



Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens e-Newsletter

February 2021 EDITION

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Receives Grants to Start Master Plan Process

Jacksonville, Fla. (Feb. 10, 2021) – Later this month, the Arboretum will begin the exciting process of developing a master plan to design and install botanical gardens on the property. The master plan process was made possible by generous grants of \$30,000 from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and \$10,000 from the River Branch Foundation. The planning process will take about eight months to complete.

The addition of botanical gardens is the latest in a continuous plan to propel the Arboretum into a best-in-class destination in the southeast. Executive Director Dana Doody noted that each project is being planned carefully to add as much value as possible while managing the non-profit's budget plan in unprecedented times.

In addition to the grant for the master plan design, the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund also awarded the Arboretum a \$70,000 challenge grant for the first phase of the implementation. The 1:1 challenge grant will launch a community campaign following the completion of the design plan.

"The Arboretum is an important community asset which brings thousands of people to its special trails, many of which are ADA accessible," said Delores Barr Weaver. "The plan will provide a vision for a botanical destination, sure to benefit our citizens for years to come."

The process will take into account the Arboretum's unique qualities, Florida's seasons and Jacksonville's ecosystems and native horticulture. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the Arboretum as a focus of community life in connection with nature and the outdoors.

The Arboretum's board of directors selected 3. Fromme Designs and HDLA—two design firms with deep experience in this arena—to develop the master plan design. Designers Tres Fromme, 3. Fromme Designs, and Chris Barkley, HDLA, have collaborated on several high-profile public and institutional projects, including the Tulsa Botanical Garden, Bok Tower Gardens and Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden. They will begin the planning process by hosting a series of workshops at the Arboretum kicking off in March.

"We're beyond thrilled to have designers of this level developing the botanical garden master plan," Doody said. "Improvements will attract more visitors, which will, in turn, fund more growth in the coming years. We couldn't have done this project in 2021 without the support of the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and River Branch Foundation—two organizations that care deeply about making the Jacksonville community the best it can be. The Arboretum's board, volunteers and donors look forward to this fun and unique process."

While construction likely won't begin until 2022, visitors can rest assured that the botanical garden installation will not affect the Arboretum's many hiking trails. The gardens will be focused around Lake Loop and could include designs for a children's discovery garden, education complex or even a garden to incorporate sculptures and other art. Board President, Kevin Blalock added, "We have been amazed with the growing interest in the Arboretum, even during the pandemic. So, as we continue to scale and grow, we will remain focused on conservation, education and recreation, while adding to and improving this place we all love."

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[Click here to donate to our Challenge Grant](#)



What's love got to do with it?

Discovering Nature Nearby
February 13th at 10am

A Valentine's themed nature tour

Valentine's Themed Nature Tour at the Arboretum

February 13

Looking for a fun and different way to celebrate love this year? Take a walk through the Jacksonville Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and focus on your heart—in more ways than one! The Arboretum is full of plants that have heart-shaped leaves, those that are good for your heart and others that represent love.

What's Love Got to Do with It? A Valentine's Themed Nature Tour February 13 - 10:00 a.m.

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
All Ages Welcome - No Cost, thanks to sponsorship by TD Bank!
(Please consider a donation of \$3 per person)

Sarah Stewart, Alexandria Wilson and Arboretum Executive Director, Dana Doody, will lead a Valentine's Day-themed nature tour focused on the heart. **They'll be joined by a special guest guide:** Dr. Susan Carr from the North Florida Land Trust. Carr is a botanist and expert on nature and conservation.

Masks are required for this tour. No registration is required—just join us. This event is part of the

Arboretum's Discovering Nature Nearby program, sponsored by TD Bank. See more details at <https://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/eventsactivities/>



Pictured - Sarah Stewart
Sarah will lead the children on this lovely tour of the Arboretum. She and Alexandria Wilson will feature a worksheet on "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein
"And they would play hide-and-go-seek. And when he was tired, he would sleep in her shade."

Plant of the Month: Muhly Grass



Muhly grass is a virtually indestructible, self-seeding, maintenance free native grass suitable for almost any landscape. Growing to 3-4 feet, this durable grass has a wiry, stiff, upright habit which thrives anywhere from the pine flatwoods to the beach dunes. Muhlenbergia capillaris is known for its delicate flowers which make a dramatic appearance in fall as fountains of pink or white above the slender foliage. Muhly grass makes a great mass planting for almost any application, thriving in the poorest of soils and readily accepting full sun exposure. The plants can be cut back in spring before the new flush of growth and fertilized lightly. At the Arboretum you can find muhly grass in the parking lot where it welcomes our guests as they begin their adventure. As you enjoy your visit to the Arboretum, consider volunteering with us this month for our garden workday on November 7 from 8 to 11 a.m!

Source: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp415>
<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/muhly-grass.html>



Volunteer Updates

Are you interested in volunteering with the Arboretum? Here's the dirt on how you can help.

Volunteer Workdays at the Arboretum are an opportunity to meet new folks with similar interests and work as part of a group with a focused long-term plan.

2nd Saturday: Garden Volunteer Workday

Garden Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Arboretum. You will find them on Wednesdays and the second Saturday weeding and mulching gardens already planted, maintaining hardscaping and benches in the Lake Loop area, and clearing and planting new gardens under the guidance of Shayan Khatibi, the Arboretum's horticulturist. To the casual visitor, the gardens are more and more beautiful each month. To the careful botanist, they are a constant source of new and interesting species focused on people's uses of plants for food, shelter, medicine, clothing or any number of other things. Choose to join the team and you might find yourself repairing and painting picnic tables, crawling under camellias pulling dollar weed, replacing rotted posts or erosion control boards, building planters, raking trip hazards from gravel paths, or installing several flats of donated annuals in the pollinator garden.

Workday Wednesday: If you can join us during the week, our hardworking volunteers also come out on Wednesday mornings. These workdays are led by our horticulturist, Shayan Khatibi.

For Both Groups: Meet our group in the picnic area at 8 a.m. We usually work until 11 a.m.

The Conservation Corps

This group maintains the natural area and its woodland trail system usually the third Saturday of the month. Guided by a detailed resource management plan, the team is charged with keeping the ArcGIS community and trail map current; removing invasive species from existing communities; planning, creating, and maintaining small restoration areas; flagging, clearing, and care of trails; and research, design, and installing

and keeping up educational and informational signage. Come to a workday and you might find yourself knee deep in mud digging Peruvian primrose willow or rag in hand cleaning plant identification signs, lugging 30-pound sections of tallow tree trunk out of sight of the trail or recording coordinates for the ethnobotanical signage; crashing through the dense undergrowth of the sand ridge flagging a new trail or on your knees pulling weeds that are choking out longleaf pine or persimmon planted the previous fall. Volunteers generally leave filthy and drenched but with a huge smile and a promise to return. Please fill out the form on our website to be added to our RSVP list for this special group. These workdays are a real workout and not for the faint of heart!

For all of our workdays, bring garden gloves if you have them, wear comfortable clothes and shoes (that you don't mind getting dirty). You may want to pack a snack and plenty of water.

To get on our email lists to RSVP to workdays please fill out the form on our website at <https://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/volunteer/>

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Matthew & Dana Doody	Jennifer Marko	Susan Wright
Robin Donoho	Linda Martin	Michael Zambetti
Darryle Wise & Cathy Duncan	Julie Mason	
	Ann H. McCandless	Holy Spirit Catholic School
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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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Gatekeeper \$2,500+
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Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens | 1445 Millcoie Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225