



**Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter
May 2020 Edition**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

**Nature Walk
Saturday, May 23
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**

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

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

**SUPPORTERS
& PARTNERS**

**JOHN BARTRAM
SOCIETY STEWARD
\$5,000+**

**Coming Soon - New Water
Gardens!**

Recent visitors to the Arboretum have probably noticed our newly paved ADA compliant path along the South Loop. The contractor installed depressions on either side of the trail that will become the future home of our new water gardens. At the moment, it still resembles a construction site - so we've put up signs and security tape to encourage visitors to stay safe when walking through the area, especially when they are with small children.

Kevin Driscoll, CFP
The Driscoll Group

The Tredennick Family

The Van Vleck Family

GOLD PARTNER
\$1,000+

John and Sondie Frus

Ron and Carol Russell,
Russell Blueberry
Farm

SILVER PARTNER
\$500+

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

BRONZE PARTNER
\$250+

Mary Ann and Shepard
Bryan Jr.

Anne Lewellen

MEMBER FRIENDS
\$100+

Eldon and Martha
Bekkum

Stuart and Hazel
Bergman

E. Zimmermann Boulos

Alex & Kelly Broner

Nancy & Tom Broner



The future water garden as it appears today

There are major plans for this area that will enhance the beauty and walking experience of the gardens. Our horticulturist on staff, Shayan Khatibi, is overseeing the project. If you have seen his work in the palm gardens, you understand why we can't wait to see the results.

The goal is to rival other big city's botanical gardens such as Atlanta and Miami in the future, while leaving our seven natural trails. The trails set us apart from other botanical gardens.

This new water feature is the beginning of what is to come. Picture ponds with aquatic plants that will carry the beauty of our newly installed palm garden further down the path.

If you are interested in helping fund this and other projects, we are seeking donors. Naming rights are available for the water gardens. To find out more, contact executive director Dana Doody at

Stephen A. Connelly
and Ellen O. Middleton

Catharine Corbin

Carol Spawn Desmond

Christopher Eckert

John Fischer

Scott Hassel

Jeanne Hawkins

Sandra Hendricks

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
McTierman

Bonnie Nackino

Peggy Nolan

Vincent and Susan Ober

ddoody@jacksonvillearboretum.org.

Here's a photo of what we expect the area to resemble once the project is completed.



Reopening!

Reopening the arboretum on Earth Day was a very special day in the history of the organization. The decision by the board and staff to close due to COVID-19 was a difficult one to make, especially knowing it meant closing a space meant to encourage recreation, relaxation and mental health.

Even though the arboretum is not a city park and is an independent nonprofit organization, board members and staff were influenced by the city's decision to close its parks. We also followed what other arboretum and gardens were doing around the country. Above all, it was an obligation to the community to keep everyone safe.

When Mayor Lenny Curry made the statement that it was time to re-open some of the natural spaces with limited hours for exercise, the Arboretum followed suit.

Jr.

Robert and Vivien Parks

Jane and John Pope

Anthony Rigney

Tony and Rachel
Stewart

Pamela Telis

Lorin Thies

Mary and Joel Toomey

Robin Wahby

Susan Wright

Michael Zambetti

IN MEMORIAM:

Jane Wilton Shelton

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

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.



Our first visitor is all smiles at the entrance of the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens when we reopened on Earth Day.

"It was a leap of faith that our visitors would take the social distancing guidelines seriously and they really have," said executive director Dana Doody. "Everyone has been following the trail markers and even letting us know where we needed to put more signs. The smiles on peoples' faces mean everything to us and we really know now how appreciated the Jacksonville Arboretum is in the community."

'A Brush With Nature' Plein Air Artists Event Moved to August 15 - 16

With the shutdown caused by COVID-19, the arboretum and First Coast Plein Air Painters have moved the date of 'A Brush with Nature' to the weekend of August 15 - 16.

Thanks go out to event sponsors Atlantic Self Storage - Millcoke location, Jenkins Auto Group, JM Family Enterprises, Robb and Pam Mitchell (The Press On Foundation), O E & S/Office Environments (OE&S), Optiv | Cybersecurity Solutions Integration & Management and Rapid 7 - along with returning in-kind sponsor PRI Productions.

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
\$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

Hosted by JAG and First Coast Plein Air Painters, this free admission event promotes both groups - with all works of art created at the event available for sale. Proceeds benefit JAG and the artists.

Visitors can stroll along the trails to watch and interact with participating artists as they work.

Activities include:

- Artists' demonstrations each day
- Food trucks will be on site from 9 a.m. to closing on Saturday and Sunday

To find out more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Jacksonville Arboretum & Garden Executive Director Dana Doody at danad@jacksonvillearboretum.org or call (904) 318-4342.



More than 40 artists will participate in A Brush With Nature, which has been rescheduled for August 15 - 16.

Artists who would like to participate should contact First Coast Plein Air Painters President Stephen Dunn at stephendunnart@att.net.

supporting us by visiting
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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Discovering Nature Nearby



Discovering Nature Nearby (DNN) is taking a break for the summer. We will be back this Fall with some exciting programs as we move into 2021. In the meantime, we are working on virtual DNN videos that will be shared on our website and Facebook page. Stay tuned!

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
We appreciate it!

OUR MISSION

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

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, 1445 Millcoe Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

