

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Summer 2013

27.3

Highlights of Gardens at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station

By Allen Owings, Professor (Horticulture), LSU AgCenter;
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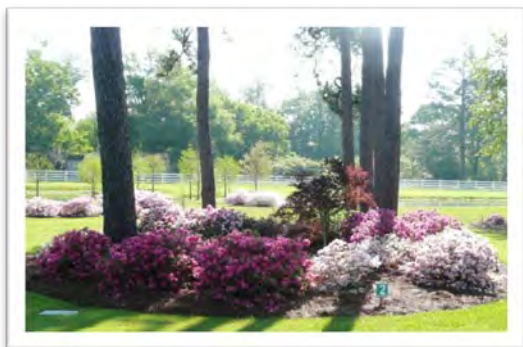
Many residents of southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi may not know that the LSU AgCenter has an agricultural experiment station in this area devoted to horticulture research and extension programs to aid commercial nursery and landscape professionals, along with homeowners. Efforts at the station in 2005 changed from a focus on vegetable and fruit crops to an emphasis on landscape horticulture.

Faculty at the Hammond Research Station work on weed control, storm water management, entomology, landscape plant evaluation, urban forestry and much more.

An urban forest area was planted after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and includes 32 species of shade trees. Over time, these trees will provide research opportunities in suitability for urban uses and maintenance practices. The use of truly native trees will also be studied and promoted, as will cultivar evaluations and cultivation requirements of lesser-known native trees and plants.

One of the major emphasis at the station is the evaluation of annual bedding plants, herbaceous perennials, roses, new shrubs and other companion plants. In the "sun garden", small island groupings of ornamental shrubs, annuals and perennials showcase some of the newer introductions in the plant world. Beautiful yes, but can they take the heat? The performance of these new plants is evaluated in full-sun conditions under all the heat and humidity that a Louisiana summer can bring. We evaluate over 800 varieties of cool season and warm season plants each year.

A "shade garden" area is also included now with over 200 varieties of shade requiring plant varieties being evaluated annually. Caladiums and hosta are a major research focus.



Encore azaleas during spring at Jenkins Garden. (image by A. Owings)



Sun Garden at Hammond Research Station. (image by A. Owings)

The Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden at the station was established in 2006 to provide a continuing feature to educate people about azaleas and native plants. It is named for Margie Y. Jenkins, owner of Jenkins Farm and Nursery in Amite, and recognizes the enormous contribution of "Ms. Margie" in promoting azaleas and native plants to the green industry. The garden currently includes Robin Hill, Encore, Crimson and Southern Indica families of azaleas. More than 50 different species of native trees and shrubs can be found scattered among the azaleas. The garden is ever expanding and more azaleas continue to be added.

A new garden addition at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station is located south of the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden and is being called the "Piney Woods Garden". This is the newest effort at the station and includes 5 acres with almost 40 individual landscape beds much larger than the sun garden beds. The garden is featuring additional plantings of native trees, selections of clonally propagated cypress from China, southern heritage shrubs (such as camellias), native azaleas, a collection of yellow flowering magnolias, Japanese maples, Huang azaleas, new shade tree selections and much more.

The Hammond Research Station is located at 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA. Find us at www.lsuagcenter.com/hammond.

**See Dr. Owings at The Crosby Arboretum on Friday July 12!*



Planting yellow flowering magnolias in the Piney Woods Garden. (image by A. Owings)



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:

In April, MSU Ag Communications announced that the Pinecote Pavilion, designed by AIA Gold Medal winner E. Fay Jones, will soon undergo a significant restoration. Currently in the planning phase, the preservation of the Mississippi Landmark structure will be carried out in accordance with guidelines established by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Tom Howorth, principle architect and president of Howorth and Associates in Oxford, will lead the project. Funding has been allocated by the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration through the Bureau of Building, and the project is anticipated to bid in November 2013, and estimated for completion in June 2014.

The south Gum Pond trail and the main path in the Swamp Forest Exhibit will begin construction soon, thanks to past Annual Appeal funds donated by Crosby Arboretum members. We are also grateful for a community grant from Walmart that provided funding for two special events this spring: a March presentation on Wildlife Day by the Audubon Nature Institute's Wetlands Express, and April's well-attended Crosby Arboretum Lecture Series featuring Dr. Charles Allen on "Edible and Useful Plants of the Gulf South".

