



Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

e-Newsletter

September 2021 Edition

Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Looking Back, Looking Forward: An Organizational Trail

Kevin Blalock, President and Chair of the Board



Now that Summer is ending and school is starting back, I celebrated two anniversaries and was able to reflect on our progress over the last year. My 20th wedding anniversary with my wife, Carina, was the highlight, but I also closed out my first year as President with Jacksonville Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

August is the time of year the Board elects new leadership, confirms continued service, and begins our annual planning process in earnest for 2022. I am proud to announce that Anne Lewellen will continue to serve as Secretary, and I will continue to serve as President. You should also know that we are excited to announce that Lindsay Starner and Adam Robinson will serve as President-elect and Treasurer, respectively. Lindsay is in her 4th year with board and has contributed significantly over her first term. You may have seen the announcement welcoming Adam to the Board. We are excited to have Adam aboard, which should continue to strengthen our financial acumen and discipline, improving our focus on reporting, budgeting, and growth.

John Burr, who most recently served as Treasurer, will continue to serve on the Board and is taking on direct responsibility for some of our most important initiatives, such as our Master Planning project. John has been an exemplary director, so I thought it was important for you to know that John still holds a leadership role here.

Looking back, I could not be prouder of this organization. Dana has grown the organization in several ways as we came out of a challenging period due to COVID, primarily focusing our limited resources on more effective programs and events. Dana then began to focus on growth, adding two staff members to support our increased programs and activities. On top of that, our volunteers – some of the best in the city in my opinion – have stepped up in new and brilliant ways.

In the meantime, we are highly focused on the completion of our Master Plan that will inform the expansion of our gardens. While it is a living plan, and will likely change to accommodate work plans, financial support, and changes in initiatives over the long term, we know the Master Plan spearheaded by Tres Frommes Design and HDLA will lay a path towards an increasingly beautiful, educational, and recreational garden that will improve our offerings for the citizens of Jacksonville.

Dana and the team have also expanded our capital and operational base. While we do not disclose our fund-raising successes, you should know that your contributions and those of private organizations have increased in scale in 2021. This success has enabled the organization to maintain its best trails, improve our programs, and update critical aspects of the site, such as the boardwalks and bridges.

Now is the time of year we start looking ahead to 2022. We are excited about what we will accomplish in 2021, but we need to prepare for this continued growth in 2022. Our strategic initiatives will be similar to

this year's, but I hope you can feel the energy as we scale. Dazzling Nights will be a new keystone event for us that will close out the year and usher in 2022 in spectacular fashion. As we kick off 2022, we will follow that momentum and build on the successes of 2021, by kicking off projects defined by the Master Plan, improving infrastructure such as restrooms and parking, and expanding our programs to serve the community.



President-Elect, Lindsay Starnier



Treasurer, Adam Robinson

Events

This month's Discovering Nature Nearby should be of interest to all ages. Not only is it being presented by 2 science experts in their field, but it is about water, something we cannot live without! We invite you to join us in this fascinating program on Saturday, September 18. Tickets are limited to ensure social distancing.

HYDROLOGY

hī'drälājē: the branch of science concerned
with the properties of the earth's water

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 10 A.M.

Sponsored By



America's Most Convenient Bank®

Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The hydrology of Florida is shaped by the past and present. Come learn about how the rocks below our feet control the flow, quality, and availability of water in our environment, and how vulnerable this precious resource is to pollution.

Jacksonville University's Dr. Jeremy Stalker, Associate Professor of Marine Science and Laura Kostrzewski, Marine Science Research Institute, will be teaming up to share their knowledge of local hydrology. These experts in their respective fields will guide you to the previously mentioned features and provide a unique way to view hydrology using an EnviroScape coastal watershed model.

Space is limited for social distancing purposes. Tickets are \$5, children 5 and under are free. If you have questions about this event feel free to call Marti at 904.318.4342. Purchase your tickets [here](#)

Tails & Trails



**Saturday, October 16, 2021
1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (this is a time change)**

We know your pooches love the Arboretum as much as you do! We are having an event to celebrate the dogs of the Arboretum! Join us for signature cocktails, live music, and fabulous food trucks. The Arboretum will be open to everyone the day of the event so even if you don't have a pooch, this event will be a lot of fun!
We'll see you and your awesome four-legged friend at Tails & Trails – A Canine Social!
Tickets are \$10 per person and you will receive 2 drink tickets with your ticket purchase. Purchase your tickets [here](#)



TICKETS

Ways to Give & Support



Do you love the Arboretum (like we do)? Do you support us and visit often?

Become a member!

