



Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens e-Newsletter

Spring 2022 Edition

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

From Kevin Blalock *Board President*



At the Arboretum, it seems we have turned the corner to Spring and are not only enjoying the lovely northeast Florida weather, but also anticipating a fantastic year of recreation, education and inspiration. 2021 was a landmark year for our organization, and 2022 is only going to build on that momentum. One of our cornerstone programs that our staff and volunteers has nurtured and continued to improve this year is the Discovering Nature Nearby program.

When the Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical gardens started the Discovering Nature Nearby (DNN) program, the purpose was simple: education for youth about the nature around them. However, we found that many adult community members were interested in learning about native Florida plants and wildlife. To meet the community needs, the program shifted to include a broader audience and more diversity in the programs we offer. Our goal has always been to inform the community about the importance of ecology, forestry, botany, and gardening, and enhance their understanding of animal habitat and other topics.

The Arboretum hosts a Discovering Nature Nearby event with certified experts and unique experiences for all ages. The popularity of these events has grown from 15 attendees to 100 attendees per program, and we expect this trend to continue. JA&BG has reinvigorated this program with presentations by a wide variety of guest speakers and experts who continue to give their time to this program. In return, the program had a positive impact on the Arboretum's growth and popularity, drawing guests from all over the City of Jacksonville. The volunteers have also refreshed how we present these events to the community, including changing locations throughout the Arboretum, asking our guests to bring their own chairs for comfort and providing personalized greeting and check-in.

With the program designed to fit the community's needs and inspire future visits, sponsors and volunteers have played a critical role in delivering events that inspire the community. February's Discovering Nature Nearby event featured a Gullah Geechee Ancestral Tribute, including song, dance, and teachings about the Gullah Geechee Nation's culture. The expert who led this event was Anastatia Ketchen, who is qualified as a Sweetgrass Traditions Keeper with The Gullah Geechee Nation. This event provided an opportunity for our guests to experience cultures and traditions that may have been unknown to the community before the event. Attendance at this

event was the highest ever for DNN, supporting our belief that the community is also interested in exploring new cultures and traditions and how they interrelate with the local environment.

The Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is proud to offer immersive experiences for the public to enjoy on their own time. These monthly events have helped new partnerships form with the Duval Audubon Society and Morton Arboretum in Chicago among others. We offer the DNN events to open the floor for questions about environmental topics that may be unfamiliar to the community. In the future, we will continue to provide unique experiences that bring you closer to nature.

This and other programs are so successful because of our volunteers and donors. If you would like to volunteer or support these amazing programs, please contact us at info@jacksonvillearboretum.org. We are looking forward to an amazing 2022 with our community and we hope you will join us at one of these great events – there is something here for everyone!

UP COMING DNN EVENTS



Take a walk with arborist, Larry Figart. Larry has a wonderful way of teaching people about different types of trees, how to identify them and much, much more. Spend a morning with us to celebrate Arbor Day Weekend. Join us at 10 a.m. on April 30th.



Fungus is Fun! Join us as we welcome mushroom and fungus expert, Shannon Sharpe. This will be an educational experience that will help you learn about the fascinating science of mycology, mushrooms and fungus.

[Click here to register for these amazing events!](#)

From Dana Doody
Executive Director



A1 Paving

Have you asked yourself, "Why don't they finish the paving around the Lake Loop?" Well it is happening! Made possible by grant funds received from Delores Barr Weaver and others, it is the first step to begin the implementation of our garden master plan. Construction continues and we hope to re-open the North end of the property within the next few days, weather depending. We will finish it quickly so not to disturb our visitors but please be patient. Please check social media for updates. We know it will be worth the wait!



Upper Ravine Bridge

The Upper Ravine Bridge is also about get a facelift! We will be refacing the bridge on **April 20th** due to a grant from RS&H. We will be working with the construction team from HBI. HBI is non-profit that assists transitional military by teaching them important trades such as plumbing, carpentry and electrical. Students from this incredible program will dedicate time to helping us to transform our little bridge back to it's former glory. The bridge was originally installed by The Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints. We affectionately call it the Mormon Bridge. We are thankful for the wonderful partnerships that this bridge has brought us

and looking forward to it's new look!

