

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Spring 2013

27.2

Signs of Spring in the Miss. Gulf Coastal Plain

By Sue Wilder, Regional Fire Ecologist for the Southeast Region of the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Spring is a great time of year to get outdoors and celebrate our native flowers! We have gone from cold, drab days of winter with 10 hours of sunlight to spring with nearly 12 hours of warm sunshine every day. A walk around the Arboretum shows us that our native plants love the increase in sun and temperatures and give us a gift of beautiful blooms this time of year. Not too long ago, in early spring we saw the bright colors of the red maples, and red buds emerge from winter telling us that spring is on its way. Early blooming jessamine vines painted the landscape with a wall of yellow throughout the woods. Another early spring bloomer is the golden club. It rises like a torch along the water's edge. My favorite early spring bloomer is the sunbonnet with its white petals above and pink color below. When I see this plant blooming, I know spring is here This plant tracks the sun all day long, like many of its relatives in the sunflower family. A true symbol of a sun-loving plant!

But early spring is well behind us and now here we are well into the peak blooming season for spring wildflowers. From the tiny sundews to the beautiful showy orchids, wildflowers abound at the arboretum and along the Gulf Coastal Plain from Mississippi to Florida this time of year. There are so many blooms that it is hard to name a favorite. As a botanist, I am excited about all of them from the minute to the trees. I look everywhere for blooms. I carry my hand lens with me where ever I go and note the plants in my journal as they bloom in my back yard and where ever my adventures take me along the coast.

There is so much to see when you take a walk outdoors this time of year. Trees such as flowering dogwood, buckwheat



Spring bloom in south Mississippi flatwoods (image by Sue Wilder, US Fish and Wildlife Service)



Asclepias lanceolata (fewflower milkweed) blooming April and May at the Arboretum. (image by R. Stafne)

tree, titi, black cherry and choke cherries light up the landscape with white flowers. Shrubs dot the woods with colorful blooms like our native orange flowered and wild azaleas that capture my breath every time I see them. The fragrance of crushed wax myrtle leaves are the strongest this time of year as new branches emerge. Star anise with its beautiful red star flowers also gives a wonderful fragrance from the leaves this time of year.

But it is the blooms of the small forbs and herbs that I set my sights for this year. The carnivorous plants are blooming in the savannas, including the sundews that grow along the ground looking and don't get taller than a few inches. The pitcher plants with their beautiful flowers attracting pollinators for a visit. The bladderworts float along the water with their pink and purple flowers and amaze me. All these plants make a living by attracting and catching insects for survival and they are sun loving. But beyond the carnivorous plants lies the beauty of the irises along the water's edge, blues and purples, like soldiers guarding the water. You can see the native yellow lily blooming like a yellow globe above the water. Some less familiar blooms along the trail may include the yellow star grass, and daisy fleabane, two small, but also beautiful gifts of nature.

As spring grows I look forward to the candy roots, the orchids, and the other spectacular flowers of the savannas that will be blooming. So let's get out and take a walk and see the wonderful wildflower blooms we have around us!

Crosby Arboretum "Season of Bloom" list available at: <http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/pages/bloom.php>
Crosby Arboretum Native Plant Database linked from our website homepage at www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu.



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:

Something new and exciting always seems to be happening at the Crosby Arboretum. The earthwork is now complete for the 900 linear foot stream channel which lies at the heart of our new Swamp Forest Educational Exhibit. In January, I traveled to Atlanta to present our progress on this exhibit at the Five Star Restoration grant recognition ceremony, and to pick up the beautiful trail plaque (see below).

Mississippi State University landscape architecture professor Bob Brzuszek has organized two courses that will utilize the Arboretum this spring. His landscape management class will focus on creating a management manual for the Savanna, Woodland and Aquatic Exhibits, to be used as a reference for staff and volunteers. The second class will be co-taught with MSU architecture professor Hans Herrmann, and will explore design concepts for the bridges, platforms, and seating to be constructed in the Gum Pond and Swamp Forest Exhibits.

Looking back, we have come so incredibly far over the past year. Our newly formed social media sites have greatly extended our outreach and contributed to the regional awareness of the Arboretum, reflected in this year's outstanding program attendance. Both membership and visitor numbers increased by 9 percent in 2012. Our quarterly news journal is now being produced in-house and over 170 members have opted to receive their news journal electronically, resulting in a significant cost savings. Most importantly, we take great pleasure in the fact that we continue to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those who choose to spend their time exploring the Crosby Arboretum.

