

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Spring 2010

24.2

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUM POND EXHIBIT AT THE CROSBY ARBORETUM: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In late January, eleven Masters of Landscape Architecture students from Mississippi State University conducted field inventories related to the proposed Gum Pond Exhibit at The Crosby Arboretum. They were led by Professor Bob Brzuszek, who served as Senior Curator of the facility for 14 years. This site visit gave the students an increased understanding of regional gum ponds which are depressional wetlands with fluctuating water levels.

Understanding “*How we got here?*” is essential to planning for the future of this place. On their visit, the students enjoyed a unique opportunity to hear about the Crosby Arboretum from one of the project’s founders, Mrs. Lynn Crosby Gammill, who shared her excitement about the Gum Pond Exhibit. Mrs. Gammill said the exhibit will complete the axis north and south, unify the site, and provide a balance that is of great importance to the site’s sustainability, as it will enhance its environmental features, provide important educational opportunities, and create an additional interest for visitors. Mrs. Gammill also spoke of the importance of the partnership with Mississippi State University, who now manages the facility. This partnership continues to grow through the involvement of employees, students, faculty, and administration. It is affirmed through Bob Brzuszek’s stated objective that this Masters of Landscape Architecture class will resolve design issues to ensure that construction can begin successfully this year.

The first step of this process is to complete field inventories and analyze the data for application to the design. The recent field visit included such activities as developing a complete plant species list of the exhibit area, identifying locations of appropriated wetland hardwoods, delineating drainage swales, obtaining site photographs, and sketching the character of the site. Assisting with the inventories was Garrett Newton, on-site intern from the Department of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University. Garrett’s location of the original Master Plan grid pins was of particular benefit. Spence Kellum of

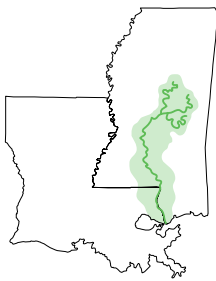


MSU Landscape Architecture students gather data on a recent site visit to a gum pond in Desoto National Forest.

The Landscape Studio in Hattiesburg provided drawings, aerial photographs, and geographic information for the inventories.

The class also visited existing gum ponds in the Desoto National Forest to measure and apply these understandings to the design of the Gum Pond Exhibit. This was an opportunity to understand the “language” of a gum pond, while closely observing the special qualities of the place. Even with a soaking rain on Friday and an “over the boot” wade in cold waters on Saturday, by the end of the day the students had accomplished their work, and had lived an experience of lasting value. The Gum Pond Exhibit is developing on a firm foundation: the inspiration of pioneers with a mission, the leadership of teachers with passion, the vision of master planners with purpose, the collaboration of professionals with resources, and the teamwork of individuals with a desire to “make it happen.” Built on this foundation, the Gum Pond Exhibit will make a difference at The Crosby Arboretum and in the lives of those that will experience its journeys.

– *Randall L. Meador, MSU Masters of Landscape Architecture student and civil engineer, Neel Schaffer, Inc.*



The **Crosby Arboretum**
Mississippi State University

A regional arboretum representing the native flora of the Pearl River Drainage Basin in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Picayune, Mississippi, USA

Director's Notebook: Planning Underway for the New Gum Pond Exhibit

This new year will be an exciting one for the Arboretum, in which planning and construction will take place to create the new Gum Pond Exhibit. As many of you know, The Crosby Arboretum Foundation has received a \$32,418 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star Restoration Program to complete Phase One of the Exhibit. Once complete, the 1.0-acre Gum Pond Exhibit will be a vital resource for school groups and the public to learn about these declining wetlands.

Gum swamp forests, which are listed as vulnerable by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, cover approximately 400,000 acres or 1.3% of Mississippi. Common plant species found within these habitats include Swamp Tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), Common Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*), Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), Black Willow (*Salix nigra*), and Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). Twenty-six species of birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals that are found within gum swamp forests are in great need of conservation. Some of the most fascinating among these include the Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), Ivory-Billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), and Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*).

