



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter April 2014

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

**Discovering Nature
Nearby:
Edible & Medicinal Plants**
Saturday, April 5
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Volunteer Workday
Help us maintain your Arboretum and keep it looking good. Volunteer Workdays are a great way to engage in outdoor activities while giving back to the community. We have some tools and gloves available, but you are welcome to bring your own clippers and gloves. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.
Saturday, April 12
9 am - Noon

Pavilion Dedication
Please join the Board of the Jacksonville Arboretum as we cut the ribbon to on our new pavilion. This handsome covered shelter offers our



Moon Rising over Lake Ray at Owl Prowl

Photo by Priscilla Ford

Owl Prowl

Our member/volunteer only Owl Prowl on March 15 was a great success and as if on cue, the almost full-moon rose over Lake Ray to add to the beautiful evening. Guests enjoyed a variety of delicious food offerings and roasted hot dogs over the fire and later marshmallows to make s'mores. There were games for the kids, music by Jonathon Lynn, a talk & display about owls and a walk through the woods to call the

visitors a shady spot to rest and take in the view of Lake Ray and will also be used for special events. We look forward to seeing you at this celebration.

Friday, April 25
2-3 PM.

A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, April 12 & 26
8 am Fitness Walk
Brisk 3 mile hike

Saturday, April 26
9:30 am Nature Walk
with naturalist/biologist
Walks are free.

SAVE THE DATES!

Discovering Nature Nearby

Mark you calendars for upcoming programs in this series. Details in upcoming newsletters

Native Plants

May 3
9 am - Noon

Geocaching with a Smart Phone

June 21
9 am - 10:30 am

ALSO

Blooms Galore and More
The Garden club of

owls.

Many thanks to our sponsors and committee volunteers, including: Jim Mace & Team Black, Soul Food Bistro, Certified Steak & Seafood Company, Fiji Natural Artesian Water, Russell Stover, Home Depot, Southern Wine & Spirits, Regal Theaters - Elaine Fowler, Jonathon Lynn - Music, Katie Lay - Graphics, First Coast Signs, REI Jacksonville and Willis Jones & his event committee - Carol Wyninger, Pete Miller, Ellen Lowman, Mary& Stewart Belet, Donovan Geoghegan, Jane Pope & Gail Beveridge.

DISCOVERING NATURE NEARBY

As a continuation of the "Discovering Nature Nearby" series the Arboretum will be featuring a program on **Edible & Medicinal Plants**. This program will be presented by Beverly Fleming and Lesley Royce on Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Ms. Fleming and Ms. Royce will profile some historically edible and medicinal plants of Northeast Florida. They will also offer hints to participants on how to identify these targeted plants, many of which are commonly found in our area. Reference books will be available to view.

Beverly Fleming is a St. Johns County naturalist, retired from St. Johns County Parks & Recreation. She is also an author, and has written about nature as a columnist in Northeast Florida for the past 30 years. Lesley Royce is a graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, a naturalist and past president of Duval Audubon Society.

This program is suitable for all ages, including families with children. Those under 18 must be accompanied by and under the supervision of an adult at all times.

What's New?

There are several new plants. A cardboard palm (*Zamia furfuracea*) was added to the palm garden on the South side of the Lake. The cardboard palm is misnamed because it is really a cycad and not a palm.

Jacksonville presents the 9th annual Plant Sale and Festival. For more information please visit the Garden club website. Blooms Galore and More will be held at 1005 Riverside Ave on Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Open Garden Day

Tour Ray Martin's private garden at 7990 Hunter's Grove Road, 32256. The Garden will be open Thursday, May 1 & Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. both days and 5-7 p.m. on May 3. Event is free but donations are welcome & will go to support the Home of New Beginnings. For more information, please call 904-641-5327

Shop at Amazon Smile

The Jacksonville Arboretum is now registered with Amazon Smile, a foundation set up by amazon.com that donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as on amazon.com and can use your same account and settings, but all purchases must be made through smile.amazon.com. So enjoy shopping and supporting the Arboretum at

Leatherleaf ferns were also planted in the palm garden. Satsuki azaleas (*Rhododendron Hybrid*) and holly fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) were added to the North Garden (on the North side of the Lake) in one of the areas next to the foot paths. Simpson Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) were added to the North Garden and West Garden. The Simpson Stopper plant in the North Garden is a dwarf ('compacta') version of the same plant in the West Garden. While not entirely new, a Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*) was moved from a nearly invisible location in the drainage swale to the West Garden. Finally, one of our favorite plants, cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*), was planted around two of the Live oaks near Stonehenge on the Lake Loop.

In March, the Pavilion at the east end of the Lake was completed (except for landscaping and finishing details).

What's Blooming Around The Lake Loop?

Our winter was colder and wetter than normal and flowers that have usually completed their bloom by the end of March may still be blooming in April this year. Likewise, plants that usually bloom in early April may be delayed for a few weeks.