- **Patricia Drackett**, Director

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service



Pat Drackett, Crosby Arboretum (center), displays the trail plaque received for the Swamp Forest Educational Exhibit at the Five Star Restoration Recognition Ceremony in Atlanta on January 22, 2013. From left, Bill Cox (EPA), Carrie Clingan (NFWF), Chris Hobson (Southern Company), Bob Fairbank (Mississippi Power), James Davenport (National Assoc. of Counties), Michael McDavit (EPA), and Rebecca Culler (Wildlife Habitat Council).



The Arboretum's Annual Open House in December showcased local music and artisans. (Image by R. Stafne)

Senior Curator's Corner:

After nearly a year and a half in my position at The Crosby Arboretum, I am still continually amazed by how much we do with so little. I look forward to the day we are given additionally needed staff and a new building representative of the quality programming and world-class native plant exhibits and ecosystems that we offer.

Although I find that there is little time for horticulture-related work in my position, I rarely have time to dwell on it as there is constantly so much to be done. I am very grateful for those Arboretum Volunteers who give their time to help us, time they could be using to do other things, which at times would certainly be more fun. Their help allows us to accomplish more with our limited staff and resources. We appreciate them each very much.

There have been at least thirteen folks who have signed up for our Volunteer program since fall. In the latest Volunteer Newsletter (available from our website) I acknowledge each Volunteer and some of the work they have completed. Volunteers continue to sign up via our links on our webpage using www.volunteersignup.org.

In early February I gave a presentation to the American Society for Horticultural Science, Southern Region. I spoke about our efforts with website updates and social media enabling us to reach a wider audience to deliver our message and hopefully increase visitor numbers, Memberships, and Volunteer numbers. During the conference, I received an ASHS-SRBlue Ribbon Extension Communication Award for my work on our website.

- **Richelle Stafne**, Senior Curator

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

March – April 2013

March 2013

HOME LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Saturday, March 2 (Adults)
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Learn how to have a low-maintenance and attractive landscape by incorporating native plants into your home landscape. Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett** will discuss her favorite native plants for landscaping, and tell how to analyze your planting site in order to choose the appropriate plant material. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by March 1.

EDIBLE PLANTS FOR THE LANDSCAPE

Saturday, March 2 (Family)
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Join **Darla Pastorek**, landscaper, horticulturist and plant lover, for a delightful talk in edible landscaping. Ms. Pastorek will discuss native plants and vegetables that can be used in the landscape and their edible uses. Members free; non-members \$5, non-members' children \$2. Please register by March 1.

WILDLIFE DAY

Thursday, March 7 (School day)
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Children will be thrilled to see the array of exhibitors displaying live and preserved animals, while learning how to protect and maintain wildlife in a field day open to area K-12 schools and homeschool groups. Admission \$2 per child, free to teachers and chaperones. Call by March 6 to schedule an arrival time.

JUNIPER BONSAI WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 9 (Adults)
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Patrick LaNasa, **Buck Lawrence** and **Ricky Berrigan** will conduct a hands-on bonsai class on March 9th. Included will be a 3-gallon size juniper, a list of tools, ceramic container, soil and training wire. The three experienced instructors are members of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society in Gulfport. The cost to Members is \$45, non-Members \$50. Sign up early; class limited to 15 persons, ages 16 and up.

VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Please Note Change: Arboretum volunteer **FRIDAY** meetings for winter: March 8, April 5, and May 3. Meet in the mobile by the greenhouse at 10:30 a.m. If you are not on the Vol. listserv, call ahead. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Richelle Stafne, at (601) 799-2311 Ext. 101 or via email at rstafne@ext.msstate.edu. Can't make the meetings? No problem. Just contact me and we will work with your schedule.

SPRING PLANT SALE

March 22 & 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fri./Sat.

Members Admitted at 9:00 a.m. Friday

Grab a cart and choose from a wide variety of hard-to-find native trees, shrubs, and perennials for your landscape. Plant professionals will be on hand to help you with selections. View and print the plant guide on our website! **Free admission.** Arboretum greenhouse (use Service Entrance).