Why support the Jacksonville Arboretum and Botanical Gardens? This month's reason: You are helping to cool your community!

In a 2019 study from the University of Maryland, "The shade of a single tree can provide welcome relief from the hot summer sun. But when that single tree is part of a small forest, it creates a profound cooling effect. According to a study published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, trees play a big role in keeping our towns and cities cool."

And "impervious surfaces -- like roads, sidewalks and buildings -- absorb heat from the sun during the day and slowly release that heat at night. Trees, on the other hand, not only shade those surfaces from the sun's rays, they also transpire, or release water into the air through their leaves, a process that cools things down."

A big thank you to all our guests who already know, and support this and our members who are sustaining a lower temperature Jacksonville, Florida!
Become a member and be cool (really!)

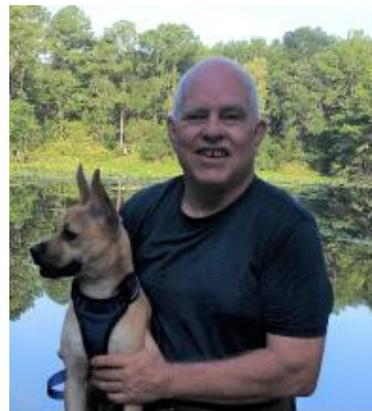
Click [membership](#) for more information.

Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer, Danny Murphy is someone who supports behind the scenes, but he has been such a help to our organization. Danny has started a volunteer program called "Arboretum Watch". The concept is simple – if you see something that isn't right, report it. If you would like to learn more about Arboretum Watch, please email us at info@jacksonvillearboretum.org

Below is note from Danny –

I grew up in a home that was within a quarter of a mile of railroad tracks, a highway, and the fence-line for NAS Weymouth. In between, there was a wooded swamp. My friends and I didn't have a



neighborhood playground. Instead, we had the woods and the swamp.

I love being in the woods, and I spend a good deal of time at The Jacksonville Arboretum. I've seen bike riders on narrow trails (a danger to walkers), smokers (the whole place can be a tinderbox depending on the conditions), people fishing (the water in the lake is tainted from the mining process), and dogs off their owners' leashes. All of the above are violations of rules which have been put in place to keep visitors safe and to prevent damage to the grounds. As a member and a volunteer, when I see someone violating a rule, I try to strike up a friendly conversation. Some people don't know the rules. Some pretend they don't know. Others have shrugged and ignored me. It takes all kinds.

When you see someone violating a rule, you can strike up a chat, but only if you're comfortable with that. If you feel your heart rate going up or you don't feel like being nice, just walk on by. Being nice is one of the rules! Make note of the incident and send a message to Dana or Marti. Since they can't walk every foot of the trails every day, they also want to hear about any unusual hazards, like a hole in a boardwalk, low-hanging limbs, or wasps nesting on one of the trails. If you see something illegal going on, call the police. They are never more than a few minutes away.

Danny Murphy

Partner Spotlight



This month we would like to introduce a community partner and steadfast supporter, Earthworks. You may have seen them at a plant sale a few months ago or our last Brush with Nature. Perhaps you have seen them in their green tees and khakis walking around the Arboretum with notebooks, sketchpads and measuring tapes. They are generously donating their time, plants and labor to Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, elevating our beauty and adding depth to our horticultural offerings. We will all see the benefit of our partnership in the upcoming months. (By the way, family membership and above receives a discount at any one of the Earthworks locations! Yet another terrific reason to join.)

Be sure to say hello to the *folks in green* when you see them or visit their locations and support the business that supports us!

You can find locations at www.earthworksjax.com or call 904.996.0712 for more information.

Plant of the Month

Silver Leaved Aster (*Pityopsis graminifolia*)

Autumn is a wonderful time of year for blooming asters and this class of flowers is one of my favorites. There are many asters to choose from, but the Silver Leaved Aster is a lovely native which is found throughout Florida in scrub, sandhills and flatwoods ecosystems.



NARROWLEAF SILKGRASS

Pityopsis graminifolia

Alternate Names:

Chrysopsis graminifolia (Michx.) Ell. *Heterotheca*

graminifolia (Michx.) Shinnery

It is grazed by livestock and wildlife; its rhizomatous growth habit is useful for controlling upland erosion

It is also called Grass-leaved Goldenaster or Narrowleaf Silkgrass. It blooms later than most of the other fall wildflowers and can provide color from late fall into early winter. Silver leaved Aster lives up to its name as the leaves are covered with silky hairs which give the plant a silvery look. It is a perennial with short or long rhizomes, depending upon the variety. It is only a foot tall most of the year until the fall, when it sends up bloom stalks on stems which can be up to three feet tall and sprawls several feet wide. The flowers are lemon yellow in color.