MSU landscape architecture professor Bob Brzuszek's spring landscape management seminar (LA 8721) met with Arboretum staff and conducted research to develop a comprehensive Pinecote Exhibit Management Manual. The document will guide the maintenance and development of the site's exhibits, and identifies best practices for management. Prof. Brzuszek co-taught a second class (ARC 4990) with MSU architecture professor Hans Herrmann. Their students explored designs for bridges, platforms, and seating areas for the Gum Pond Exhibit, and presented their final concepts on April 6 to Crosby Arboretum Foundation Board members on the Pinecote Pavilion.

- **Patricia Drackett**, Director

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service



On April 6, MSU Architecture students presented their models and built samples for bridges proposed for the Gum Pond Exhibit. (Image by P. Drackett)



Dr. Charles Allen leads walk at Hillside Bog, Sat. April 6, 2013.
(Image by R. Stafne)

Senior Curator's Corner:

Summer is upon us and the living is good! What a very busy spring we had. The weekend of April 5-7 was jam packed with good speakers and activities. If you haven't signed up to follow the ArboretumWordPress blog, you really should. For those who are not able to get to the Arboretum as much as they would like, there are post-event reports with images and sometimes links to video clips via our Youtube channel. I am happy to report we now have more than 500 followers on Twitter!

The first 2013 Friday lunchtime program with Dr. Wayne Porter was success. More than a dozen folks attended his wildflower lecture. I plan to continue them once a month, coordinating with our monthly Friday volunteer meetings.

Speaking of Volunteers, Ms. Amy LeMien who joined the Volunteer program in March, has been a real firecracker out back in the greenhouse/nursery/Children's Garden area. Working nearly every Wednesday and Friday, Amy is developing tasks for Arboretum Volunteers. If you haven't been out back in a while, come and see her cleanup efforts. For updated volunteer needs, please visit http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/pages/volunteerin_g.php

Until mid-June I have launched an online **Crosby Arboretum Visitation SURVEY** for MS /LA residents. <http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/pages/survey.php> Data from the survey will be presented at The American Society for Horticultural Science conference July 2013 and will be used to grow and develop the Arboretum. I will send an invitation to take the survey via email.

- **Richelle Stafne**, Senior Curator

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

June – August 2013

June 2013

NATIVE PASSIFLORA FOR FLOWER AND FRUIT

Friday, June 7 (Adults)

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

There are two species of *Passiflora* native to North America (and Mississippi). The smaller, non-showy species are *Passiflora lutea* and *Passiflora incarnata*, often referred to commonly as ‘maypops’. Join MSU Assoc. Ext. Res. Prof. **Dr. Eric Stafne** to learn more about the native *Passiflora* of North America and their ornamental and fruit purposes. Bring a sandwich and make it a date with a friend for a Friday lunch at the Arboretum. Members free; non-members \$5. Please register by June 6.

YOGA AT PINECOTE PAVILION

Saturday, June 8 (Adults)

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.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 encouraged to bring your own. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Free for members; non-members \$5. Register by June 7.

KIDS' SUMMER NATURE CAMP

Tuesday-Friday June 11-14 (Kids)

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 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.

TEACHER'S WORKSHOP: *Flying WILD*

Thursday, June 27 (Teachers)

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 *Flying 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.

July 2013

AQUATIC PLANT SALE

Saturday July 6 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Come early for the best selection of non-invasive aquatic plants, including hardy water lilies, Texas star hibiscus, native iris, spider lilies, lizards tail, and golden club. Many of these plants will be divisions from our exhibits. **Free admission!** Sale will be held behind the Visitor's Center. (use Service Entrance).

TEACHER'S WORKSHOP: *WILD About Black Bears and Endangered Species*

Thursday, July 11 (Teachers)

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

Join us for a fun-filled, hands-on advanced Project Wild workshop, focusing on endangered species of Mississippi, especially black bears, to teach subjects across the curriculum, 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.