April 2013

WILDFLOWERS FOR MISSISSIPPI LANDSCAPES

Friday, April 5 (Adults)
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

This presentation will discuss using wildflowers in the landscape. MSU Area Horticulture Extension Agent **Wayne Porter** will discuss some of the more widely adapted wildflowers for the Mississippi landscape including site selection, when and how to establish, and how to maintain them. Free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by April 4.

THE CROSBY ARBORETUM LECTURE SERIES:

"Edible and Useful Plants of the Gulf South" with Dr. Charles Allen



Saturday April 6, 2013

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Margaret Reed

Crosby Library

900 Goodyear Blvd.

Picayune, MS

Dr. Allen, author of many books and publications on Gulf Coast natives, will present an entertaining, hands-on program on edible plants, inviting the audience to sample a variety of plants, teas, and spices. Members free, non-members \$5. **Call the Arboretum at 601.799.2311 to register** for this program.

Longue Vue nativeNOW Wild Walk/Hillside Bog

Following Dr. Allen's Lecture, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Longue Vue House & Gardens, New Orleans will partner with Crosby Arboretum for a field walk led by Dr. Allen at the Arboretum's Hillside Bog natural area, with Longue Vue Wild Garden's Tyrone Foreman, Marc Pastorek of Pastorek Habitats, and Crosby Arboretum's grounds manager, Terry Johnson. Members free; non-members \$5. **Registration is required through Longue Vue;** contact Hilairie Schackai at hschackai@longuevue.com or 504.293.4726.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

April – May 2013

April 2013

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 7 (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!

APRIL SHOWERS

Saturday, April 20 (Kids)

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Rediscover the water cycle and water conservation by playing “Go to the Head of the Cloud” and making rain sticks. Workshop led by Master Naturalist, **Mary Cordray**. Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. All materials provided. Members’ children \$2; nonmembers’ children \$4. Register by April 19.

EARTH DAY AT THE ARBORETUM!

Saturday, April 27 (Family)

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the 43rd anniversary of Earth Day! Come and visit exhibits that focus on nature and sustainable gardening. Explore a variety of stations from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with topics such as beekeeping, rainwater irrigation, gardening, birds & butterflies, and composting. Members free; non-members \$5; non-members’ children \$2.

DELICIOUS DESIGN FOR THE LANDSCAPE

Saturday, April 27 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Christine Coker, Assoc. Res. Ext. Professor of Urban Horticulture, will be speaking on Edible Landscaping. The basics of home landscaping will be discussed with an edible twist. You are sure to come away with new and delicious ideas for your yard and garden! Members free; non-members \$5. Register by April 27.

May 2013

SPRING WILDFLOWER FIELD WALK

Friday, May 3 (Adults)

11:00 to 12:30 p.m.

This is a wonderful time of year to take a few minutes to walk around and see the natural beauty around us. Join **Sue Wilder**, Regional Fire Ecologist on an Arboretum walk and she will point out the native wildflowers that are flowering this time of year. She will also talk about the ecology of habitats and the adaptations plants and animals have made to live in their environments. Members free. Non-members \$5. Register by May 2.

THE NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

Saturday, May 4 (Adults)

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Learn to recognize and enjoy many of the thirty species of orchids native to the Gulf Coast. There are many interesting species which are often overlooked by everyone but the most avid orchid grower. **Glen Ladnier**, long-time orchid enthusiast and member of the Gulf Coast Orchid Society, will discuss habitats, plant and flower characteristics, and touch on common conservation techniques. Optional FIELD TRIP in the afternoon. Members free; non-members \$5; non-members’ children \$2. Register by May 3.

PAINTED POTS

Saturday, May 11 (Kids)

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Here is the perfect Mother’s Day Gift for moms who love plants! Decorate a clay pot and design a Mother’s Day Card using recycled materials. Workshop led by Arboretum Director, **Pat Drackett**. Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. All materials provided. Members’ children \$2; nonmembers’ children \$4. Register by May 10.

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.

2013 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.

For more information, or to register, please call the Arboretum at (601) 799-2311. Membership is \$40 for families, \$30 individual; \$15 students. The Crosby Arboretum is located in Picayune, Mississippi, off I-59 Exit 4, on Ridge Road (between Wal-Mart and I-59). Follow signs to the Arboretum. Please park in our Visitors Parking lot and enter the site at the ticket booth. Follow the Arrival Journey (woodland path) to the Visitor Center. Those needing special assistance may choose to enter via our Service Entrance across from The Cycle Shop on Ridge Road. Please let us know if you require special assistance so that we may expect you.