Deciduous native Florida pinxter azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens*), Florida flame azaleas (*R. austrinum*), and silver bells (*Halesia diptera magniflora*) are blooming on the east end of the Lake (pinxter azaleas are also blooming on the Rosemary Trail, Live Oak Trail, Aralia Trail). The Louisiana iris (*Iris spp*) should start their bloom before the end of April. The iris are located in the outfall area (opposite the dock) and in a wet area near the weeping cypress (*Taxodium distichum* 'Falling Waters') on the East side of the Lake Loop. Near the Jones Creek Overlook, the woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) is in bloom. The red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), which is in the same vicinity, should also start blooming sometime during April.

the same time! Best of all, there is no cost to you. Click on the link below to take you to a special Amazon Smile landing page for the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens.

[Thanks!](#)

Recycle Your Leaves

If you are raking oak leaves, please bring your bagged leaves to the Arboretum. Just leave them at the front entrance by the drop off (near the water fountain) and we will spread them in the gardens. Thanks.

Become a JAG Member

We have revised our membership levels and added more benefits in appreciation of your support. Details of our new program are available on our website.

In addition to our revised membership program, we will soon launch a new program for individual and corporate donors.

By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day operations and planned improvements and your donation is tax-deductible.

Membership Levels

\$ 40 Single

\$ 55 Dual

In the North Garden, native White Indigo (*Baptista alba*) should begin its bloom by the end of April. Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*), dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) and Walter's Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*) started blooming in March should still be in bloom for a few days in early April.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD LAD HAWKINS

On March 6, Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown hosted the 22nd Annual Mayor's Environmental Luncheon to highlight the accomplishments of the environmental community and honor those who have made significant strides and achievements throughout the year. Thirteen local environmental groups presented awards to individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to the environment, including the Sierra Club Northeast Florida Group's Live Oak Award to Lad Hawkins, who is on the Arboretum's Board of Directors and one of its founders.

But there was one more award yet to be given - the Mayor's Environmental Award - presented annually to an individual or group that demonstrates extraordinary work in protecting, restoring, enhancing and preserving the environment in Jacksonville. At the luncheon, Mayor Brown presented this top award to Lad, a fitting tribute to this long-time community activist and environmental steward. Congratulations, Lad, for this well-deserved recognition!

Air Potato Success

Another year ... another record. Over 70 volunteers collected 2322 lbs of air potatoes from the arboretum at the 8th Annual Air Potato RoundUp March 1. Air Potato is an agricultural introduction from southeast Asia gone wild. In one season the vines can grow 60 feet, draping themselves over vegetation and shading out the native plants. Air Potato is Florida's version of Kudzu.

The majority of the potato volunteers were from area

\$ 70 Family
\$ 100 Friend

To join or purchase a gift membership, go to our website at

www.jacksonvillearboretum.org
and click on "Membership"

THANK YOU!

schools. Sandalwood High School's Greenstate Environmental Club, University of North Florida's biology and environmental science classes, and Florida Coastal School of Law's Environmental Service Club all helped in the massive effort. Special thanks go to the JAG Conservation Corp for hours of time prepping the site and to all our Air Potato Chiefs for keeping us safe and on task.

At the end of the morning, we weighed our potatoes and measured the girth of the biggest potatoes. With a full days work behind us by noon, we took time to celebrate our results with some early Fat Tuesday King Cake and bags and bags of Mardi Gras beads. Thanks to Carol Wyninger for the delicious homemade King Cakes.

MORE BENEFITS FOR ARBORETUM MEMBERS

We are excited to introduce our new membership levels, which were announced at our March 15 Owl Prowl and are effective from that date. These new levels now have added benefits that will appeal to all of our current and prospective members. Benefits include but are not limited to Members' Only Owl Prowls, discounts on Arboretum merchandise, and at certain levels, a year's subscription to Better Homes & Gardens Magazine and a Reciprocal Agreement with other American Horticultural Association (AHS) organizations. If you and your family are travelers this is a great reason for an upgrade. Please take a look at the new levels in the sidebar or on our website - www.jacksonvillearboretum.org - and consider joining or upgrading to receive even more advantages at the higher levels. Those joining or renewing their memberships from March 15 forward are eligible for the added benefits.

As a not-for-profit organization, the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, Inc. depends solely on donations of time and money. Our members are the primary source of funding for operations and maintenance. As a member, you become a vital part of our mission of cultivating a unique environment for recreation, education and inspiration.

BE AWARE

Last year, professional thieves moved up and down the coast of Florida targeting recreational areas in North Florida, including the Arboretum, for smash-and-grabs. Windows on cars were broken and purses grabbed. The breakins took only minutes before the thieves (who were believed to be middle-aged women) were gone. Please be observant and do not leave valuables or purses in your car where they are visible or unprotected.

If you see any suspicious activity, or if you have seen anything that could assist JSO in their investigation of this type of crime, please contact JSO. If you see any suspicious activity and have a cell phone or camera with you, a photo of the person, their car, or their license plate could be helpful. Contact us at info@jacksonvillearboretum.org.

OUR MISSION

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

