

# The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Summer 2012

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## Thoughts on “A Sand County Almanac”

By Glenn Hughes, Extension Forester

When I agreed to write this brief piece, I thought about a variety of topics that may be of interest to you, the reader. I ultimately decided to focus on describing a book that has been important to me for several decades. My hope is that you will get a copy of this thin book, read it, and pass it along to others. If you love the land, you will love this book.

Aldo Leopold grew up in the northeastern U.S., attended Yale University, and graduated with a degree in forestry. He went to work for the U.S. Forest Service in the southwest, but physical problems caused him to leave the Forest Service and join the faculty at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He had a deep interest in wildlife, and at Wisconsin he established the first program in Wildlife Management.

It was during his Madison time that he purchased more than 100 acres of worn out agricultural land that had been turned back to the county for taxes during the Great Depression. The previous owner had burned down the house on the property, so Leopold took the only standing building, an old chicken coop, enlarged it, and converted it to living quarters. This building became known as “The Shack,” and remains to this day. Over the next dozen plus years, he and his family would spend virtually every weekend on the property, replanting trees, and restoring the land that had been so badly abused.

Leopold’s book is a love story about the land. He takes the reader month-by-month through different activities that occur on the land. One of the most memorable quotes comes from the February chapter, which begins: “There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” Though the language is somewhat dated, Leopold in the 1940’s sees and laments the disconnect between land and people. We are three generations removed from Leopold, and this situation has only gotten worse.

Leopold celebrates the land, plants, animals, water, and the obvious joy he derives from his piece of the earth. In a chapter containing “The Good Oak,” he details the cutting up of a dead oak tree, killed by lightning and seasoned for a year before cutting. As the saw bites into the tree and goes back year by



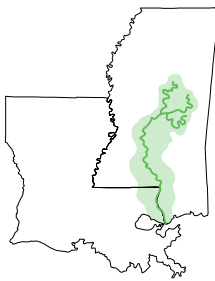
*The Green Fire film will be shown on Friday June 1 at The Crosby Arboretum. View the calendar for details. (image courtesy of <http://www.greenfiremovie.com/>)*

year, Leopold recounts various events, from widely noted conservation legislation to humble events that received scant notice until much later. This piece is almost poetic; “Rest cries the chief sawyer and we pause for breath.”

Leopold’s book was being reviewed when he was at his property, and a fire on his neighbor’s property escaped. Leopold attempted to help put out the fire, but in so doing had a heart attack and died. He was 61.

Another of my favorite parts is in a series called “Sketches from Here and There,” which are separate writings but often included in “A Sand County Almanac.” In this section is a piece on “Thinking Like a Mountain.” This describes an important event in Leopold’s young professional life in the southwest that would alter the way he viewed predators, prey, and the land. This episode was critical to Leopold, and a newly released and highly acclaimed film about Leopold entitled “Green Fire” takes its title from this experience. This film will be shown at the Arboretum on June 1, and I encourage you to attend. You will not be disappointed. Details for the date and time this will be shown are in this newsletter’s program schedule.

“A Sand County Almanac” is truly a classic, still widely used in college courses more than 50 years after it was first published. Leopold would likely be both surprised and honored by the enormous success his book has enjoyed. You can purchase a copy online through a variety of web sites for around \$10. Happy reading!



## 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:

This spring, the Arboretum has been moving forward. An assessment of the condition of the Pinecote Pavilion was performed, and recommendations made for its cleaning, preservation, and repair. Further assessments will be conducted, with the purpose of developing a long range plan for maintenance of this Mississippi Landmark structure.

Professor Bob Brzuszek's graduate students Mengli Yang and Robert Jackson at the MSU Department of Landscape Architecture in Starkville, the students presented site plans in late April illustrating their concepts for the relationship of the new education building to the Arboretum's surrounding exhibits, and the Pinecote Pavilion. Their plans explored the location for outdoor gathering spaces, and pedestrian and vehicular movement. Participants in the discussion included building architect Tom Howorth, Fay Bright of the Crosby Arboretum Foundation, and landscape architecture department head Sadik Artunc.

