



## Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter March 2015

### HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

#### Volunteer Gatekeepers

Needed for  
Thursday mornings  
[info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org)

#### Fun Family Outdoor Activity

Saturday, March 7  
9:30 AM  
For details visit  
[www.stepoutinnature.org](http://www.stepoutinnature.org)

#### Volunteer Workday

Saturday, March 14  
9 AM-Noon

#### A Walk in the Woods

Brisk 3 mile hike  
Saturday, March 14  
8 AM  
For details visit  
[www.stepoutinnature.org](http://www.stepoutinnature.org)

**Nature Walk**  
with naturalist/biologist  
Saturday, March 14  
9:30 AM



### VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Looking for a fun way to spend a day or two ... or three? Consider volunteering at our upcoming plein air painting event April 16th-18th. With 37 artists painting throughout the Arboretum Thursday through Saturday and additional activities on Friday and Saturday, big crowds are expected. We will need greeters, parking attendants, set up and breakdown crews, and runners to help out as needed. There are four-hour shifts available on Thursday & Friday (9AM-1PM and 1PM-5PM) and three-hour shifts on Saturday (9AM-noon and noon-3PM) both with periodic breaks.

This is a great way to enjoy spring in the great outdoors, while supporting your Arboretum. Please let us know if you can volunteer for a few hours, one day or all three. Any time you can give is appreciated. If you have a specific task you would like to handle, we will try to accommodate your request; however, we would greatly appreciate the flexibility to assign our volunteers as needed. Just let us know the days and times you are available and someone will contact you.

**Photo Hike**  
Saturday, March 14  
2 PM

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**A Brush with Nature  
Plein Air Painting Event**

April 16-18, 2015  
For more information go to  
[www.abrushwithnature.org](http://www.abrushwithnature.org)

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**SUPPORTERS &  
PARTNERS**

**BRONZE PARTNER**

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

**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/donor-programs/](http://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/donor-programs/)

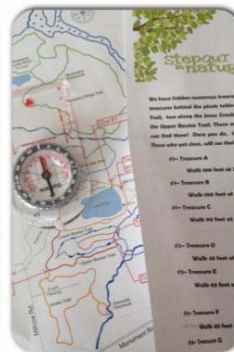
**Thank you!**

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The Jacksonville Arboretum  
is registered with Amazon  
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If you are able to volunteer, please plan to attend the volunteer orientation/training at the Arboretum on Saturday, April 11th from 10AM-noon. For more information about the event and to sign up as a volunteer, go to [www.abrushwithnature.org](http://www.abrushwithnature.org).

THANKS!

stepout  
in nature



Step Out In Nature photos courtesy of Rachael Sulkers

## Stepping Out

Step Out In Nature is in its final month at the Arboretum. So, please don't forget to log-in your steps

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!](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=ast_seller) or purchase through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

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### **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 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**

at [www.stepoutinnature.org](http://www.stepoutinnature.org)! There have been fantastic turnouts since initiating the spring schedule and our new partnership with Expedition First Coast. We have surpassed our goal of one million steps; but more importantly, families are enjoying outdoor activities together, while walking the Arboretum's beautiful trails. The topics taught during the "Fun Family Outdoor Activities" have included learning about predator/prey relationships, native flora and fauna, orienteering, and invasive species. All of the activities have emphasized the learning process and in some cases the parents learned just as much as their kids.

**Congratulations to all of the families who have Stepped UP for Step Out In Nature.**



Coral root orchid (*C. wisteriana*) courtesy of Melinda Simmons

### **An Orchid in the Arboretum**

What comes to mind when you think of orchids? Many people think of big, colorful flowers hanging from the branches of lush, tropical rainforests. Actually, a lot of



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

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**THANK YOU!**

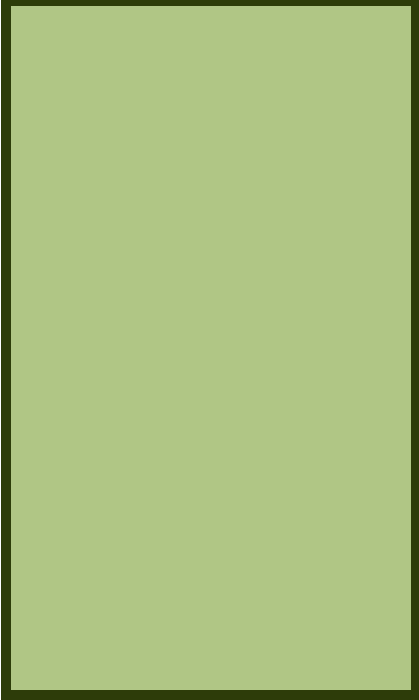
orchids have tiny, dull-colored flowers unsuitable for corsages or potted plants. Over 20,000 orchid species grow in forests, grasslands, swamps, deserts, and even range above the Arctic Circle, on every continent except Antarctica. Over one hundred species are native to Florida, a few of which grow on tree branches, but most grow in the ground. One such native orchid was spotted at the Arboretum in early February, the spring coral root (*Corallrhiza wisteriana*). This is a fairly common orchid that ranges through most of Florida and much of the United States. Against the background of dead leaves on the forest floor, most people do not even notice the brown stalks of this leafless orchid. With a magnifying glass, you could see that its short-lasting small brown flowers have white lips with tiny purple spots. These are replaced soon by seed pods and then the plants disappear until next year.



The Queen's Harbour Garden Club courtesy of Melinda Simmons

### **Spring in Their Step**

In February the Queen's Harbour Garden Club took a brisk, yet lovely tour of the arboretum. While most of the deciduous trees were still bare, revealing nests amongst their branches, brightly colored seeds of the red maple stood out against the blue cloudless sky. Signs of the



coming spring were evident from the buds of the red bud (*Cercis canadensis*) and dogwood (*Cornus florida*) trees in the garden area. Various fern species along the Loblolly Boardwalk and Jones Creek displayed new fiddle heads. Parts of the Upper and Lower Ravine Trails were decorated with flowering and fallen carolina jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) blossoms. All in all it made for a lovely morning spent with a delightful group of people.

#### OUR MISSION

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