



## Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens e-Newsletter

January 2022 Edition

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

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### From John Burr Admission charge will bring more improvements

We're on to 2022, an ambitious and transitional year for the Jacksonville Arboretum and Botanical Gardens as we steadily build on our positive momentum.

Since we opened in 2008, we have not charged admission, but instead relied on donations to maintain the arboretum. We are now at the point in our growth that we need to charge a modest admission fee to continue to move towards JA&BG's potential as an oasis of natural beauty, education and outdoor wellness for Jacksonville.

Later this spring, an admissions collection station will be built at the entrance, and we will ask our visitors for a \$3 per person admission charge. We will also waive that fee for our members, so that regular visitors can avoid frequent admissions payments and save money by buying an annual membership.

This is a big change, we realize. We have taken heart in your support for the many recent improvements made to the property, and we know there needs to be more, such as construction of bathrooms with running water. It's straight-forward: more improvements require steady revenue.

There will be additional important announcements later this year, such as the release of master development plan, and the kick-off of a capital fundraising campaign to make that plan come alive. Many more details will come forward in the months ahead. Rest assured, we have the best interests of the arboretum and the Jacksonville region foremost in our plans.

John Burr  
Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Committee and Finance Committee member



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### From the Executive Director

## Dazzling Success - Thank you for supporting our first-ever light show!

Thank you to all those in the community who purchased tickets to the first-ever holiday light show at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. We are very grateful for your generous support of this fundraising event. These funds help us elevate the arboretum and fund the botanical garden's operation throughout the year.

This year there were unique member opportunities to purchase tickets at a discounted rate for this event. In 2022, members should look for announcements in early November for the discount promo code for our Dazzling Nights event. If you would like to experience the membership perks throughout the year, such as free unlimited visits to the arboretum & discounted event prices, please sign up soon. See the link at the bottom of the newsletter.

We have partnered with *The Memoir Agency* to present an improved show every year at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Please join us next holiday season whether you are a member or just curious about what delights you may find in the great outdoors.



Executive Director  
Dana J. Doody



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### Upcoming Events at the Arboretum

**Sunday, February 13, 2022 - 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Seeds of Joy** presented by New Age Hippy and Streams of Sound (a third-party event)

This free event is a beautiful festival of song and healing for World Sound Healing Day.

For more information:

<https://newagehippy.com/event/seeds-of-joy-world-sound-healing-day/>

# SEEDS OF JOY

FREE EVENT

PRESENTED BY NEW AGE HIPPIY & STREAMS OF SOUND

JOIN US IN SINGING AND DANCING TO  
"RIVERS OF GOD" WRITTEN BY  
LYNN ROSE CURTIN & MARINA VITA  
FEATURING  
TAI CHI/QIGONG & YOGA 12:30PM TO 1:30PM

SPREADING SEEDS OF JOY LOCALLY &  
GLOBALLY



**GullahGeechee Ancestral Tribute, Saturday, February 19, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

## GULLAHGEECHEE

*Ancestral Tribute*  
*story ~ song ~ dance*

*Presented by Anastatia Ketchen,*  
*GullahGeechee Sweetgrass*  
*Traditions Keeper*

**Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 10 a.m.**



sponsored by **TD Bank**  
America's Most Convenient Bank®



Anastatia Ketchen is a diversified artist, published author, teacher, African Drummer, and GullahGeechee sweetgrass traditions keeper.

She captivates her audience with the sound of her drum and songs of her ancestors as she shares their stories.

Anastatia works in the GullahGeechee community, to ensure children know that the strength of their ancestors is also within them. She also continues to teach the history of Sweetgrass Basket making passed down within her family as a Sweetgrass Traditions Keeper with The Gullah Geechee Nation and Artist in Residency with the GullahGeechee Angel Network.

