



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter February 2015

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Volunteer Gatekeepers
Needed for
Monday evenings & Wednesday &
Thursday mornings
info@jacksonvillearboretum.org

Nature at Night
Member/Volunteer Only Event
Campfire, Food, Music & More!
Saturday, February 28
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
[RSVP HERE](#) with "Nature at Night"
& the number in your party in the
subject line. Guests of members &
volunteers may attend for \$5 per adult
and \$2 per child. Attendance is limited
to 100.

**Greenscape of Jacksonville
Annual Flowering Tree Sale**
Saturday, February 28
7 a.m.

**Fun Family Outdoor
Activity**
Saturday, February 7 & 21
9:30 a.m.
For details visit
www.stepoutinnature.org



EVENT RETURNS



Volunteer Workday

Saturday, February 7
9 a.m. - Noon

A Walk in the Woods

Fitness walk
Brisk 3 mile hike
Saturday, February 14 & 28
8 a.m.

Nature Walk

with naturalist/biologist
Saturday, February 14 and 28
9:30 a.m.

Photo Hike

Saturday, February 14
2 - 3 p.m.

Air Potato Roundups

Saturday, February 21 for kids
Saturday, February 28 for everyone
9 a.m. - Noon

SAVE THE DATES!

A Brush with Nature Plein Air Painting Event

April 16-18, 2015
For more information go to
www.abrushwithnature.org

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

BRONZE PARTNER

Eli & Martha Bekkum
Laurence Gierum
Robb & Pam Mitchell
Dr. Todd Sack & Barbara Sharp

The Arboretum is once again hosting A Brush with Nature. This hugely popular fundraiser and plein air painting event will feature more than 35 renowned landscape artists painting in the beautiful settings of the Arboretum. Visitors can watch and interact with the artists, view created works in the "wet tent", and even purchase a paintings at the event and a special off-site reception. Other event activities include artists' demonstrations, guided nature tours, live music, food trucks, and children's art activities. Organizing this amazing three-day event requires months of planning, scores of volunteers, and generous funding. Here are the many ways you can help:

Event Sponsor: Sponsors receive recognition at the event and on our website with additional benefits at higher levels. To receive a sponsor package, please contact Gail Beveridge at info@jacksonvillearboretum.org.

Advertiser: Place an ad in the Artists' Catalog distributed free to all event visitors. The catalog includes a complete schedule, trail map, and artists' images and contact information.

Art Patron: Pre-purchase Patron Awards in \$200 increments and receive free and early admission to the Artists' Reception & Show on Saturday evening at bestbet Jacksonville. All \$200 goes toward the purchase of a painting, at the event or reception, with proceeds benefiting the artist and the Arboretum.

Art Buyer: With 37 artists painting for three days, there will be a wealth of subject matter, media, size, and price range to choose from. It's a win, win, win! The buyers gets original art work; the artist's hard work is acknowledged; and the Arboretum receives 50% of the purchase price.

Volunteer: Volunteering at the event is fun and there are many positions available including greeters, artist support, parking attendants, setup and breakdown

SILVER PARTNER

**Kevin Driscoll - The Driscoll
Group
Marcia Mederos**

GOLD PARTNER

bestbet Jacksonville

**For more information about the
Donor Programs, go to
www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/support
[us](#).**

Thank you!

Shop at Amazon Smile

The Jacksonville Arboretum is registered with Amazon Smile. This amazon.com foundation donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity, while providing the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience using your same account and settings. Enjoy shopping and supporting the Arboretum at the same time by clicking [Buy at Smile!](#) or purchase through smile.amazon.com

Become a JAG Member

We have revised our membership levels and added more benefits in appreciation of your support. Details are available on our website. By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day

crew, and more.

For more information on the event and how to help, please go to www.abrushwithnature.org.

