



## Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter July - August 2020 Edition

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

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

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#### **School Trips**

To ensure everyone is safe during COVID-19 all school groups must pre-register on our [website](#). Masks are mandatory when social distancing is not possible per the CDC Guidelines. There is a \$3 per

## Ribbon Cutting/Naming Ceremony for South Loop Ravine Overlook

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (JAG) staff, board members and volunteers, along Jacksonville City Councilman Al Ferraro and key donors, took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early June to thank funders of the new ADA-accessible path along the south loop of the lake and announce the path's official name: The South Loop Ravine Overlook.

JAG Executive Director Dana Doody and Board Chairman Ron Whittington made brief comments at the event. "The board especially thanks long-time volunteer and supporter Marcia Mederos and her family for providing the lead gift, all the individuals who donated during the 2018 annual holiday appeal and the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, which provided a \$9,000 match...all these donations to our capital campaign made this path a reality," Whittington said. "We hope this will be the first of many projects coming up to provide more garden spots to enjoy, along with more amenities for our

person suggested donation and for Title 1 Schools the cost is \$1 per person.

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### SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

JOHN BARTRAM  
SOCIETY STEWARD  
\$5,000+

Kevin Driscoll, CFP  
The Driscoll Group

The Tredennick Family

The Van Vleck Family

SILVER PARTNER  
\$500+

E. Zimmerman Boulos

Cloud Family  
Amazing Fund

Kathy Dolge

Anthony John Rigney,  
P.A. & Rigney Family

Ron and Carol  
Russell, [Russell  
Blueberry Farm](#)

BRONZE PARTNER  
\$250+

Greg and Pat Cloud

visitors."



**JAG Board President Ron Whittington was joined by lead donor Marcia Mederos in cutting a ceremonial blue ribbon to 'officially' open the South Loop Ravine Overlook as JAG Executive Director Dana Doody looks on.**

The project, which cost more than \$50,000 to complete, involved major grading along the path to ensure people using wheelchairs or other visitors with mobility-impairments can navigate down to the pavilion area more easily and safely. A1 Coastal Paving completed the paving project, among three major projects completed at the Arboretum since opening in 2008.

The asphalt path is just over 1,000 feet long and is now an average of 10 feet wide. As part of the project, JAG extended its reclaimed-water irrigation system underneath paved area so it can be accessed later as new gardens are established.

## **A Brush With Nature Event Will be On-site and Virtual in October**

The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens (JAG) and First Coast Plein Air Painters will now host A Brush

John & Sondie Frus

Lad & Mindy Hawkins

Anne Lewellen

**MEMBER FRIENDS**  
**\$100+**

Bill & Margaret  
Armstrong

Stuart Bergman

E. Zimmerman Boulos

Alex, Elin, Kelly & Liv  
Broner

Tom & Nancy Broner

Stephen Connelly &  
Ellen Middleton

Catharine Corbin

Carol Spawn Desmond

Christopher Eckert

Scott Hassel

Matthew & Sandra  
Hendricks

Lena Hernandez

Charles & Sarah  
Kleeman

Jim & Kathy Kotas

Vicki Lake & Nick  
Carpetti

with Nature, a plein air painting event, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday Oct. 17 and Sunday Oct. 18 at the arboretum, located at 1440 Millco Rd. JAG will also offer a virtual option for painters and art supporters, as well.

Admission is free to the on-site event, with donations to the arboretum encouraged. Attendees should plan to wear masks and exercise prudent social distancing during the event.

All works of art created at the event and featured on the JAG website are available for sale - with proceeds benefiting the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens and the artists.

Visitors who attend on site 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 close Saturday and Sunday

"We will have more than 45 of the region's finest landscape artists setting up their easels to capture the essence of the Arboretum's beautiful settings over the two-day event," said Jacksonville Arboretum & Garden Executive Director Dana Doody.

Event sponsors include 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 in-kind sponsors PRI Productions and Atlantic Self Storage - Millco Rd location.

**Thank You Ron Whittington**

Ron,

Jim & Jeannie Little

Donald Lookingbill

Linda Martin

Barbara & Charles  
McTiernan

Bonnie Nackino

Peggy Nolan

Robert & Vivien Parks

Denise Reagan

Bremon Sims

Tony & Rachel Stewart

Pamela Telis

Lorin Thies

Mary & Toomey

Susan Wright

Cheryl Munn Wright &  
Mark Wright

Michael Zambetti

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

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### **JAG Membership**

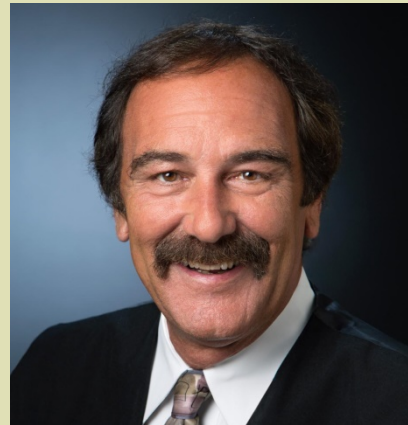
By becoming a member  
or donor, you are

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our volunteers, our members, patrons, and donors, I would like to thank you for your outstanding service to the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens and our community.

I joined the board shortly after you took over and your energy and vision was part of the reason I joined. The Arboretum and the board have made significant progress over the past two years thanks to your leadership.