Things have really been taking shape in our Gum Pond Educational Exhibit. We are pleased to announce that New South Access & Environmental Solutions ([www.newsouthmat.com](http://www.newsouthmat.com)) selected the Crosby Arboretum for their annual conservation project. Their team joined in our Earth Day celebration on April 28th by donating and planting 2,000 tupelo gum (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*) trees into the Gum Pond. New South is Mississippi's fastest growing private company, and is on a mission to cultivate a corporate climate of stewardship to conserve our land and wildlife, and protect our natural resources and habitats. So, the next time you visit the Arboretum, check out the recent progress in the Gum Pond Exhibit.

- **Patricia Drackett**, Director  
*The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



On January 24, 2012, Pat Drackett gave a presentation on the Gum Pond Educational Exhibit's progress at a Five Star Restoration Grant plaque recognition ceremony at the Sam Nunn Federal Center in Atlanta. Left to right: Doug Stephens, WHC, James Davenport, NACo, Pat Drackett, Bob Fairbanks, MS Power, Ron Shipman, GA Power, Amanda Bassow, NFWF, Tony Able, EPA R4. (image by NFWF)



*Rhododendron canescens, Piedmont azalea, in bloom near the Pinecote Pavilion, March 2012. (image by R. Stafne)*

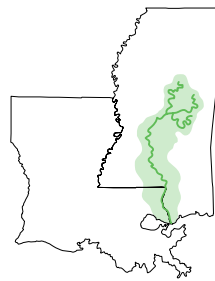
## Senior Curator's Corner:

Spring was a very busy time at the Arboretum. From a Firewise Event, to Strawberries & Cream Festival, to a successful spring plant sale; there was always something going on. For me, I enjoy those opportunities where I get to step into the Gift Shop to chat with visitors from around the U.S. who have stopped in to tour the Arboretum.

Though my time within the Arboretum has been limited, I am hoping to gain more access to our wonderful native plants in the future. To say that I have been constantly amazed by the spring blooms I have seen is an understatement. Little by little we are gaining more followers and viewers on the Arboretum's Twitter, Youtube and blog accounts. I will continue to strive to improve those outlets and post more frequently.

Though most of my time is focused on program coordination and communications, I have experienced a few moments that are etched in my brain. One sunny afternoon I was quickly taking photographs of the Pinecote Pavilion when I realized that out on the pond was a pair of geese, quietly swimming, side by side, looking majestic in the peaceful, lazy spring sun. Of course there were other moments not quite as "peaceful," such as walking up on snakes warming themselves in the chilly morning. And then there is the human component. "Peaceful" is not how I would describe a day, such as our Wildlife Day for school children. However, when a child grasps my hand and asks me to take them out to see more "bugs" or pitcher plants, I can smile knowing that in some small way perhaps I am making a difference or lasting impression on them. I remember one little girl gleefully exclaiming "this is the best field trip ever!" Now, I am not sure how many field trips she had been on by age seven, but does it really matter?

- **Richelle Stafne**, Senior Curator  
*The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



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Picayune, Mississippi, USA



*Drosera brevifolia*, dwarf sundew. (image by R. Stafne)

### PLANT PROFILE: Dwarf Sundew

Dwarf sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*) is one of the coolest, yet tiniest members of the Arboretum family. The genus, *Drosera*, comes from the Latin word *droseros* (dewy) and *drosos* (dew). The species epithet *brevifolia* comes from the Latin *brevi*, meaning “short” and *foli*, meaning “leaf.” Sundews are carnivorous or insectivorous which means they trap and digest insects for nutrients. The sundew trapping mechanism consists of adhesive (“resinous mucilage”) that holds the insect to the plant and fixed “tentacles” which then wrap around and secure the insect as it suffocates or drowns. Digestive enzymes secreted from the tips of tentacles help the sundew to absorb needed nutrients from the insect’s body.

One of the easiest places to find them is in our Pitcher Plant Bog, though if you look carefully, you can sometimes find them growing along disturbed areas of the trail margins. Two additional species of sundew grow within the Arboretum: *D. capillaris* and *D. intermedia*. *Drosera brevifolia* has black seeds and the flower (not pictured above) is rose to white in color. The greatest threat to *Drosera* is habitat destruction from human disturbance. If you are really interested in sundews or other carnivorous plants, check out <http://www.carnivorousplants.org>, the International Carnivorous Plant Society.