New admissions structure coming April 29

It is almost that time. 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.

Beginning April 29th, an admissions collection station will be 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. New restrooms have been ordered and will be installed within a year. Contractors are backed up due to COVID but we are working to get these in place as soon as possible. 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

Membership

Welcome Brenna Blake

Operations and Outreach Manager



We are pleased to announce that Brenna Blake has joined the Arboretum Family as the Operations and Outreach Manager. She recently came from North Florida Land Trust as the Development and Operations Manager. Brenna's passion lies in Wildlife Conservation and protecting our natural spaces.

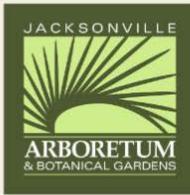
Her proven leadership experience includes events, fundraising, and operations. Her business background includes finance and human resources administration for Hilton Hotels. She has most recently hosted successful events for North Florida Land Trust and cultivated critical relationships related to the mission of land conservation resulting in half a million dollars. She is currently working on her Nonprofit Management certificate. We are thrilled to welcome Brenna to the team as we look forward to the exciting road ahead!

UNF Spring Intern - Jadah Foltz

We are so grateful for our partnership with the UNF Intern Program. It has gained us a sparkling, energetic (and funny) young lady who brightens every meeting! She is a Communications Major with a Public Relations focus. Jadah is assisting with A Brush with Nature event and planning and all things social media. She is such an asset to our team!

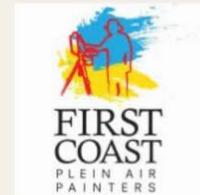


Events at the Arboretum



A BRUSH WITH NATURE

May 13th Art Sales Begin at Noon
May 14th & 15th
9am to 5pm
A Plein Air Painting Event



12th Annual - A Brush With Nature

Original art will be available for sale beginning on Friday, May 13 at Noon. (All other activities begin Saturday). There is a special addition this year on Sunday afternoon, ***A Brunch With Nature***, catered by Biscotti's and accompanied by music from Bold City Classics, A Chris Thomas Affiliate Band. We are already hard at work making this ABWN, the best one yet!

Get tickets [here](#).



A BRUNCH WITH NATURE

The event within the event

May 15th from 11am to 2pm



The event always attracts a generous list of sponsors who love the combination of art and the outdoors. This year's event sponsors include Marcia Mederos, Jenkins Hyundai of Jacksonville, bestbet, Atlantic Self Storage, Robb & Pamela Mitchell, The Driscoll Group, Inc., Decks & Docks, Hollywood Decks, Earthworks, T-Mobile and Krav Maga.

Any person or business interested in sponsoring "A Brush with Nature" should contact Breanna Blake by calling 904-318-4342 or emailing brennab@jacksonvillearboretum.org.

Artists who want to participate should contact First Coast Plein Air Painters President Stephen Dunn at stephendunnart@att.net.

How to support the Arboretum

There one thing that we never seem to have enough of, and it costs nothing, yet is priceless. It is time. Specifically, the time that a small group of people take to volunteer at the Arboretum in so many ways. Gardens, Events, Arbor Watch, Discovering Nature Nearby, Trails and Tours.

Believe it or not, the entire 126-acre Arboretum and all its flora and fauna is cared for by less than fifty people! Every Wednesday, Second and Third Saturday 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. a small, but incredibly dedicated group assembles to pull weeds, prune, plant, trim, watch, and care. . . Won't you join us?

Email info@jacksonvillearboretum.org with you or your group's availability and your willingness to donate your most precious resource, time. ABWN is coming up and we would love your help!

Plant of the Month

Spotted Beebalm (Monarda Punctata)

Also called Spotted Horsemint or simply Horsemint, this plant is a member of the mint family and is an herbaceous perennial native to North America.

