

# ECO EVENTS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TREE HILL NATURE CENTER



Spring has sprung! Around here, that means a feverish season at the farmers markets before the weather gets too hot and the Northeast Florida growing season ends. To help you make the rounds, we offer this listing of 15 area markets with locations, times, examples of products available and contact information: [www.theorganicadventurer.com/jax-farmers-markets](http://www.theorganicadventurer.com/jax-farmers-markets). Check out the helpful Google Map link at the bottom!



Gardening at Tree Hill

cup to reduce waste. For more information, call 247-1876. Visit [www.florida.sierraclub.org/northeast](http://www.florida.sierraclub.org/northeast) for more on the Sierra Club and its many events.

**April 11** Learn how to save water, plant for spring color and create shady gardening space under trees at Duval County Extension's **Spring Gardening Workshop** from 9:30 am to 1 pm at the Mandarin Garden Club. The \$5 fee may be paid at the door, but registration is required, so contact Becky at 255-7450 or [beckyd@coj.net](mailto:beckyd@coj.net). Visit [www.duval.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.duval.ifas.ufl.edu) for more on April Extension activities.

**April 14** Tree Hill Nature Center presents **Butterfly Gardening 101** at 1 pm. Get hands-on as you learn the basics of butterfly gardening from a Florida Master Naturalist. You'll get to take home a butterfly plant. This Second Saturday program is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members and includes admission. Workshops are limited to 25 people and are on a first-come, first-served basis the day of the program, so register online at [www.treehill.org](http://www.treehill.org) to reserve your spot! The first 10 kids to register will get to help release live butterflies into the Butterfly House. Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing; closed-toe shoes are recommended.

**April 14** Beaches Local Food Network switches to warm-weather times for its children's workshops. Take your little one from 9-10 am for **Spring Planting II and Seeding Activity** at the community garden in Jarboe Park. The workshop is free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Find out more about BLFN and the Children's Garden at [www.beacheslocalfoodnetwork.org](http://www.beacheslocalfoodnetwork.org).

**April 18** The global economic crisis has exposed the rampant outward growth of most American metropolitan regions as both environmentally and financially unsustainable. If you're curious about what a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) neighborhood development looks like,



Mandarin Art Festival

join the U.S. Green Building Council North Florida at Auld & White Constructors, LLC on Southpoint Parkway from 7:30-9 am for the final Webcast & Coffee, **Neighborhood Development 201: LEED for Neighborhood Development: Sustainability Beyond Buildings - A Tool to Retrofit the Suburbs**. The session is free for USGBCNFL members and \$25 for nonmembers. RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/7tza7nk> by 5 pm on April 17.

**April 21** Tickets are on sale now for the North Florida Land Trust's **Moonlight on the Marsh Black Tie & Blue Jeans Gala**. The Gala, from 6-9:30 pm at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's remote Outpost on Neck Road, is NFLT's annual fundraiser for land conservation- and with big plans to preserve Big Talbot Island, they've got a lot of funds to raise! The evening will include dinner (beer and wine included, cash bar available), live entertainment, and silent and live auction. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at [www.northfloridalandtrust.org](http://www.northfloridalandtrust.org) or by calling 285-7020. Also, peruse NFLT's website for the many other workshops, kayak trips and presentations they have planned.

**April 21 & 22** The Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park will host their 23rd annual **Earth Day Celebration** from 10 am to 4 pm. The event will include live entertainment, living history re-enactment, environmental groups, arts and crafts vendors, photo contest, plant and herb sale, the Friends Gift Shop, food, and a youth section with activities for kids. The admission fee of \$10 per car for up to eight people includes a door prize drawing for an Annual Family Florida Park Pass and a year's Friends membership. For more information, contact Melissa Kafel, Park Service Specialist, at 386-446-6783 or [melissa.kafel@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:melissa.kafel@dep.state.fl.us), and check out the Friends at [www.washingtonoaks.org](http://www.washingtonoaks.org).

**April 22** From 12-5 pm, select First Coast area farms will open their gates for **Tour de Farm**. Learn about about local food production, where our food comes from and the farmers who produce it. This is a free event. Visit [www.slowfoodfirstcoast.com/tourdefarm2012.html](http://www.slowfoodfirstcoast.com/tourdefarm2012.html) for more information.

**April 28** Interested in reducing your water bill, eliminating expensive lawn care, having more free time, and attracting Florida's birds and butterflies to your yard? Then join the Florida Native Plant Society, Ixia Chapter for the free workshop **Spring Into Native Plants**, which will be on the principles of landscape design, the best native plants for residential landscaping and more. A guided hike of the Sawmill Slough Preserve follows the presentations, and there will be a book and native plant sale all day! The workshop, presented in partnership with UNF's Environmental Center, will be held at the UNF Student Union Auditorium from 10 am to 2:30 pm. Participants should bring a bagged lunch and beverages. Space is limited, so contact Barbara Jackson at [bjack2804@aol.com](mailto:bjack2804@aol.com) or 655-2550 by April 25 to reserve your seat.

**April 28** Do NOT miss the **11th Annual Butterfly Festival** at Tree Hill Nature Center from 10 am to 4 pm! This incredibly popular Jacksonville tradition returns with eco-friendly vendors, food and drinks, a live butterfly exhibit, crafts, animals, presentations, entertainment, and so much more. The live butterfly release will be at 3:30 pm, weather permitting. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors, military and students; \$3 for kids. This is Tree Hill's largest fundraiser of the year, and all proceeds go to promoting environmental stewardship in Jacksonville. [www.treehill.org](http://www.treehill.org)

Please email listings for consideration to [anna@eujacksonville.com](mailto:anna@eujacksonville.com) by the 15th of each month.