*Elijah Brown Eagle Scout Project; replacing the benches on one of the Arboretum bridges.* (image by B. Brown)

## PLANTS AT THE ARBORETUM WITH SUMMER INTEREST

Sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*)  
Fewflower milkweed (*Asclepias lanceolata*)  
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)  
Stokes’ aster (*Stokesia laevis*)  
Roundleaf thoroughwort (*Eupatorium rotundifolium*)  
Tenangle pipewort, Hatpin (*Eriocaulon decangulare*)  
Meadow pink/Texas star (*Sabatia campestris*)  
Pineland hibiscus (*Hibiscus aculeatus*)  
Swamp lily (*Crinum americanum*)  
Rosemallow (*Hibiscus lasiocarpus*)  
Pickeralweed (*Pontederia cordata*)  
Drum heads (*Polygala cruciata*)  
Parrot Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia psittacina*)

For detailed information, and photographs for the above plants and other native plants found in our Exhibits, visit [www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu](http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu) to search the Crosby Arboretum Native Plant Database, hosted by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center ([www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)). A printable comprehensive plant species list for the Arboretum is also available.

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS ADD VALUE TO ARBORETUM AND COMMUNITY

This spring the Arboretum was the fortunate recipient of several Eagle Scout projects. These projects not only benefit the young men, but also our community and the Arboretum. In mid-March **Elijah Brown**, a Life Scout from Picayune Troop 5, completed an Eagle Scout Project which consisted of much-needed maintenance and replacement of seating on some of the Arboretum bridges (image left). Elijah participated in other Eagle Scout projects previously and would readily recommend The Crosby Arboretum to others looking for community service projects. While completing his project Elijah also learned about the Arboretum’s history and “master plan.”

Elijah is the son of Brook and Sherry Brown, Picayune. Other spring Eagle Scout projects included the construction of three new trails and the removal of alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), an invasive species, from the Arboretum’s Piney Woods Pond.



*Susan Haltom reads from One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place at the Crosby Arboretum Foundation's Lindsey Lecture in Jackson, MS, March. (image by R. Stafne)*



*Sarah Crosby McKay, the granddaughter of Ms. Lynn Crosby Gammill, enters the Welty House gardens as part of the Lindsey Lecture, Jackson, MS. (image by R. Stafne)*

Stay connected with the Crosby Arboretum!



*MSU Landscape Architecture students Mengli Yang and Robert Jackson make presentations to Foundation Board Members, March. (image by R. Stafne)*

*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. Journal may be received electronically if desired.

Please address correspondence to: **Richelle Stafne, Editor**  
 rstafne@ext.msstate.edu  
 The Crosby Arboretum  
 P.O. Box 1639  
 Picayune, MS 39466

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## 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.

The Crosby Arboretum  
 Mississippi State University  
 P.O. Box 1639  
 Picayune, MS 39466-1639  
 (601) 799-2311

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

June - July 2012

## June 2012

### **GREEN FIRE FILM AND DISCUSSION**

**Friday, June 1 (Family)**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

View the new documentary, *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*. Considered by many as the father of wildlife management and of the United States' wilderness system, Aldo Leopold was a conservationist, forester, philosopher, educator, writer, and outdoor enthusiast. Leopold's book "A Sand County Almanac" was first published in 1949. With over two million copies sold, it is one of the most respected books about the environment ever published, and Leopold has come to be regarded by many as the most influential conservation thinker of the twentieth century.

**Glenn Hughes**, Extension Forestry Professor, will lead an interesting and lively discussion about the documentary from the perspective of "Aldo" Suited to ages 7 and up. Members free; non-members \$5; non-members' children \$2. Register by May 30.

### **GIRL SCOUT ENVIRONMENTAL BADGES DAY**

**Saturday, June 2**

**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The Crosby Arboretum will offer 2-hour programs for Girl Scouts of all ages working on environmental badges. Scouting groups may picnic before or after program times on the grounds as part of their visit. Program fees for Scouts and siblings is \$8 per participant. Scout leaders and parent chaperones are free. Maximum number per group is 20 participants. All materials provided. Contact Girl Scouts of Greater MS to register at 228-864-7215 or register online at [gsgms.org](http://gsgms.org).



*Students from Pass Christian High School volunteer planting trees at the Arboretum Gum Pond Exhibit, Arbor Day, February 2012. (image by P. Drackett)*



*Dave Eidelman, Audubon Zoo Bugmobile, talks to students at the March Wildlife (make-up) Day. (image by P. Drackett)*

### **KIDS' SUMMER NATURE CAMP**

**Tue.-Fri., June 5, 6, 7, & 8**

**9:00 a.m. to Noon**

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. A \$10 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your child's space. Cost is \$35 for members' children; \$45 non-members' children. Limited to 15 registrants.