In preparation for this new Exhibit, Bob Brzuszek and students from the Department of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University will visit the Arboretum several times this spring. The group is currently conducting literature reviews on gum pond ecology and wetland restoration. At the end of January, the group visited the Arboretum to determine the plant species, soil, hydrology, and wetland configuration at the proposed Exhibit site. A design charette is planned for February, in which the group will be joined by Ed Blake, Jr. of The Landscape Studio, Arboretum staff, and wetland restoration scientists. During this meeting,



In January, graduate students from MSU Department of Landscape Architecture discussed plans for the site inventory of the Gum Pond Exhibit.

interpretive stations, connecting pathways, and a diagram of the Gum Pond will be developed.

Arboretum Intern Garrett Newton is also working with the group this spring on the Gum Pond Project. Garrett is a Landscape Architecture student from Louisiana State University who will be at the Arboretum from January to May. His focus will be to locate the grid pins at the proposed Gum Pond site, flag the outline of the new Exhibit, create maps, and inventory the plants. Volunteer Gordon Ousset is working closely with Garrett to complete tasks related to this Exhibit. Pearl River County Master Gardeners, the Pearl River County 4-H Forest Club, and The Natural Resource Conservation Service (Poplarville, MS) will team with this project during its construction phase (September to November, 2010).

A project of this scope takes many hands to be successful. I am grateful for the many that are committed to seeing the new Gum Pond Exhibit completed. Special thanks to the many that have donated to the 2009 Annual Appeal at the Arboretum. Thus far, \$5,260 has been raised to fund the creation of a kiosk, interpretive signs, and benches for the new Exhibit. Thanks to all who have and will contribute to making this Gum Pond Exhibit a reality.

– *Janine Conklin, Ph.D.*
Director of The Crosby Arboretum and
Assistant Extension Professor of Horticulture
Mississippi State University

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

March - April 2010

March 2010

GROWING UP WILD TEACHER'S WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 6

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Growing Up Wild is a brand new early childhood education program for ages 3-7, and is an offshoot of Project WILD. The **Mississippi Museum of Natural Science** is facilitating this training for teachers and homeschool educators, which includes the manual *Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children*. Training is free to educators in Pearl River or Hancock Counties, and \$15 to others. CEU's are available. For questions or to register, please call (601) 799-2311, Ext. 101 or contact Crystie Baker at crystie1@gmail.com.

ARBORETUM FIELD WALK WITH NATURALIST ALAN BRANHAGEN (Adults)

Saturday, March 13

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Join **Alan Branham**, Director of Horticulture at **Powell Gardens** (Kansas City, Missouri; www.powellgardens.org) and plant designer of their new Heartland Harvest Garden – America's largest edible landscape. Learn how the native plants displayed at Crosby Arboretum play a role in the web of life and can be important players in gardening and landscape design. Program is free to members; \$5 for non-members. Register by March 12.

WILDLIFE DAY (School Field Trip for Kids)

Thursday, March 25

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Children will be thrilled to see the array of exhibitors displaying both live and preserved animals, while they learn how to protect and maintain wildlife in this field day open to area schools and homeschool groups. Admission is \$2 per child, free to teachers, chaperones, and bus drivers. Please call by March 24 to schedule an arrival time for your group.

April 2010

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FIELD WALKS AND NATIVE PLANT PROGRAMS WILDFLOWER PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

Friday, April 9 (Adults)

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Explore propagating your favorite native wildflowers by seed and cuttings with **Gail Barton**, past President of the Mississippi Native Plant Society and author of *Basic Gardening: A Guide for the Deep South*. In this hands-on presentation, Barton will draw on her professional experience as owner of Flowerplace Plant Farm and personal

experience as a backyard propagator. She will cover propagation facilities, timing, materials and methods. Be prepared to get your hands dirty! Members free; non-members \$5. Register by April 8.

PROGRAMS AND FIELD ACTIVITIES

Saturday, April 10

(Adults)

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a full day of activities that celebrate our native plants with **Gail Barton**, past President of the Mississippi Native Plant Society, **Rick Webb** of Louisiana Growers, and **Bill Fontenot** of Prairie Basse Nursery. There will be time for networking between sessions. Cost is \$20 per person for the day (includes a pizza lunch) or \$5 per session. Call (601) 799-2311, Ext. 101 to pre-register early for this event.

