



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter September 2016

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

**Volunteer
Workday**
Saturday, September 10
Summer Hours
8 AM-11 PM

Nature Walk
Saturday, September 10
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

**Discovering
Nature Nearby**
Saturday, September 17
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

**Nature At
Night**
Saturday, September 24
6 PM-9 PM

Arboretum

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)

 Sept 17 Tony Daly-Crews, FWS, Herpetofauna Venomous reptiles in safe cages Plus: Intro to Arboretum ecosystems	 Feb 18 Jack Hernandez, Co. Forrester Annaleas Winter, Fresh from FL Fire in Florida's Ecosystems Tools, safety gear, take-aways
 Oct 15 Alex Diaz, UNF Photography Professor Photographing nature, Talk & Walk Bring your camera, cell cameras OK	 Mar 18 Instructor, GTM Reserve Education Talk on Climate Change and will Conduct a carbon experiment
 Nov 19 Larry Figert, UF Extension Agency Most common trees at the Arboretum Make leaf rubbings for your journal	 Apr 15 Joan Kramer, Bee & Butterfly Expert Talk on Native Pollinators and Butterfly release, Insect collections
 Jan 21 Jessica Spencer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Invasive Plants Examples and hands-on activity	 May 20 Amy Morie, Former Clay Co. Extension Agent, Wild Florida, Native Plants, Field ID exercise and/or walk

 

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

Discovering Nature Nearby Programs

**Extended
Hours On
Tuesday &
Thursdays
8:00 AM-7:00 PM**

**Save The
Dates!**

Arbor-EAT-um
Saturday, October 22

**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

for 2016-2017

Thanks to grants from TD Bank and Rayonier Advanced Materials, the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens will be starting up the Discovering Nature Nearby program series. Each third Saturday of the month between September and May, with a break in December, expert presenters will educate audiences on a wide variety of topics. All ages and abilities are welcome free of charge, although contributions to our donation box are greatly appreciated.

Come out to the Arboretum's picnic area at 9:30 AM on Saturday September 17th for our first program, which will include a brief introduction to the Arboretum and its ecosystems followed by a reptile presentation focusing on venomous snakes complete with live specimens. There is limited seating, so bring a lawn chair if possible. Bug spray is recommended. Most programs will take place in the shade and our new water bottle filling station is handy should you need it.

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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Arboretum &
Gardens is
registered with
Amazon Smile, a
foundation that
donates a portion of
all sales to a
shopper's favorite
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normal account and
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**Dinner On Us
To Thank JAG Members & Volunteers**

Saturday September 24th from 6 PM to 9 PM dinner and entertainment are free for Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens members and volunteers. If you would like to attend, please [RSVP HERE](#) by noon the day of the event and put "Nature at Night" in the subject line. JAG-supporters Certified Steak & Seafood and Potter's House "Soul Food Bistro" will provide food. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available, as well as Regal Cinemas' popcorn. Local singer/songwriter Terry Whitehead will play music under the stars. Please remember to bring your own lawn chairs, bug spray, and flash lights. We will bring the s'mores!

**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**

Bronze Partner
\$250
Silver
Partner \$500
Gold
Partner \$1,000

**John Bartram
Society**

Gatekeeper
\$2500+



Rose Cactus *Pereskia grandiflora*
Photo courtesy of Chuck Hubbuch.

A Cactus For Your Salad

The rose cactus (*Pereskia grandiflora*) is an unusual cactus. It is not a desert plant but is native to forests of Costa Rica and Panama. Its common name reflects the fact that its flower resembles a single pink rose. Flowers appear throughout the summer. Without trimming, it can grow to twenty-five feet tall and develop a tree-like appearance. It responds well to trimming and can be maintained as a shrub. Clusters of spines, typical of cacti, are dotted along its stems. The

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thing that makes this cactus unusual is that its branches are covered by four-inch long leaves.

These leaves and fruits are edible. Tender, young leaves have a lettuce-like flavor and texture. Traditional uses of the plant include treatment of cancer, ulcers, rheumatism, inflammation, headaches and stomach pains. In parts of Asia, it is known as the cancer plant and some people make a point of eating several leaves each day. Modern medicine is not making use of this plant yet, but one report states that lab results show activity against certain cancer cells without damage to healthy cells.

The rose cactus grows easily in a container or in the ground in north Florida. However, it is not reliably cold hardy here. The tender new portions of its stems can be damaged by winter temperatures in the mid-20's F. It may be killed to the ground by temperatures in the low 20's and killed outright by winter lows that drop into the teens. Fortunately, cuttings root easily, so a small piece may be kept on a windowsill through the winter as a back-up.



Visit Other Arboretums & Gardens for Free with Your JAG Membership

In August three generations of the Perle and Simmons families were able to visit the North Carolina Arboretum free of charge, simply by showing their Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens family/household membership cards. Family/household memberships cover two adults, as well as children and grandchildren under the age of 18, and come with many perks you can find listed here: [memberships](#). One of these is the American Horticultural Society (AHS) Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP), which adds to the value of a Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens membership by providing special admission privileges and other benefits at [RAP-participating locations](#) (~300) throughout North America and the Cayman Islands. So whether you have a bunch of grandkids you would like to get out doors more or you love to travel and save money, consider supporting the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens with a family/household membership. You will not regret it!

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