### **TEACHERS' WORKSHOP: WILD ABOUT ART AND MATH**

**Friday, June 29**

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

Join us for a fun-filled, hands-on Project Wild workshop emphasizing art and math, conducted by **Crystie Baker**, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Educational Outreach Biologist. This interdisciplinary workshop is open to teachers and homeschool educators. FREE for Hancock and Pearl River County teachers. Others, \$15 or registration and book, and \$10 for CEU's. Prepare for a "working lunch" (bring a brown bag lunch). If you have a project wild book, please bring it. To sign up, call the Arboretum office at 601-799-2311 or contact Richelle Stafne at [rstafne@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:rstafne@ext.msstate.edu).

### **SUMMER AQUATIC PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, July 7**

**9:00 a.m. to Noon**

Shop a great selection of non-invasive aquatic plants, including hardy water lilies, Texas star hibiscus, Louisiana iris, spider lilies, lizard tail, and golden club, including divisions from our exhibits. **Free admission!** Sale will be held adjacent to the Visitor's Center.

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

July - August 2012

## July - August 2012 *(continued)*

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: UNDERSTANDING RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS IN YOUR YARD**

**Saturday, July 21**  
**10:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

**James Bell**, Hummingbird Bander, of the Hummer / Bird Study Group Inc., will present a fun and informative talk with ideas on how to fill your yard with hummingbirds. He will explain what is going on in the hummingbirds life, how they feed, why they fight so much, how to overcome that one bad bird that thinks he owns the feeder, simple tips and tricks that will insure you see more hummingbirds, and enjoy the beauty of one of nature's most dazzling creations. Members free; non-members \$5; non-members' children \$2. Register by July 20.

### **TEACHERS' WORKSHOP: WILD ABOUT CREEPY CRAWLIES**

**Thursday, July 26**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Snakes, spiders and bats, oh my! This Project Wild workshop will focus on native Mississippi "creepy crawlies" and will be conducted by **Crystie Baker**, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Educational Outreach Biologist. Open to both teachers and homeschool educators, it is FREE for Hancock and Pearl River County teachers. Others, \$15 or registration and book, and \$10 for CEU's. Prepare for a "working lunch" (bring a brown bag lunch). If you have a project wild book, please bring it. To sign up, call the Arboretum office at 601-799-2311 or contact Richelle Stafne at rstafne@ext.msstate.edu.

### **VOLUNTEER MEETINGS**

Arboretum volunteer meetings will resume at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, **September 1**. If you would like to volunteer over the summer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Robin Veerkamp, at (601) 799-2311 Ext. 104.

**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:** rstafne@ext.msstate.edu

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

**2012 Admission Fees:** Adults, \$5; Seniors (over 55), \$4; Children under 12, \$2; Members, free admission to grounds and programs.

**Webpage:** [www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu](http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu). Lists programs and events, volunteer opportunities, Arboretum and Natural Area information, and news updates.



*In February, Glenn Hughes, Extension Forester, led a winter botany field walk at The Crosby Arboretum. (image by P. Drackett)*

### **FIELD WALK & CLAY CLASS (Kids)**

**Saturday, August 11**  
**10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Children will journey down the Arboretum pathways with Director **Pat Drackett** to collect natural materials to use make impressions in clay for lasting memories. They will create items from a self-hardening clay so their work may be taken home on the same day. All children or groups of children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Admission is \$5 per child for members' children, and \$7 for non-members' children. Please register by August 10.

### **SUMMER ARBORETUM FIELD WALK**

**Saturday, August 25 (Family)**  
**10:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Join Director **Pat Drackett** on a field walk. Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plant material native to the region will be discussed, including uses in the home landscape. Desired site conditions, ornamental features, and identification tips of numerous native plant species will be covered, in addition to ways to use these plants in your home landscape. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Register by August 24.

### **ARBORETUM FALL EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**BugFest:** Sept. 21 & 22 • Fri. & Sat.

**Fall Plant Sale:** Sept. 28 & 29 • Fri. & Sat.

**Piney Woods Heritage Festival:**

Nov. 16 & 17 • Fri. & Sat.