NATIVE PLANTS AND FABULOUS FLOWERS

Friday, July 12 (Adults)

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Join us for an exciting lecture about native plants, azaleas and new flowers from the LSU Ag Center's Hammond Research Station. Bring a note-pad and pencil for this well-packed lecture that will be led by **Dr. Allen Owings**, LSU Horticulture Professor. Bring a sandwich and make a date with a friend for Friday lunch at the Arboretum. Members free; non-members \$5. Please register by July 11.

HUMMINGBIRDS: *Understanding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in your yard!*

Saturday, July 13 (Family)

10:00 a.m. 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. Learn what is going on in the hummingbird's life, how they feed, why they fight so much, 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 12.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

June – August 2013

August 2013

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS OF THE ARBORETUM

Friday, August 2 (Family)
11:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Join us for a thrilling lecture about the secret lives of the carnivorous plants of The Crosby Arboretum. Join Sr. Curator, **Richelle Stafne**, as she discusses the hidden agendas of these seemingly docile cuties. Bring a sandwich and make it a date with a friend for a Friday lunch at the Arboretum. Members free; non-members \$5; non-members' children \$2. Please register by August 1.

TEACHER'S WORKSHOP: *WILD about Art & Math*

Thursday, August 8 (Teachers)
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 for 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.

FIELD WALK & CLAY CLASS

Saturday, August 10 (Kids)
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Children will journey down the Arboretum pathways with Director **Pat Drackett** to collect natural materials to impress into clay and form lasting memories. They will create a variety of items from self-hardening clay and take home their work the same day. All children or groups of children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Program Fee: is \$5 per child for members' children, and \$7 for non-members' children. Please register by August 8.

VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Arboretum volunteer **FRIDAY** meetings for summer: June 7, July 12, and August 2. Meet in the mobile by the greenhouse at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted on the website. If you are not on the Vol. listserv, call ahead to verify date/time. 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.

INTRO TO BIRDING AND BINOCULARS

Saturday, August 17 (Family)
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

James Bell, Hummingbird Bander, of the Hummer / Bird Study Group Inc., will join us again! Learn about the fun aspects of birding, including bird feeding and identification. James will discuss our resident birds and migrant species that will be visiting this fall, and provide an overview of books, equipment, materials, and other "must-have" birding resources. Members free; non-members \$5; non-members' children \$2. Register by August 16.

MUSHROOM WALK

Saturday, August 24 (Family)
10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Bring your collecting basket, and join **Dr. Juan Mata**, Associate Professor in Biology from the University of South Alabama, who will return this summer to treat us to a guided mushroom walk of the Arboretum grounds. His students have called him "the best biology teacher in the south." Learn about fungi's fascinating ecology, taxonomy, and relationship to mankind. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by August 23.

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.

The Crosby Arboretum

-Online- Visitation Survey Spring 2013

Help the Arboretum Help You!



Title of Research Study: Visitation at The Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS

Investigator: Richelle Stafne, M.S., CPH

Purpose: We would like to ask you to participate in a research study. The objective of this survey is to determine possible causes for reasons affecting visitation to The Crosby Arboretum by residents in Pearl River County, Mississippi and nearby. The Crosby Arboretum is a non-profit, public garden focused on native plant conservation and education.

Procedures: If you decide to participate in the study, you will be asked to complete an online survey. You must be at least **18 years** of age and a resident of **Mississippi or Louisiana** to participate in this research. The survey will ask you to respond to a series of questions regarding The Crosby Arboretum.

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential. The survey will be active through mid-June, 2013.

Incentive to participate: The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. There is no incentive to participate other than the desire to assist our research. However, participants who complete the survey may choose to enter their email address in the space provided at the bottom for an opportunity to be selected for an Arboretum Membership. *At the end of the study, one submitted email address will be randomly chosen to receive a 2014 Family Membership to The Crosby Arboretum.* Winner will be notified via their submitted email address.

Voluntary Participation: Please understand that your participation is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty. You may discontinue your participation at any time without penalty.

https://msudafvm.col.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2obTmyZn2xwU6fX

or

visit our website and link from there!

