



## Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens e-Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020 EDITION

**NEW HOURS!**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Our hours have changed for Standard Time

### Painting, Planting and Playing at the Arboretum

Kevin Blalock, President

The month of October has been busy for the arboretum and our team of staff and volunteers who do such incredible work to make it a great destination. We accomplished a lot, including one of our annual signature events, "A Brush with Nature." Because of all the activity at the arboretum, I was fortunate to spend a lot of time there over the last few weeks. Regardless of what I do there, I'm always refreshed emotionally and physically while there. In October, I was once again inspired by our team and nature, but on a different level this time.



On October 13, a group of students from the North Florida Schools for Special Education planted our raised beds and accomplished much more. These beds, on the northwest corner of the Lake Loop across from the picnic area, were built by volunteers led by Shayan. Since we wanted to connect with the community directly on this project, we could not have picked a better partner.

Several volunteers, staff and board members enjoyed working with these students to plant the beds. In fact, we were inspired by their capabilities. They've obviously worked hard and know how to plant a garden because they finished with extra time to tour the arboretum. I personally connected with some of the kids and felt like we accomplished something together. We all left that event with a swell of inspiration and renewed energy for the Arboretum. A special thank you to the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for funding this project.

That renewed energy is carrying over to our momentum and plans for growth. 2020 has been challenging, as events have been cancelled, we closed for a month, and donations have been down. However, the arboretum not only survived, but thrived, and the raised beds event are great evidence of that. As we turn our attention to the end of year, our annual appeal for funds, and planning for 2021, I'm excited for what is to come.

We are not only maintaining this wonderful place for our northeast Florida community, but we'll also continue to improve the beauty, facilities and events of the arboretum, as you will see in the coming year.

**Students from North Florida Schools for Special Education planted on October 13.**



## A Brush with Success!

Dana Doody, Executive Director



### A Note from the Executive Director

I'd like to thank everyone that made it out to "A Brush With Nature." We had over 2,200 people come to our event and that was such a wonderful surprise!

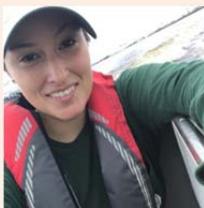
First Coast Plein Air Painters are always thrilled to have the opportunity to paint our beautiful arboretum, and they did not disappoint! We sold 31 pieces of their work, and proceeds were donated to the arboretum. The whole event raised more than \$14,000! That is so important to the health of our gardens, the maintenance of our property and future improvements, so thank you!

We do have big goals for the arboretum, but the conservation of natural areas is of the highest importance. Some of our exciting plans include expanding our palm garden, creating a beautiful water garden, building restrooms (with plumbing!) and adding boardwalks to our Jones Creek Trail.

We are currently fundraising for a Master Plan with some incredible designers, Tres Fromme of 3 Fromme Designs and Chris Barker of HDLA. This master plan will include enhancing some of our gardens, adding a children's garden and potentially creating an outdoor natural amphitheater! Jacksonville deserves to have a true botanical garden, and the arboretum is already such a special place to so many. That's why events like "A Brush with Nature" are so key to our goals.

Thank you again for your support! And thank you to the First Coast Plein Air painters who made this event possible.

## Support Us: Volunteer and Donate



### Discovering Nature Nearby Hello Fellow Nature Lovers!

My name is Alexandria and I am a volunteer with the Discovering Nature Nearby (DNN) Program at the Jacksonville arboretum. Lynsae, Ryan and I were so thrilled to participate and be a part of "A Brush With Nature." During this event, we created a children's art walk, where kids (and the kids at heart!) were able to decorate parts of our trails with beautiful chalk creations. We had such a fun time admiring everyone's work and watching your amazing hop-scotch skills!



Thank you so much to all who came out to enjoy the event. If you missed our event this month, don't worry! Mark your calendars for our event "Harvesting Memories," where we'll welcome the cool weather and learn about why leaves change their colors. We'll have more fun activities and events for all to enjoy, so we hope to see you on November 21 from 10 to 11 a.m.