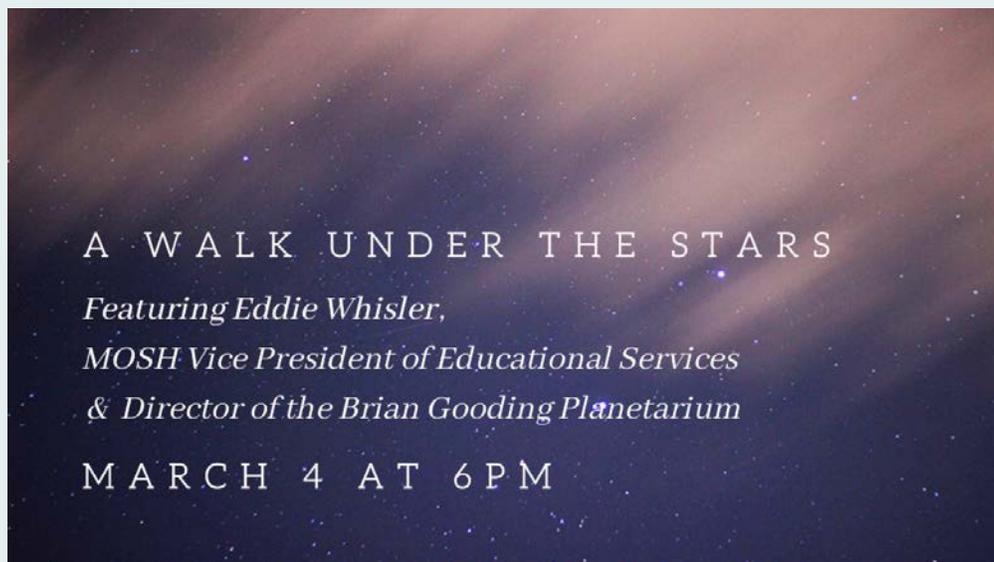
Anastatia works side by side with her mentor Elder Carlie Towne, The GullahGeechee Nation Minister of Information under the guidance of Queen Quet, Chieftess of The GullahGeechee Nation and many others to keep the culture alive.

Join us for a glimpse of the Gullah Geechee culture presented through story, song and dance.

(Please bring your own chairs)

[To Register Click Here!](#)

**Friday, March 4, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**  
Discovering Nature Nearby



[To Register Click Here!](#)

Everything and everyone is looking up! Join us on **Friday evening**, March 4, 6:00 p.m. as Eddie Whisler, the MOSH Vice President of Education Services and director of the Bryan Gooding Planetarium along with a special surprise guest, guide us in "looking up"! A Walk Under the Stars. Please bring your own chairs and telescopes.

**Saturday, March 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Gnomes at Home in the Arboretum**

Part of our *Arts at the Arboretum* series. Local author and pastor, Clint Wilder, with a gift of storytelling from his father, began telling stories about the Gnomes to his children and grandchildren and now, after 50 years, has permission to share these stories and experiences with the rest of us! Author of *My Adventures With Gnomes*, "PC" joins us at the Arboretum where a family of Woodland Gnomes resides, to share his adventures.

**SAVE THE DATE! - May 14 & 15, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**A Brush With Nature**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**A BRUSH WITH NATURE 2022**

May 14th & 15th  
9am to 5pm  
A Plein Air Painting Event



We are already hard at work making sure our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual A Brush With Nature will exceed expectations! There is a special brunch event being added to our weekend run of activities, details forthcoming.

**Featuring Live Music by 7 Street Band, Bold City Classics! Food from local food trucks and let's not forget the amazing art from First Coast Plein Air Painters!**

If you would like to volunteer for this amazing event please reach out to [info@Jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@Jacksonvillearboretum.org) Sponsorships are now available for A Brush With Nature, with over 2400 visitors at last year's event, this year promises to be bigger and better.



### How to support the Arboretum – Go Outside!

Have a special occasion or event that needs a natural outdoor setting? Outside is where it's at! Why not host it at the Arboretum? Venue rental prices vary depending on the complexity of the event or occasion. A simple wedding ceremony, in a setting of your choice, is just \$299 for 2 hours, and up to 30 guests. The photos and memories will be spectacular! These prices won't last long! Reach out to us at [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org) and we will be happy to answer your questions and send the necessary paperwork.

Steps	
Total	3,852,286 STEPS
Distance	2,070.59 MI
Daily Avg	6,048 STEPS

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*Rick Beeson,  
Stepping Up for  
Health*

Rick Beeson, Jacksonville Native, real estate professional, and self-described feral cat herder is a frequent visitor who has found good health walking the Arboretum. Rick says, "I used to get my exercise being a pallbearer to my friends who exercise until my own wake-up call." Rick's walking began around 10 years ago when his roommate went to hospice. His roommate was unconscious and then woke up (figuratively and literally) and started walking for his health. Being a man of "common sense," Rick decided to do likewise.

Rick was experiencing his own health challenges from being overweight and other issues including sleep apnea. And then he found freedom and health by walking in the Arboretum. "People were locked up and couldn't go anywhere. They were uptight, upset and at the end of their rope". Rick decided to put in his ear buds and found that walking was his freedom. Rick finds that his story inspires others. Rick calls himself "a lover, not a fighter" and is a staunch defender of the Arlington area. He helps when he can when and he delivers "blessing bags" to the downtown homeless.