9th Annual First Coast Air Potato Round-Up

As part of National Invasive Species Awareness Week February 22-28, the arboretum will have two Air Potato Round-Up events. A kid-themed round up on the 21st will include games, such as potato sack races, and a short gathering of air potatoes. On February 28th from 9 a.m. - noon there will be a more labor intensive removal of invasive plants culminating with a King Cake. The First Coast Invasive Work group awards a prize for the biggest potato on the whole First Coast and the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens will give certificates for the most potatoes picked up by an individual and by a team. Youth participants are welcome at both events, but there must be at least one adult "supervisor" for every ten volunteers under 18 years of age. Come join the fun wearing long sleeves, long pants, tie shoes and gloves and bring small buckets and heavy plastic garbage bags for potato toting.

Tea from Your Tree

When we think of tea, most of us think of iced sweet tea. This iconic southern beverage is made of plants: leaves of tea camellia, dried granules of sugar cane sap and, often, a slice of a lemon. In fact, the camellia leaf tea is known simply as tea while all other kinds of tea must be described with adjectives and other names. For the sake of comparison, common, commercial tea is referred to as camellia tea in this note. If you have not already done so, take a look at the many different kinds of tea that come from around the world in your local market. Only a few contain the eye-opening caffeine of camellia leaf tea, but they offer a wide variety of flavors and many of them are packed with valuable minerals and antioxidants.

operations and planned improvements, plus your donation is tax-deductible.

Membership Levels

\$ 40 Single
\$ 55 Dual
\$ 70 Family
\$ 100 Friend

Supporters & Corporate Partners

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

John Bartram Society

\$ 2,500+ Gatekeeper
\$ 5,000+ Steward
\$ 10,000+ President's
Council

**To join or purchase a gift
membership, click
[JOIN](#) and Support Us!**

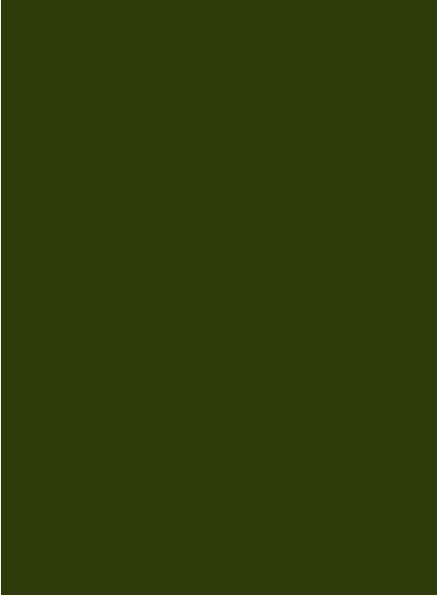
THANK YOU!

Rooibos is a popular tea from South Africa gaining popularity in the United States and around the world. The taste is slightly bitter so a rooibos tea may be blended with vanilla or other natural flavors to make it more palatable. Yerba mate tea from South America is gaining popularity around the world. It is made from the leaves of a holly, *Ilex paraguariensis*, and it does contain caffeine. Lots of different herbal teas are available, too. Ginger, citrus, chamomile, lemon grass, mint and other herbs and flavors are commonly used in herbal teas.

Dr. Jack Putz at the University of Florida has been promoting a tea that is very close to home for us in Jacksonville. Yaupon holly leaves contain caffeine and have been used for tea in the eastern United States for centuries. Native Americans shared the tea with European colonists. Commercial growers existed in the 1800's but the drink lost popularity as commercial tea from Europe became more accessible and affordable. It seems this is more of a decision about social status than taste or health benefits. Yaupon tea contains about as much caffeine as camellia tea and is reported to have the antioxidant value of blueberries. Yaupon holly is native to Florida and several different cultivars are grown in our yards and at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. Dr. Putz reports that caffeine level is highest in the weeping selection, 'Pendula.' The leaves may be blackened in a skillet, baked in an oven, or blanched prior to tea making. The resulting drink has a pleasant flavor and color similar to that of commercial green tea.

5 Reasons to Give Your True Love a Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens Membership

- 1) You did the chocolate & roses last year
- 2) An entire year to enjoy nature with your sweetie
- 3) What says commitment more than your name & hers/ his on a membership card together?



4) Show you were listening when the two of you had that conversation about "getting off the couch and getting some exercise"

5) Show you support your community, what's's more appealing than showing you care for your surroundings!

And if any of these 5 reasons lead to a possible engagement we have a beautiful setting for a wedding.

Happy Valentines Day !!

OUR MISSION

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