It is a personal favorite for the native garden as it is so easy to grow, looks beautiful in a mass planting, and once it blooms, it is covered with pollinators including a number of bee species, wasps, and butterflies. It tolerates full sun and part-shade; it is drought tolerant, and will be happy in dry, sandy soil.

Spotted Horsemint blooms from August through October and has beautiful whorls wrapped around the stems in colors ranging from purple to deep pink to mauve. The leaves and stems are very fragrant and high in thymol which has antimicrobial, antiseptic, and antifungal properties. Historically, it has been used to treat ringworm and hookworm infections. In addition, the leaves can be brewed into a mild tea said to promote relaxation. However, please be sure that your plants have not been treated with any pesticides or herbicides before you decide to do this.



It grows in clumps and can rapidly expand from a seedling to a 2' diameter mass of plants 3 to 4 feet in height. It will tend to crowd out other plant species over time and fill in any empty spots in your garden. However, it can be easily controlled by cutting back after it is finished blooming or pulling it from areas where you don't want it to grow. It is deciduous in North Florida and will die back to the ground in the winter. It easily comes back in the spring and grows quickly. It is extremely easy to propagate –just shake the dried flowerheads to release the seeds or it will easily reseed on its own.

Because it is such a tremendous pollinator attractor, it is excellent for birds as well, including thrushes, wrens, nuthatches, waxwings, wood warblers, woodpeckers, and orioles.



Supporters & Partners

JOHN BARTRAM SOCIETY STEWARDS \$5,000+

bestbet
Kevin Driscoll, CFP
The Driscoll Group
REI Jacksonville
RS&H
Dr. Susan Carr
TD Bank
The Tredennick Family
The Van Vleck Family
George & Mary Elizabeth Varn
Earthworks
Gold Partner \$1000+
The Burr Family
Dr. Cromer, Baywood Animal
Hospital
Cloud Family Amazing Fund
Caitlin Chandler
Steve & Betsy Crosby
Leah Cusker
Amy Franqui
Daniel Flynn
Victoria Freeman
Julia Hawkins
Anne Lewellen
Ronald Dean Martin
Barbara Prynosi

Jessica Salazar
Marcia Mederos
Mike & Amy Fran
Robb & Pamela Mitchell
Alexander & Christina Pariente
Barbara Prynosi
Michael Stewart

SILVER PARTNER \$500+

Kevin Blalock &
Carina Santalucia
Stuart & Hazel Bergman
E. Zimmerman Boulos
Kathy Dolge
Steward Driscoll
John & Sondie Frus
Dr. Lawrence & Kathy
Kanter
Adina Pollan
Jane & John Pope
Audrey Ormerod
Anthony John Rigney, P.A. &
Rigney Family
Ron and Carol Russell, Russell
Blueberry Farm
Julie Simmons
Schacter Family Foundation
Ron & Lori Ann Whittington

BRONZE PARTNER \$250+

Wesley Adkins
Perry Allaire
Eldon & Martha Bekkum
Brian Bidwell
Stephen Connelly & Ellen
Middleton
Cathy Duncan
Nisha Durand
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.

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
Tom & Nancy Broner	Robert Ibanez	T. Rossi
Carolyn Brown	Pat & Cliff Jeremiah	Martha Schee
J. Shepard & Maryann Bryan	Bryan Jordan	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Schmidt
The Buie Estate	Jim & Kathy Kotas	Greg & Robin Scott
Shannon Burns	Vicki Lake & Nick Carpetti	Richard Scott
Robert Burt	Lorelei Lampe	Kay Senn
Comprehensive Canine Training	R Ward Lariscy	Melinda Simmons
Davron Cardenas	Janine Leland & Tom Larson	Butch Sims
Marilyn Carpenter	Drayton Lee	Valerie & Steven Smith
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
Kristen Engdahl
Valerie Fain
Jeff and Mary Finnan
John Fischer
Kelly Fitzgerald
Mr. & Mrs. Reed Freeman
Doug Ganyo
Amielynn Gargiulo

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

Violet Garden Circle
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 Millcoe Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

Sent by info@jacksonvillearboretum.org powered by

