

ECO EVENTS



BROUGHT TO YOU BY TREE HILL NATURE CENTER

Saturdays – The Beaches Local Food Network’s free **children’s garden workshops** will return in the fall. The last one, a taco party and composting workshop, was on June 30. But the **farmers market**, from 2-5 pm in Jarboe Park, will be going strong all summer, so don’t miss it! Ice-cold natural tea made with local ingredients, local produce, goat’s milk products, plants you can grow in your own yard—the market has it all. And the helpful email newsletter includes recipes, tips and special announcements, so visit www.beacheslocalfood-network.org to sign up!

Starting in August – If you’re going to buy tickets to see the Jags this year anyway, why not raise funds for Jacksonville’s natural spaces at the same time? **Give and Go!** is a partnership between The Non-Profit Center, the Jacksonville Jaguars and WeGive.org to offer the lowest Jaguars ticket price in town and raise funds for local nonprofits. The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens can earn \$20 for each single game ticket purchased through Give and Go! The Arboretum plans to use the funds for educational and location signage for its new trails. To buy your tickets, visit http://npc.nonprofitctr.org/shell/jaguars_tickets.asp. The Jags play the New York Giants on August 10 and the Atlanta Falcons on August 30.

August 6 & 14 – Have land in your family that you don’t know what to do with? The North Florida Land Trust hosts a free workshop titled “**Keys to keeping the farm (and other preservation properties)**” from 6-7:30 pm. The August 6 workshop will be at the IFAS/St. Johns County Extension Auditorium at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. The August 14 workshop will be at the IFAS/Flagler County Extension Auditorium at 150 Sawgrass Rd. in Bunnell. Contact the Land Trust at info@northfloridalandtrust.org if you need more information; reserve your spot by calling 285-7020.

August 11 – Tree Hill Nature Center presents “**Kayaking 101**” at 1 pm. Learn the basics of kayaking, including what you’ll need, where to go and what to do. This Second Saturday program is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members, which includes admission to Tree Hill! Workshop space is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis the day of the program, so register online at www.treehill.org to reserve your spot! Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing; closed-toe shoes are recommended. Also, contact Tree Hill at 724-4646 about having your next birthday

party there and about amphitheater rental for events.

August 11 & 25 – Looking for a fun way to wrap up the kids’ summer vacation? Ananda Kula, in Fairfax, offers “**Kula Kids**,” a workshop of creative activities designed to encourage focus, ability and growth. The day includes art, dance, energy work, yoga, crafts and more. It even includes a healthy catered lunch! The 9 am to 5 pm workshops cost \$90 per child. The August 11 workshop is for kids ages 9-13 and the August 25 date is for ages 4-8. Get more information about Ananda Kula at www.ananda-kula.com and sign up for one of the Kula Kids workshops at <https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/ASP/home.asp?studioid=1368>.

August 18 – Cool off with the Jacksonville Kayaking Meetup Group during their **Silver River paddle**. The group meets at 9:30 am at the Ray Wayside Boat Park in Silver Springs. The paddle is open to all skill levels, and there is an opportunity to rent kayaks if you don’t own your own. This neat natural adventure group is really worth checking out! Get more details about this event and the group by visiting their Meetup page at www.meetup.com/kayakjax.

August 23 – Stop by the North Florida Land Trust office, at 10036 Sawgrass Drive West, Suite 10, from 4-7 pm for an **open house**. Enjoy some wine and cheese and see some of the projects they’re working on. Meet the board, interns and staff. (Did you know they have a new director?) The event is free, but call 285-7020 for a reservation.

August 25 – As summer winds down, many gardeners are gearing up for the vegetable growing season. The Duval County Extension offers a “**Start your own vegetables from seed**” workshop from 9:30 am to noon for \$15. All materials are included; plant your own seed tray to take home. Registration is required, so call Jeannie Crosby at 255-7450.

August 25 – Second Harvest, Friends of Northeast Florida Community Gardens, HabiJax and Beaches Habitat for Humanity are partnering to bring healthy food to food insecure neighborhoods through their Community Garden Initiative. As part of that, they are offering a free class, “**Gardening with no space: Container gardening**,” from 4-6 pm at the Rhoda L. Martin Cultural Heritage Center in Jacksonville Beach. Seating is limited, so pre-register by calling 239-6584 or emailing gardens@we-nourishhope.org.

- **COMPILED BY ANNA RABHAN** Please email listings for consideration to anna@eu-jacksonville.com by the 15th of each month.

ON THE RIVER

Stand up and speak up for the St. Johns

BY SHANNON BLANKINSHIP

On June 23, over 1,800 people gathered at Silver River State Park in Ocala to speak up for protection of Florida’s springs, rivers and waters. On Memorial Day of this year, three adventurous young men set off on a 310-mile journey up the entire St. Johns with only a few supplies secured to their stand-up paddleboards to raise awareness for the river. These two great summertime events brought much-needed attention to our valuable St. Johns River and its watershed.

Stand-up paddleboarding (SUPing) is a fast-growing sport that is a fun and easy way to get out on the water. It can take many forms: challenging in waves and turbulence and relaxing when the water is placid. Come learn how to get started SUPing on September 15 at the Seminole Canoe Club on the Ortega River (www.flscck.com). Guides will be present to help beginners and provide tips and advice. Bring along the family and your kayaks and canoes as well. St. Johns Riverkeeper hopes to have a huge flotilla of people paddling to celebrate the St. Johns and to speak up (or stand up, as the case may be) for its protection.

Recently, there has been a huge outpouring of support for Silver Springs. Floridians are up in arms over a request by a massive cattle operation to withdraw millions of gallons of water from the aquifer near Silver Springs. Help continue the momentum by joining the flotilla of SUPs, kayaks and canoes on September 15 to speak up for all of Florida’s threatened springs, rivers and waters. Speak Up for the St. Johns is a way we can all join together to support our river and to oppose harmful permitting decisions.

While summer days continue to linger, find time to access the St. Johns River. Whether it is a stroll through Memorial Park, kayaking or SUPing from one of the new boat launches created by Mayor Brown, or enjoying dinner at a restaurant with a river view, make sure to take advantage of this tremendous resource. Also, make sure to speak up about the St. Johns River to your family and friends. The river needs our support, and we need to show that we care about its protection and preservation.

EVENTS

Sunset River Trivia Boat Cruise
August 10, 7:30-9 pm

Rising Tides, the young professionals of SJRK, are hosting a river trivia night—on a boat! Cost: \$25; call Shannon, 256-7613, to register.
www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/sunset-river-trivia-cruise

Save the Ferry A1A Bike Ride
September 9, 10 am-3 pm

Ride begins at the Jax Beaches Mellow Mushroom. Ride to the St. Johns River Ferry and briefly tour parts of the Timucuan Preserve. Back to Mellow Mushroom by 1 pm for drink specials and live music.
www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/save-the-ferry-a1a-bike-ride

Speak Up for the St. Johns

September 15, 5-8 pm

Join SJRK and learn how to SUP! Guides and stand-up paddleboards will be provided. Seminole Canoe Club
Contact Shannon, 256-7613, with questions.

www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/speak-up-for-the-st-johns-a-flotilla-for-river-protection