Since this plant spreads from rhizomes it can make a dense groundcover over a large area but can also be controlled if you only want a spot of color here and there in your fall-blooming garden and it is easy to grow.

It does well in dry to moist well drained sandy soils and will grow in full sunlight or partial shade. Once it has finished blooming, it can be mowed or cut back to the ground. Please be sure to use a very sharp blade as the stems and leaves are quite tough. It is a great nectar plant which attracts butterflies and various pollinators.

Membership News

Read our newsletter and go to the Arboretum often? Become a supporting member:

<https://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/memberships/>

Supporters & Partners

JOHN BARTRAM SOCIETY STEWARD \$5,000+

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Kevin Driscoll, CFP
The Driscoll Group

REI Jacksonville

SILVER PARTNER \$500+

Kevin Blalock &
Carina Santalucia

E. Zimmerman Boulos

Steve & Betsy Crosby

BRONZE PARTNER \$250+

Wesley Adkins

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Stephen Connelly & Ellen
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The Tredennick Family	Dr. Lawrence & Kathy Kanter	Lindsay Lawrence
The Van Vleck Family	Jane & John Pope	Jennifer Marko
George & Mary Elizabeth Varn	Audrey Ormerod	Cheryl Munn Wright & Mark Wright
Earthworks	Anthony John Rigney, P.A. & Rigney Family	Bonnie Nackino
Gold Partner \$1000+	Ron and Carol Russell, Russell Blueberry Farm	Charles & Sarah Kleeman
The Burr Family	Julie Simmons	Danny Murphy
Dr. Cromer, Baywood Animal Hospital	Schacter Family Foundation	Vince & Susan Ober
Cloud Family Amazing Fund	Ron & Lori Ann Whittington	Ronald Russell
Anne Lewellen		Dean Scott
Ronald Dean Martin		Tracy Scott
Jessica Salazar		Janet Streit
Marcia Mederos		Antique Emporium, Inc.
Mike & Amy Fran		
Robb & Pamela Mitchell		

MEMBER FRIENDS \$100+

Shana Arias	Mr. & Mrs. Reed Freeman	Mary Pietan
Bill & Margaret Armstrong	Doug Ganyo	Jonathan Raiti
Barbara Barrett	Amielynn Gargiulo	Denise Reagan
Greg & Helen Beedy	Lauretta & Clark Gaylord	R.J. Richardson
Stuart Bergman	Sue Grusser	Barbara Roberts
Gail Beveridge	Carol Hack	T. Rossi
Richard Bizot	Diane Hale	Martha Schee
Catherine Bosco	Scott Hassel	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Schmidt
Alex, Elin, Kelly & Liv Broner	Karen & David Henderson	Gregg & Robin Scott
Tom & Nancy Broner	Matthew & Sandra Hendricks	Richard Scott

Carolyn Brown	Lena Hernandez	Kay Senn
J. Shepard & Maryann Bryan	Holy Spirit Catholic School	Melinda Simmons
The Buie Estate	Robert Ibanez	Butch Sims
Shannon Burns	Pat & Cliff Jeremiah	Valerie & Steven Smith
Robert Burt	Bryan Jordan	Tony & Rachel Stewart
Comprehensive Canine Training	Jim & Kathy Kotas	Jennifer Tamol
Davron Cardenas	Vicki Lake & Nick Carpetti	Pamela Telis
Jean Coker	Lorelei Lampe	Lorin Thies
Catharine Corbin	Janine Leland & Tom Larson	Mary Toomey
Carol Spawn Desmond	Lassie Lee	Patricia Vale
Matt & Dana Doody	Jim & Jeannie Littleton	Violet Garden Circle
Robin Donoho	Donald Lookingbill	Tristyn & Kevin Wade
Darryle Wise & Cathy Duncan	Laurie Mai	Robin Wahby
Christopher Eckert	Linda Martin	Lesley Warrick
Kristen Engdahl	Julie Mason	Virginia White Wilson
Jeff and Mary Finnan	Anne H. McCandless	Susan Wright
John Fischer	Marjorie McMaster	Kathryn Youngberg
Kelly Fitzgerald	Barbara & Charles McTiernan	Michael Zambetti
Daniel Flynn	Gail Nangle	Anne Zaros
	Peggy Nolan	
	Wade Nolan	
	Vincent Ober, Jr.	
	Robert & Vivien Parks	

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
Gold Partner \$1,000

JOHN BARTRAM SOCIETY

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

[Become a Member](#)

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens | 1445 Millcoke Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225