Program Schedule:

9:00-10:00 Arboretum field walk with Bill Fontenot and Rick Webb

10:20-11:05 "Gardening for Birds" with Bill Fontenot

11:15-Noon "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, and Something Blue" with Rick Webb

1:00-3:00 Tour of Hillside Bog with Bill, Rick, and Gail

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 11

(Family)

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Bring the family, and join us to celebrate the history of the old strawberry farm on the lovely Pinecote Pavilion. Ice cream, fresh strawberries, and Picayune Frog Lemonade will be served. **Admission is free** and open to the public!

SPRING PLANT SALE

Sat./Sun. • April 17-18 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Members Admitted at 9:00 a.m. • Sat.

Grab a cart and choose from a variety of wonderful native trees, shrubs, and perennials for your home landscape. Come early for the best selection of many hard-to-find plants. We'll help you select the right plant for the right place on your property. **Free admission.** Arboretum greenhouse.

EARTH DAY AT THE ARBORETUM:

"AN HOUR OF GREEN"

(Kids)

Saturday, April 24

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of **Earth Day** with fun family activities – a scavenger hunt, "green" bingo, and "trash to treasures art" with Master Naturalist **Mary Cordray**. Children to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All materials are provided. Members' children \$2; non-members' children \$4.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

April - May 2010

April 2010

HOME LANDSCAPE DESIGN (Adults)
Saturday, April 24
1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Learn how to create a successful landscape design for your property with Arboretum Curator **Pat Drackett**. Pat will discuss the basics of the landscape design process and tell how to create a low-maintenance and attractive landscape. By analyzing and understanding your planting site, you will be able to choose the appropriate plant material. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by April 23.

May 2010

CAN YOU DIG IT? (Kids!)
Saturday, May 1
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Get "down and dirty" as you become a soil detective! Children will learn how to use different soil keys, hone their observation skills, and watch a soil race with Master Naturalist **Mary Cordray**. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All materials provided. Members' children \$2; non-members' children \$4. Register by April 30.

PINE NEEDLE BASKETRY (Adults)
Saturday, May 8
10:00 a.m. to Noon

Join **Judy Breland, Stone County Extension Agent**, for a workshop teaching the art of pine needle basket-making. Participants can complete a small basket by the end of this workshop and will learn the methods for continuing with future projects. Wear old clothes! All materials will be provided. Admission is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. Register by May 7.

Register early to reserve your seat for programs by calling (601) 799-2311.

Reservations: Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311, to confirm all events and to make program reservations, as seating is limited. Programs are subject to change.

Physical Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1639, Picayune, MS 39466

E-mail Contact: drackett@ext.msstate.edu

Hours of Operation: Wednesday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

2010 Admission Fees: Adults, \$5; Seniors (over 55), \$4; Children under 12, \$2; Members, free admission to grounds and programs.

Webpage: www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu. Lists programs and events, volunteer opportunities, Arboretum and Natural Area information, and news updates.

GPS SCAVENGER HUNT (Family)
Saturday, May 15
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Have fun learning how to use Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology in a real life setting at The Crosby Arboretum with **Scott Langlois**, Research Associate with the **MSU Coastal Research & Extension Center**. GPS receivers will be provided and a short training session will precede a scavenger hunt for features along the Arboretum paths. Bring the whole family! Free to members' families; \$8 per non-member family. Register by May 14.

YOGA AT PINECOTE PAVILLION (Adults)
Saturday, May 15
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

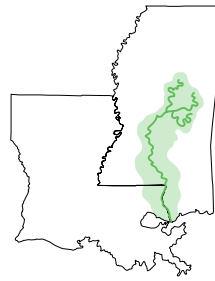
Join certified yoga instructor **James Sones** in the beautiful natural setting of Pinecote Pavilion for a gentle yoga class followed by a short meditation sitting. Class size is limited to 16. Yoga mats will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Free for members; non-members \$5. Register by May 14.

