



## Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter September 2019 Edition

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

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**Children's Tour**  
**Saturday,**  
**September 7**  
**10 - 11 a.m.**

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**Family Art Day**  
**Saturday,**  
**September 7**  
**11 a.m.**  
**&**  
**1 p.m.**

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**Volunteer Work**  
**Day**  
**Saturday,**  
**September 14**  
**8 - 11 a.m.**

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### Meet Our New Horticulturist

In August, Shayan N. Khatibi was hired as a part-time horticulturist for Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens (JAG). Khatibi (pronounced ha-tee-bee) will be responsible for a variety of gardening duties, including assisting with choices of plant sourcing, the propagation of material used in developing plant collections, preparing plant beds, and assisting the executive director and board in creating garden sponsorship descriptions and cost estimates for donor and sponsor opportunities at the arboretum.

He will also assist long-time Arboretum volunteer Merrill Varn in managing volunteers and working with groups during various volunteer projects. "This is truly a special piece of land and I look forward to cultivating and stewarding it for all of us," he said. "I'm honored and excited to be part of the team at the arboretum and I'm looking forward to the opportunity."

**Monarch Butterfly  
Release  
Saturday,  
September 21  
9:30 a.m.**

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**Nature Walk  
Saturday,  
September 28  
9 - 10 a.m.  
Walk with our  
naturalist/biologist  
Walks are free**

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**Family Art Day  
Saturday,  
September 28  
11 a.m.  
&  
1 p.m.**

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**Children's Tour  
Saturday,  
October 5  
10 - 11 a.m.**

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**Arboretum  
Gates Open  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Monday -**



**Shayan Khatibi**

Khatibi, who received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Central Florida, says his fascination with plants and passion for horticulture stem from experiences gardening with his grandfather as a child. "I cultivated plants through my youth and took a strong liking to vegetable gardening, and while earning my degree in biology from the University of Central Florida I focused my coursework on botany and biochemistry," he said.

Since graduating in 2011, Khatibi has taken on many professional horticultural roles working for companies like Walt Disney World, Knox Nursery and KYV Farms. "The Arboretum allows me to combine the art of design and the science of horticulture for the visitor's pleasure and I'm very excited to work with the community to cultivate the Arboretum to its fullest potential," he said. "The mature trees create unique microclimates where we can incorporate new specimens and push the limits of our zone. In addition, the pond and elevation

**Thursday  
&  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday - Sunday**

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**SUPPORTERS  
& PARTNERS**

**GOLD PARTNER  
\$1,000+**

Ron and Carol Russell,  
Russell Blueberry  
Farm

**SILVER PARTNER  
\$500+**

John & Sondie Frus  
Anthony John Rigney,  
PA & Rigney Family  
of Jacksonville, FL

**BRONZE PARTNER  
\$250+**

Mary Ann and Shepard  
Bryan Jr.

**MEMBER FRIENDS  
\$100+**

Eldon and Martha  
Bekkum

Stuart and Haze  
Bergman

Alex Broner

Marsha Brown and Pete

changes give us the opportunity to showcase some of the native plants that gave Florida its name."

The JAG Board of Directors approved funding for the part-time position earlier this year, which it deemed critical to the further development of the gardens. "In addition to fundraising, the maintenance of the gardens and plantings at the Arboretum and the addition of new garden areas are key to the sustainability of this great botanical garden over the long term," said JAG Board President Ron Whittington. "Also, we wanted to ensure we continued to build upon the foundation that Chuck Hubbuch had established for our gardens."

Hubbuch, who continues to lend his support to the Arboretum, retired from his landscaping position at the University of North Florida in March and was term-limited off the JAG Board of Directors last August after serving nine years on the board.

"With Chuck's departure, and even before that, Chuck and the other board members had determined this was a critical position for our organization," Whittington said. "We interviewed several great candidates, but we were very impressed with Shayan's quick study of the gardens, his enthusiasm for job and the potential he saw in the Arboretum's future development."

## **A-1 Coastal Paving Selected for South Loop Project**

In August, the Arboretum Board of Directors approved a contract with A-1 Coastal Paving to complete the South Lake Loop paving project, representing a major capital investment in the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens.



Starling

Carlos and Davron  
Cardenas

Stephen A. Connelly  
and Ellen O. Middleton

Catharine Corbin

Carol Spawn Desmond

John Fischer

David and Bonnie  
Foster

Pat and Cliff Jeremiah

Charles and Sarah  
Kleeman

Jim and Kathy Kotas

Vicki Lake and Nick  
Garpetti

Janine Leland and Tom  
Larson

Donald Lookingbill

Linda Martin

Julie and Bill Mason

Barbara and Charles  
McTiernan

Bonnie Nackino

Peggy Nolan

Vincent and Susan Ober  
Jr.

Again, the board wants to thank long-time volunteer and supporter Marcia Mederos for providing the lead gift, all the individuals who donated during the 2018 annual holiday appeal and the Delores Barr Weaver Fund - which provided a \$9,000 match to additional individual donations to the capital campaign earlier this year.