All of us have seen the progress

manifest in different and impressive ways, including completion of the ADA-compliant pathway, a significant increase in membership and visits, the hiring of an initial staff, and the initialization of future plans that will continue to improve the Arboretum's draw as a premier nature, education and



**JAG Board President, Ron Whittington**

recreation destination for everyone in our community. Thankfully, we will continue to enjoy your leadership and energy as you stay on with the board. I know all of us are thankful for that, especially me.

I also want to thank the outgoing board members for their long service. Martha Mazza, Lawrence Gierum and Patty Miller - your shoes will be difficult to fill and you have been such a joy to work with. The organization is what it is because of you and you set the stage for the future.

Kevin Blalock, Incoming Board President

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 & 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

## **A Note from the Executive Director**



**JAG Executive Director, Dana Doody**

Have you heard of Forest Bathing? If not, you are not alone. It emerged from Japan and was quickly embraced as an "eco-therapy." It is a unique way of fusing mindfulness and exercise while getting the mental health kick we all need. The Japanese call this practice "shinrin-yoku."

In the 1990s, researchers began studying the physiological benefits of forest bathing, providing the science to support what we innately know: time spent in nature is good for us. Soothing your senses and taking in your surroundings is the idea, repeating the practice of asking yourself three things:

What am I seeing?  
What am I hearing?  
What am I feeling?

What you are seeing and what you are hearing in the forest are easy, but what about what you are feeling? Feel the tree root under your shoe or the moisture in the humid air.

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)

### **Show the World You Love the Arboretum!**

Post your Arboretum photos with #jacksonvillearboretum or at [www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleArboretumGardens](http://www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleArboretumGardens)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

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The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens is the perfect place to practice this eco-therapy and the result may help you reduce stress from a busy work week or even help to lower your risk of disease like type II diabetes. There are many benefits, so get out to our beautiful enchanted forest and take in the twisty sand live oak hammocks, hear the White-eyed Vireo out on the Sand Ridge Trail (see below) and feel the ground under your feet. Get out there! Let nature challenge you!



**A White-eyed Vireo**

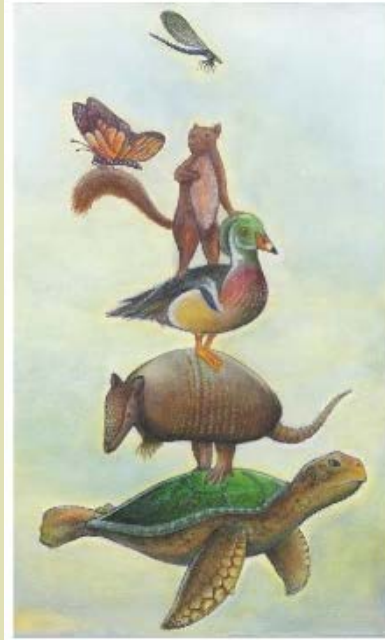
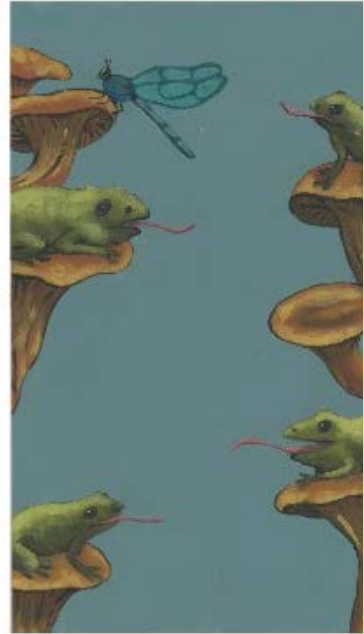
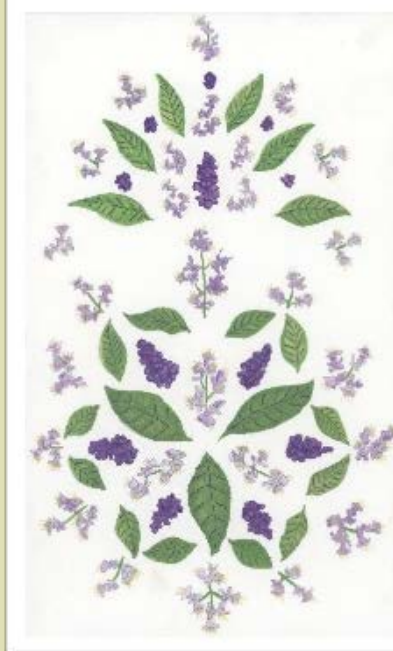
As you enter the arboretum, you may notice that work is being done along the pollinator garden. This is the new home of the raised bed gardens. In 2019 the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens received a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Charitable Trust to implement this exciting new addition. The raised beds will be another unique and beautiful garden, but it is intended for folks who have different abilities to garden with us. These gardens will have wheelchair access and feature native and ornamental plants secured in wooden boxes that will be built by our hardworking volunteers.

If you would like to help with this project, please fill out the [volunteer form](#) on our website.

## **Jacksonville University Art Project**

Our Facebook followers have chosen the four winners of our art project. The final stage in this contest is coming up and it involves our members. Members will

be sent an email where they will be able to rank the pictures 1st through 4th place.



Membership has benefits and this is such a fun way for you to help us select how the pictures will be placed on our kiosk. The email will be coming next

week but if you would like to get in on the fun - [join our membership!](#) It is a great way to support the arboretum and get to enjoy fun projects like this!

### OUR MISSION

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

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