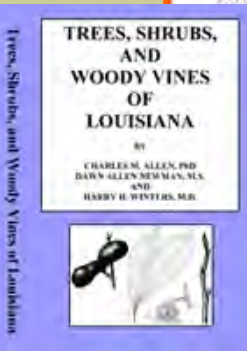
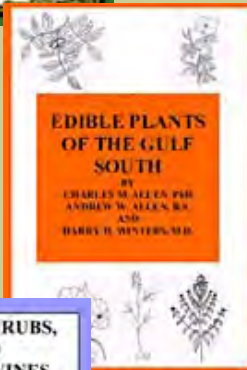
Stay connected with the Crosby Arboretum!



Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status.

“Edible and Useful Plants of the Gulf South”

Author Of:



Dr. Allen's books and plants will be available at the event.

The Crosby Arboretum Lecture Series

With Dr. Charles Allen

SATURDAY
April 6, 2013

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10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

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MARGARET REED
CROSBY LIBRARY
900 Goodyear Blvd.
Picayune, MS



Join **Dr. Charles Allen** for an entertaining, hands-on program on our edible plants! The audience will be invited to sample a variety of plants, teas, and spices. Dr. Allen has an extensive knowledge of the Gulf Coast's plants, gained in his study of Louisiana flora for more than 35 years as a botanist, plant ecologist, researcher, and plant collector. A sought-after speaker, he has authored many books, publications, and popular articles on Gulf Coast natives, edible plants, native wildflowers, grasses and prairie ecosystems, butterfly gardening, native habitat restoration, and much more. Cost: Members free, non-members \$5. **Space is limited. Please call 601.799.2311 to pre-register.** See flip side for field trip to Hillside Bog, to follow Dr. Allen's presentation.

A Longue Vue NativeNOW Wild Walk, in association with The Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University

A Hillside Bog Field Walk



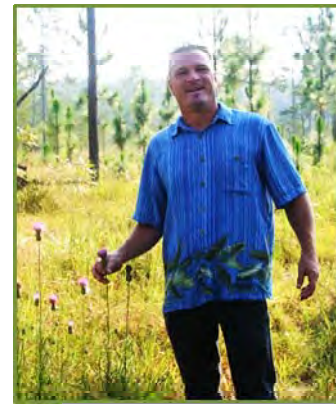
TYRONE FOREMAN
Longue Vue House & Gardens



DR. CHARLES ALLEN
Allen Native Ventures



MARC PASTOREK
Meadowmakers



TERRY JOHNSON
MSU Crosby Arboretum

Saturday, April 6, 2013, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meet in Crosby Arboretum visitor parking, 370 Ridge Road. Carpool at 1:45 p.m./10 minutes to Hillside Bog.

COST: Free for LV and Crosby members; \$5 for non-members. REGISTRATION required, through Longue Vue.

To register, contact Hilairie Schackai at hschackai@longuevue.com or 504.293.4726.

The Longue Vue nativeNOW Wild Walk program is taking a foray into the offsite wilds to the Mississippi State University Crosby Arboretum Hillside Bog in Picayune, Mississippi. In an effort to expand our understanding of the amazing and beautiful natural world around us and to deepen our connections to place, the nativeNOW program ventures outside the Wild Garden several times a year, to bring new opportunities for understanding the natural world and add to the appreciation of Longue Vue's Wild Garden. This is the first time Longue Vue and The Crosby Arboretum will partner in this kind of endeavor, and we are excited to be bringing you this unique opportunity. Experience the wondrous world of the bog and its carnivorous plants, including many native wildflowers in full bloom. **Dr. Charles Allen**, one of the region's foremost native wildflower and grasslands experts, will conduct the walk along with **Tyrone Forman**, naturalist and steward of Longue Vue's Wild Garden, **Marc Pastorek** of Meadowmakers, a local firm specializing in diverse grassland design and seed production, and **Terry Johnson**, Crosby Arboretum's grounds manager and certified Burn Manager, caretaker of Hillside Bog natural area.



Hillside Bog, a 70 acre site in north Hancock County, is perhaps the most spectacular of The Crosby Arboretum natural areas. Fire plays an especially important role in maintaining the site, which includes an extensive hillside pitcher plant bog. The area is diverse in both habitat types and species numbers, with more than 200 species recorded to date.