GROWING FRUIT CROPS IN SOUTH MISSISSIPPI (Adults)
Saturday, May 22
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Dr. John Braswell, Extension Horticulture Fruit Specialist with Mississippi State University in Poplarville, will give an informative overview of fruit crops that grow well in our area such as blueberries, muscadines, strawberries, apples, pears, peaches, plums, persimmons, and figs. Planting methods, maintenance, and cultural practices to establish and grow good quality fruit will be covered. Arboretum members free; \$5 for non-members. Register by May 21.

KIDS' SUMMER NATURE CAMP
Wed. - Sat. June 9, 10, 11 & 12
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Children ages 6 through 12 will enjoy this four-day camp, learning about the outdoors with fun hands-on lessons, games and activities. They will leave camp with an increased appreciation and excitement for nature. Reservations required; please register by June 7. Bring sack lunch and drink each day. \$35 members' children; \$45 non-members' children. Limited to 15 registrants.



The Crosby Arboretum
Mississippi State University

A regional arboretum representing the
native flora of the Pearl River Drainage
Basin in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Picayune, Mississippi, USA

Thank you, Annual Appeal Contributors

The Crosby Arboretum wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions that will allow us to construct interpretive signs, benches, and a kiosk for our new Gum Pond Exhibit. Construction will begin later this fall when site conditions improve.

Shelley Antione
Joyce Applegate
Joe and Martha Boudreaux
Fay S. Bright
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Bruggers
Dot Burge
Rev. and Mrs. J.O. Burns, Jr.
Richard H. Canton
Ruth Cook
Allen and Judy Deen
Mary Carolyn Dickson
Lola and Sid Dudley
Lawrence and Tatjana Eustis
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Faas
Myra Fedele
Carol and Mike Fitzwilliam
Mrs. Jo-Ann Fleming
Tina Fritz
Katherine M. Furr
Mrs. Lynn Gammill
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Griffin
John and Laurie Gwaltney
Sallye Hammett
Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Heffner
Lcrease Hicks
Hide-A-Way Lake Garden Club
Alice Holmes
James and Joann Johnston
Esther Jordan
Dr. Teresa Klainer
Gay and Randy Larre
Paul and Jean MacInnis

Cameron Mann
John and Judy Mayer
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Miller
Shirley Muhleisen
Cynthia Murchison
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Navoy
Mary Lockett Nelson
Lyle E. Nelson
Dr. Neil G. Odenwald
Julia O'Neal
Dr. Tom Rhea Phillips
Noel Polk
Dr. R.N. Read
Dave and Janet Schlauderaff
William Schoell
Jim Sones
Mr. and Mrs. Norman G. Stevens, Jr.
William L. Thames
Willard and Toni Tucker
Professor Jim Wandersee, LSU
Lettalou G. Whittington



Arboretum intern Garrett Newton and MSU Landscape Architecture students Randy Meador, Charles McCall, and John Reardon (left to right) examine site information for the new Gum Pond Exhibit.



In Master Naturalist Mary Cordray's February "For the Birds" program, children test their skills gathering various foods using their "beaks" in the "Bird Beak Cafe."



The January weather was chilly, but it didn't stop this dedicated crowd from enjoying Forge Day's second year!

SPRING VOLUNTEER MEETINGS **SATURDAYS, March 6, April 3, & May 1** **9:00 a.m.**

Connect with nature and meet some great folks at the same time! Come learn about the many exciting volunteer opportunities and activities that you will enjoy here at the Crosby Arboretum at our next volunteer meeting. For more information, please call Volunteer Coordinator **Robin Veerkamp** at (601) 799-2311, Ext. 104.

The News Journal is a quarterly publication of The Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University Extension Service. Journal subscriptions may be obtained with membership at the Arboretum. Printed on recycled paper.

Please address correspondence to:
Pat Drackett, Editor
The Crosby Arboretum
P.O. Box 1639
Picayune, MS 39466

Membership Application

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed. For more information call: (601) 799-2311

_____	Student (send student i.d.)	\$ 15.00
_____	Individual	30.00
_____	Family	40.00
_____	Donor	100.00
_____	Patron	250.00*
_____	Benefactor	1,000.00
_____	Business	
_____	Sweetgum	100.00
_____	Sassafras	250.00
_____	Live Oak	500.00
_____	Bigleaf Magnolia	1,000.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Renewing? Memberships are for one year.

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