<http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu>

ONLINE SURVEY



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

ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS: OUR APOLOGIES

In the spring issue, The Crosby Arboretum expressed our sincere gratitude to the persons and businesses for their generous contributions to our 2012 Annual Appeal for the construction of pathways and bridges in the Swamp Forest Educational Exhibit. However, the following persons were inadvertently omitted from the list. We extend our belated appreciation to **Charles C. & Lynet V. Cox, Robert L. Davis, Shirley Muhleisen, Robert & Cynthia Murchison, Picayune Civic Women's Club, Sibyl T. Ramsey, William Thames, and Prof. Jim Wandersee.**

MEMORIAL TREES PLANTED

Trees were planted at the Crosby Arboretum this winter and spring in memory of Dr. Donald Bradburn, Aaron Broome, Fuscata, beloved dog of Fay Bright, Sallye Hammett, Frank Johnson Hill III, Eva Hungate, Randy Meador, Dr. Noel Polk, Tom Rhea Phillips, Glade Woods, and Dr. Donald W. Zacharias. An Honor Tree was planted for Stewart and Lynn Gammill. Information on Memorial and Honor Trees, including a recommended species list, can be found on the Arboretum website.

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA KIOSK



Image by P. Drackett, 2013

For more information, see www.msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov.

The Crosby Arboretum has been selected as one of 17 sites to house a web-based Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (MGCNHA) kiosk where visitors can access information on trails (hiking and kayaking), history about the area, and cultural events in the area. Funding for the kiosk was made possible through a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). The MGCNHA is managed through the MDMR. Mississippi's six coastal counties were designed in 2004 as the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, which identifies the coastal region as having significant natural and cultural resources that contribute to the fabric of our national history and identity. The Crosby Arboretum embodies the mission of the Heritage Area, celebrating our region's unique landscapes, history, people, and traditions.



On a beautiful, sunny, March morning, Pat Drackett (top image) and Volunteers Tom Heim (middle and bottom images) and Amy LeMien (bottom image) planted Memorial Trees purchased on behalf of loved ones. (image s by R. Stafne and Pat Drackett (bottom image))

ARBORETUM NAMED "SOUTHERN TRAVEL TREASURE"

The Crosby Arboretum is honored to be selected as a **Southern Travel Treasure** by AAA's magazine "AAA Southern Traveler". The Arboretum is featured in the May/June 2013 issue! View the details on our Wordpress Blog (link on our website)!

VOLUNTEER NEEDS FOR SUMMER

Volunteers are needed to assist with Summer Nature Camp, Aquatic Plant Sale, Field Walk & Clay Class, ticket booth greeters, propagating/planting/weeding in greenhouse area. Call Richelle at 601-799-2311ext 101 or rstafne@ext.msstate.edu.

DONATION REQUESTS

1. Golf cart – yes we need one!
2. One small desk for volunteer use in the rear mobile.
3. Good condition, used nursery pots and containers .
4. NURSERY PROJECT: A couple of dump truck loads of road base, a couple loads of large gravel & several rolls of weed barrier for our new nursery stock area.
6. Concrete blocks to support additional greenhouse benches.
7. **We are looking for donations for greenhouse equipment and supplies. We have matching funds up to \$1000!! Whether you can give \$10 or \$100, it will all help.**

Thank you to Mary Anne Koop (computer desk), Avon Engineered Fabrications Inc. (pallets), and Jason Gordon (refrigerator) for recent donations. Thank you to everyone who has been bringing their used nursery pots to us.



Over 160 guests attended the annual Strawberries & Cream Festival, Sunday April 7, 2013. The event is held in the Pinecote Pavilion. (image by R. Stafne)



Thank you to 146 Members who have opted to receive their Quarterly News Journal *electronically* rather than in 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.



Rose Butler, Audubon Nature Institute Wetland Express, conducts a "show and tell" about area wildlife with students during Wildlife Day, Thursday March 7, 2013. (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 with $\geq 30\%$ postconsumer waste recycled fiber. Journal may be received electronically if desired.

Please address correspondence to: **Richelle Stafne**, Editor
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 The Crosby Arboretum
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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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