of dividing old clumps of bamboo and replanting them in a better site. The bamboo will be used for educational purposes, harvesting for plant stakes, fencing, and other crafts. Additional volunteers helped with weeding, fence repair, and planting.



Casava *Manihot esculenta*
Photo courtesy of Chuck Hubbuch.

A Tale of Two Tubers

The sweet potato, *Ipomoea batatas*, has been cultivated by people for so long that its wild origin is not clear. Central America seems to be the center of diversity for the plant and is likely to be its source. Christopher Columbus introduced the sweet potato to Europe. However, Polynesians in the South Pacific acquired the sweet potato even earlier. Exactly how they got it is still being debated. Today, sweet potatoes

are cultivated around the world.

To our north, sweet potato is planted new each spring. Here in north Florida, it is a perennial that dies back in winter and returns in spring. Besides the plant's well-known edible tuber, sweet potatoes with unusual leaves are grown as ornamental plants in the garden. Ornamental sweet potatoes may have leaves that are yellow, purple or variegated with white and pink. Some varieties have long, trailing stems while others are more compact. They are especially useful in containers where their pendant stems are displayed well. Also, the tender young shoots and leaves of sweet potatoes are eaten in many parts of the world as greens. According to reports, fresh leaves contain small amounts of toxic compounds and should be eaten infrequently and in small quantities. To be safer, cooking them destroys at least some of the compounds. The flavor of sweet potato leaves is mild and they provide several minerals, lutein and vitamins A, C and B2.

As with the sweet potato, cultivation of cassava, *Manihot esculenta*, began thousands of years ago. However, its origins are clearer because its wild relatives are still found in Brazil. The different selections of cassava plants are considered to be sweet or bitter. The roots of bitter cultivars contain dangerous levels of cyanide and must be prepared properly for consumption. Typically, this process includes grinding the root into flour and then drying, soaking, fermenting and/or cooking. This flour is the source of tapioca and has been used also to make glue and laundry starch. The bitter plant is popular with farmers because insect pests and other animals do not eat the plants. The skin of the roots of the sweet types contains cyanide but the root is safe after the skin is removed. Sweet cassava roots may be cooked and

eaten much like a potato. The leaves of the cassava should not be eaten. Plants with variegated leaves make attractive specimens in gardens. Information on the plant's cold hardiness varies from one report to another and we do not have much experience with cassava at the Arboretum yet. Plants may die back to the ground in winter but plants in the warmer parts of Jacksonville have survived winters to resprout in spring.

Ornamental sweet potatoes with purple foliage and with yellow-green leaves are used as ground covers at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. A young variegated cassava plant can be seen on the north side of the lake.

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.*

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