Longue Vue House and Gardens is located in New Orleans at 7 Bamboo Road. The former home of philanthropists Edith and Edgar Stern, Longue Vue is an eight-acre Country Place Era estate and Classical Revival-style house museum surrounded by 14 different gardens, including a one-acre native plants garden. Open from 10-4:30 Tue-Sat & 1-5pm Sunday. More information, [504.488.5488](tel:504.488.5488) or www.longuevue.com.

DIRECTIONS to The Crosby Arboretum. Note - using GPS, directions are often inaccurate. The site is located an hour NE of New Orleans, an hour south of Hattiesburg, and an hour NW of Biloxi. From I-59 Exit 4, Picayune/Kiln, go east on MS-43 south, and turn right at the light (at McDonalds & Ryan's) onto Frontage Road (toward Walmart). Take an immediate right onto Ridge Road and follow for 1.2 miles to the Arboretum. More information, call [601.799.2311](tel:601.799.2311) or visit the website at www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu.



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 persons and businesses for their generous contributions to our 2012 Annual Appeal. To date, a total of \$3,680 has been raised for our new Swamp Forest Exhibit. This will allow us to fund the construction of an additional trail paralleling the 930 linear foot stream channel which was constructed in October/November 2012 and to construct bridges crossing the channel. We are grateful that so many of you are committed to seeing this long-anticipated portion of our site's Aquatic Exhibit completed. Thank you to all who are helping to make the Swamp Forest Educational Exhibit become a reality.

Ann & Dale Abadie
Loretta S. Acheson
Ms. Shelley Antoine
Ivan & Mary Biernacki
Ingrid M. Bracey
Fay & Phelan Bright
Mr. & Mrs. Howard & Henrietta Bruggers
Bob Brzuszek
Beverley Coleman
Ruth Cook
Mr. William Dennis
Carolyn Dickson
Myra Fedele
Mike & Carol Fitzwilliam
Katherine M. Furr
Mrs. Lynn Gammill
Dr. & Mrs. John E. Green
Jennifer & Lamar Heffner
Alice Holmes
James and Joann Johnston
Chuck & Debbie Kirby
E.T. Livingston
Paul and Jean MacInnis
Dennis & Mary Martin
Cathy McCarron
Dr. & Mrs. Neil G. Odenwald
Julia O'Neal
Jan Oreck
Mr. Thomas Price
Dave & Janet Schlauderaff
Ann & Bruce Steinmetz/Campbell
John Villani
Mrs. Glade Woods



From the planning phase (top photo, MSU landscape architecture students), to the construction phase (center), and the exciting first rain event in November that tested the completed stream channel (top two images, Pat Drackett, bottom photo by Terry Johnson).



Swamp Forest Exhibit construction, November. (image by R. Stafne)



Certified Burn Manager Terry Johnson keeps a watchful eye over the November prescribed control burn. (image by R. Stafne)

Volunteer Requests for Spring

We will need volunteers to assist with Wildlife Day, Spring Plant Sale, Strawberries & Cream, Earth Day, the ticket booth, maintenance of the Children's & Butterfly Gardens, planting in the greenhouse and clean-up of the Arboretum nursery. We rely on the hard work and generosity of our volunteers. Call Richelle to find out how you can help 601-799-2311 ext 101 or rstafne@ext.msstate.edu.



Members of the Picayune Piecemakers demonstrate quilting techniques to all ages of visitors at the 10th annual Piney Woods Heritage Festival in November. (image by R. Stafne)



Although the Henslow's sparrows in our Pitcher Plant Bog seemed to enjoy giving Dr. Mark Woodrey and his assistants the "run around during" December's sparrow banding program, the group's persistence paid off, and it wasn't long before they had a "bird in hand". (image by P. Drackett)



Thank you to those Members who have opted to receive their Quarterly News Journal *electronically* rather than via mail. To receive your copy electronically, please send your name and email address to kimj@ext.msstate.edu or call 601-799-2311, ext. 103.

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 with ≥30% postconsumer waste recycled fiber. Journal may be received electronically if desired.

Please address correspondence to: **Richelle Stafne**, Editor
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 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 or print form online.

_____	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 _____ Phone _____

Renewing? Memberships are for one year.



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Mississippi State University

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Picayune, MS 39466-1639

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