"Thanks to these generous contributions to the organization, JAG will soon be able to provide permanent ADA accessibility to the pavilion area for elderly and mobility-impaired visitors," said JAG Board President Ron Whittington. "Also, A-1 Coastal Paving is already familiar with the gardens and has pledged to will work with JAG to ensure the public can still access the other areas of the Arboretum while the project is under way."

## JAG Named 2019 JaxBest Choice for Best Local Trail

The Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens has been named the 2019 JaxBest choice for best local trail by WJXT's News 4 Jax and CW 17 viewers. Trails within the Arboretum are graded easiest, moderate, and more difficult based on terrain and length. Whether you're in the mood for a stroll or a vigorous walk, are more than three miles of trails to explore. It's easy to get your steps in here and unwind at the same time.



Watch Executive Director, Diane Machaby's interview on WJXT from July, 11 [here](#).

## New Sand Ridge Trail Guide

Robert and Vivien Parks

Jane and John Pope

Terrone and Carolyn  
Rosenberry

Tony and Rachel  
Stewart

Lorin Thies

Mary and Joel Toomey

Robin Wahby

Michael Zambetti

[Click here to find out  
more about  
Donor Programs!](#)

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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

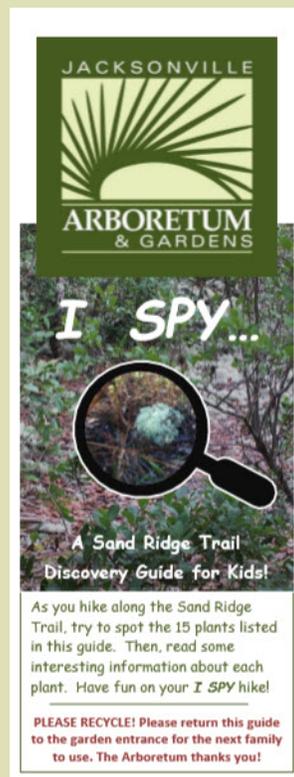
### **Supporters**

Next time you visit the Arboretum, consider taking a hike on our Sand Ridge Trail (Formerly Rosemary Ridge Trail) using our new I Spy Trail Guide.

A team from the University of Florida's Master Naturalists program developed this guide. Who are Master Naturalists? They are members of the public trained on the unique ecology of our state. They don't just learn about Florida's ecology, they also look to give back through projects that promote awareness, respect and understanding of Florida's natural world. With that spirit, the team chose the Arboretum for a community-focused project that could educate visitors on one of the unique ecosystems that thrives here, the Uplands.

Uplands are areas that do not get flooded and are dominated by dry, nutrient-poor soil. These areas support plants adapted to these demanding conditions. Our Sand Ridge Trail is a great example of a thriving Uplands ecosystem. To add a twist to your typical trail guide, the team geared it's guide toward kids - or the kid in all of us! The guide's title, I Spy, encourages hikers to explore the Sand Ridge trail by looking for fifteen specific plants. The locations and pictures of the plants are identified in the guide, along with a brief explanation of each plant and what makes that plant unique. The guide begins with Christmas lichen, a red patchy growth on many of the Sand Ridge Trail's trees, and ends with Devilwood, a small tree named because its wood is so difficult to split and work. Hikers are also encouraged to take the Deer Moss side trail to spot the rare Florida Rosemary.

You can find the guide at the kiosk at the Arboretum entrance.



## **& Corporate Partners**

Bronze Partner \$250

Silver Partner \$500

Gold Partner \$1,000

### **John Bartram**

#### **Society**

#### **Gatekeeper**

\$2,500+

#### **Steward**

\$5,000+

#### **President's Council**

\$10,000+

To join or purchase a  
gift membership, click

[JOIN](#)

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](http://smile.amazon.com)



Come out and Discover Nature Nearby (DNN) with a **Monarch Butterfly Program and Release on September 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in the picnic area. Our native butterfly expert will focus on how to create a habitat for monarchs and other butterflies. She will also demonstrate how to tag monarchs for their fall migration. Native butterfly species such as our state insect, the zebra longwing, and julias will be released by participants in envelopes provided by Butterfly Worx. Native pollinator plants will be available as take-aways so you can start or add to your own pollinator garden.



Duval Audubon will host a fall bird walk to identify local residents and migrating species on **October 19 from 8 to 10 a.m.** Meet in the parking lot. Binoculars are required. DNN will be directly following the Audubon walk with local artists available to help you create a drawing or painting of birds that frequent the arboretum.

Materials will be provided.

Mark your calendars for other upcoming DNN programs (9:30 a.m. in the picnic area):

- **November 16** - identifying and painting the trees of the arboretum, materials provided
- **January 18, 2020** - a nature program by Kelly Ussia, St. John's Parks Naturalist, on alligators and reptiles

### **Wanted Children's Tour Guide**

JAG is seeking a qualified candidate for the Children's Tour Guide position. The ideal candidate needs to have general knowledge of plants and the environment and enjoy working with children. A small stipend will be paid for this position. Currently, the tours are held the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. for approximately one hour. If you are interested, email Diane Machaby at [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org).

### **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.*