## Ways to Give: Naming Opportunities

Here's a unique way to pay tribute to someone you love and support the arboretum at the same time: put their name on a special place or project! Then, everyone who visits will know how special your loved one is to you and our community. There are so many options, including: tribute bricks, benches, raised beds, our water garden, boardwalks, gardens and trails. If you're interested in learning more about these ways to pay tribute, please contact Dana Doody 904.318.4342 or email [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org)

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## Events to look forward to!

### Discovering Nature Nearby: November 21 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Harvesting Memories: We'll welcome the cool weather and learn about why leaves change their colors.

### The Arboretum is Going Batty: December 5 from 5 to 7 p.m.

(Rescheduled from October 27) We're partnering with the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens to learn about our favorite flying mammal, the BAT! Tickets go on sale soon at \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Kids

age 3 and under get in free! Check [our events page](#) for more information.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Sarah Rose Stewart

We are so happy to spotlight one of our most dedicated volunteers, Sarah Rose Stewart. Sarah has given so much of her time over the years to help coordinate volunteers, teach volunteers how to give nature tours and assist with programs. She's always there with a smile on her face ready to help people in any way. She loves the arboretum, and it shows!

Thank you so much for all of your hard work, Sarah!

Interested in volunteering with us?  
[Sign up today](#)



## Brother Bear and Sister Hawk: Fostering a Love of Nature with Children

By Sarah Rose Stewart

When we, as leaders in any discipline, provide an atmosphere of sensitive discovery and direct experience, we can use the natural world to change people's lives spontaneously and in wonderful ways. We know that time in the natural world balances our lives. That time spent in nature teaches us to change our attitude. Our attitude, in turn, can influence so much more in our lives. We often wait for others, especially those in leadership positions, to fix our problems. But the root of those problems is often in our own attitudes and mental stereotypes and bias. If we want to develop an attitude of reverence for life, we need to begin with awareness that can lead to loving empathy and understanding.

As we begin to feel our common bond of life to other living things around us, our actions become more harmonious in an unforced, natural way, and we become concerned for the needs and well-being of all creatures. As an eminent Japanese conservationist said, "The care of rivers is not a question of rivers, but of the human heart." Simple exposure is not enough, especially when trying to connect children to the natural world with attitudes of respect and reverence. It's hard to know how to transmit our inspiration to others, especially children.

[Sharing Nature with Children](#) by Cornell speaks in depth about using flow learning to:

- 1) Awaken enthusiasm
- 2) Focus attention
- 3) Direct their experience
- 4) Help them share that inspiration.

You can create an endless amount of natural experiences this way. Without enthusiasm, you can never have a meaningful experience in nature. Learning depends on focused attention, which creates an inner calmness and openness that allows us to experience nature directly. If we share our experiences and inspire others, we can clarify our own experiences and focus them even more.

The way children understand and experience nature has changed radically. The polarity of the relationship has reversed. Today, kids are aware of the global threats to the environment, but their physical contact, their intimacy with nature, is fading. For a new generation, nature is more abstraction than reality. Increasingly, nature is something to watch, to consume, to wear—to ignore. Richard Louv said in his book: [Last Child in the Woods](#), "As the young spend less and less of their lives in natural surroundings, their senses narrow, physiologically and psychologically, and this reduces the richness of human experience."

The entire natural system depends on one relationship with nature evolving into another. We hope our

programs give you the authentic experience in nature that you were seeking. If you would like information about the children's program please email Lynsae Davidson at [Arboretum4kids@gmail.com](mailto:Arboretum4kids@gmail.com). To learn about the adult and school tours, please email Sarah Stewart at [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org)

## Supporters & Partners

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## Become a Member!

By becoming a member or donor, you're supporting the arboretum's operations and improvements. All donations are tax-deductible. Details are available on our website.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

### SUPPORTERS & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Bronze Partner \$250  
Silver Partner \$500  
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### JOHN BARTRAM SOCIETY

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

[Become a Member](#)

**2020 A Brush With Nature**  
**Thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors!**



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