You can see Rick at the Arboretum walking the trails "at the crack of dark" and that illustration is an actual read out from his exercise app. He is happy to share his story and listen to yours. Be sure to say hello to Rick when you see him on the trails at the Arboretum! We are glad that he is finding health and peace along with so many others!



Do you have a story that you would like to share with our newsletter readers about how the Arboretum has helped you achieve health goals? We would like to hear it! Please email: [info@jacksonvillearboretum.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillearboretum.org) and share with us!

### ***Plant of the Month***

#### **Trumpet Honeysuckle Vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*).**

Trumpet Honeysuckle Vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*). This lovely vine is also called Coral Honeysuckle and Woodbine. It grows to about 15 feet in length in light exposure ranging from light shade to full sun. It is easily cultivated under a variety of situations from either seed or cuttings and can tolerate poor soil subject to drought. However, for maximum flowering, it is best cultivated in a sunny location. It is deciduous in North Florida (loses its leaves in the winter) but easily comes back in the spring. Trumpet Honeysuckle has beautiful red trumpet-shaped flowers which are irresistible to hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. It produces small, brilliant red berries which are attractive to birds, including waxwings, woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, crows, and jays.

If you do not have a yard to grow it in, you can grow it on your patio in a large pot using a cage or other supports for it to climb on and it can be easily pruned and shaped if you wish



**Supporters & Partners**

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

bestbet  
Kevin Driscoll, CFP  
The Driscoll Group  
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TD Bank  
The Tredennick Family  
The Van Vleck Family  
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**Gold Partner \$1000+**

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Julia Hawkins  
Anne Lewellen  
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Corey Harris  
Lad & Mindy Hawkins  
Lindsay Lawrence  
Jennifer Marko  
Cheryl Munn Wright  
& Mark Wright  
Bonnie Nackino  
Charles & Sarah Kleeman  
Danny Murphy  
Vince & Susan Ober  
Florin Roebig  
Ronald Russell  
Dean Scott  
Tracy Scott  
Priscilla Smith  
Janet Streit  
Antique Emporium, Inc.

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**MEMBER FRIENDS \$100+**

Shana Arias	Lauretta & Clark Gaylord	Mary Pietan
Bill & Margaret Armstrong	Sue Grusser	Julia Prescott
Joseph Anselman	Katherine Gunter	Megan & Jamie Quinn
Barbara Barrett	Carol Hack	Jonathan Raiti
Judith Beaubouef	Diane Hale	Denise Reagan
Greg & Helen Beedy	Scott Hassel	Adam Robinson
Gail Beveridge	Karen & David Henderson	Kristina Robinson
Richard Bizot	Matthew & Sandra Hendricks	Matthew Robinson
Catherine Bosco	Lena Hernandez	Sarah Robinson
Iva Bridwell	Lois Hoeft	R.J. Richardson
Alex, Elin, Kelly & Liv Broner	Holy Spirit Catholic School	Barbara Roberts
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The Buie Estate	Jim & Kathy Kotas	Greg & Robin Scott
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Robert Burt	Lorelei Lampe	Kay Senn
Comprehensive Canine Training	R Ward Lariscy	Melinda Simmons
Davron Cardenas	Janine Leland & Tom Larson	Butch Sims
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Jeffrey Clements	Lassie Lee	Julie Spelman
Jean Coker	Jim & Jeannie Littleton	Tony & Rachel Stewart
Catharine Corbin	Donald Lookingbill	Summa Salts
Carol Spawn Desmond	Diane Ludwig	Jennifer Tamol
Matt & Dana Doody	Laurie Mai	Pamela Telis
Robin Donoho	Linda Martin	Lorin Thies
Darryle Wise & Cathy Duncan	Julie Mason	Mary Toomey
Winfield Duss	Anne H. McCandless	Patricia Vale
Christopher Eckert	Sarah McElrey	Violet Garden Circle

Kristen Engdahl  
Valerie Fain  
Jeff and Mary Finnan  
John Fischer  
Kelly Fitzgerald  
Mr. & Mrs. Reed Freeman  
Doug Ganyo  
Amielynn Gargiulo

Marjorie McMaster  
Barbara & Charles McTiernan  
Gail Nangle  
Robert Nied  
Peggy Nolan  
Wade Nolan  
Vincent Ober, Jr.  
Robert & Vivien Parks

Tristyn & Kevin Wade  
Robin Wahby  
Lesley Warrick  
Virginia White Wilson  
Philp Wolgemuth  
Susan Wright  
Kathryn Youngberg  
Michael Zambetti  
Anne Zaros

## 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

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