

# ECO EVENTS



BROUGHT TO YOU BY TREE HILL NATURE CENTER

**April 30-May 5** The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach presents **The Art of Living Well, from Farm to Table: A Cultural Experience.**

Join them for cooking classes, lectures and other events featuring local growers and chefs. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org).

**May 5** If you missed the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens' Brush with Nature event, try your own hand at painting in the open air at their **Public Plein Air Painting Day.** All are welcome to paint or draw in the Arboretum's beautiful settings. There will be no food vendors or other support, so plan to bring everything you need: art materials, water, lunch, insect repellent, etc. And if you'd like a little guidance, several plein air workshops are being offered the same day such as "Pastel in the great outdoors: Composing a plein air painting in pastel." All classes are from 9 am to noon. The event is free, but workshops are \$45 and include a \$5 donation to the Arboretum. Class sizes are limited, so email [info@arboretum.org](mailto:info@arboretum.org) for information on how to sign up.

**May 5** This is going to be a big day downtown. In addition to RAM under the Fuller Warren and the World of Nations Celebration in Metropolitan Park, come out and enjoy Jacksonville's first EVER downtown paddle race. **The River City Challenge** festival starts at 10 am, with more vendors, demonstrations, clinics, presentations by environmental conservation groups, music and food than you can shake a paddle at! The race also starts at 10 am. For more information on registration, sponsorships or just where to park when you bring the family out, visit [www.rivercitychallenge.org](http://www.rivercitychallenge.org).

**May 5** The Duval County Extension presents the family-friendly **Cinco de Mayo for Mother's Day Culinary Workshop** from 10 am to 1 pm at the Extension's McDuff Avenue location. Learn to use healthy ingredients, create table decorations and bake tasty breads and desserts. Children are welcome to attend with parents. The workshop is \$10 per person or \$15 for a family of four. Registration is required, so call Sandra at 255-7450 or log on to [cincodemayoformothers.eventbrite.com](http://cincodemayoformothers.eventbrite.com) to reserve your spot.

**May 9** Support Beaches Local Food Network and get fed at the same time at their **Farm to Table Progressive Dinner!** This movable feast will feature local producers and seven Beaches-area restaurants. The dinner starts at 5:30. Reservations and payment of \$85 per person is required by May 5. Reserve and pay in person or at [www.beacheslocalfoodnetwork.org](http://www.beacheslocalfoodnetwork.org). Local artist Gary Mack ([www.garymack-art.com](http://www.garymack-art.com)) has created and donated a painting of

the Beaches Green Market. Drawing tickets for the painting are \$10 or six for \$50.

**May 12** Tree Hill Nature Center presents **Organic Veggie Gardening** at 1 pm at the Arlington Community Garden located at the Joseph A. Strasser Amphitheater. Learn how to provide the best in fresh fruits and vegetables for your family through organic gardening techniques and take home a sample from the program. This Second Saturday program is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers (plus admission – see website). 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! Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing; closed-toe shoes are recommended.

**May 14** Sierra Club, Northeast Group will host Larry Figart, Urban Forester with the Duval County Extension Office. His talk, **"Misconceptions about trees: Best native trees for our area, correct pruning and irrigation of them"** is free and will be at 6:30 pm at Lakewood Presbyterian Church. Contact Janet Larson, 247-1876.

**May 18** Join the Georgia Sea Turtle Center for a **Dash & Dine Fun Run** beginning at 6:30 pm at Great Dunes Park. Celebrate the opening of the beachfront park with a free family fun dash to "cut the ribbon." Participation awards for all kids who run or walk. After the dash, enjoy a delicious outdoor pasta dinner at the park and live music. Pasta dinner: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 4-13, free for kids 3 and younger. Reservations must be made in advance for dinner by signing up during race registration or by calling the Jekyll Island Visitor Information Center at (912) 635-3636.

**May 18-20** It's time for the 6th annual **Wild Amelia Nature Festival!** This celebration of the bioregion around Amelia Island includes nature tours, nature photography workshops, a green business expo, Kids Niche nature-based activities, Wild Nites seminars, a nature photography contest and more. Fees, registration requirements and activities vary depending on activity, so visit [www.wildamelia.com](http://www.wildamelia.com) for all the details.

**May 19** The Georgia Sea Turtle Center presents the **Turtle Crawl Triathlon & Nest Fest** at the new Jekyll Island Convention Center. Races of various distances begin at 7 am, and Nest Fest activities begin around 10 am. There may even be a sea turtle release! A portion of the proceeds benefits the Sea Turtle Center. More information can be found at [www.jekyllisland.com/Events/AnnualFestivals/TurtleCrawlTriathlon.aspx](http://www.jekyllisland.com/Events/AnnualFestivals/TurtleCrawlTriathlon.aspx) and [www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org](http://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org).

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

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