

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Winter 2013-2014

28.1

Building Bridges at the Crosby Arboretum: MSU Service Learning Student Works 2013

By Hans Herrmann, Assistant Professor, Architecture, AIA, Mississippi State University

Beginning in January 2012, students from the MSU School of Architecture and Department of Landscape Architecture began a collaborative design project to develop schematic proposals for architectural elements of the soon to be completed Gum Pond and Swamp Forest Exhibits. Working throughout the spring, students first worked independently to cultivate design concepts and later merged their efforts to offer two highly detailed schematic designs. The designs were presented to the Arboretum administration and members of The Crosby Arboretum Foundation Board in late April.

Following the design trajectory set in the spring, this semester's students choose to focus their efforts on the pedestrian bridges and weir structure adjacent to the Gum Pond. Guided by the necessity for stabilization of the water course and pond hydrology, the students set to work designing both the aesthetic details and construction methodology for the built elements.



Spring 2013 Student Presentations (image by H. Herrmann)



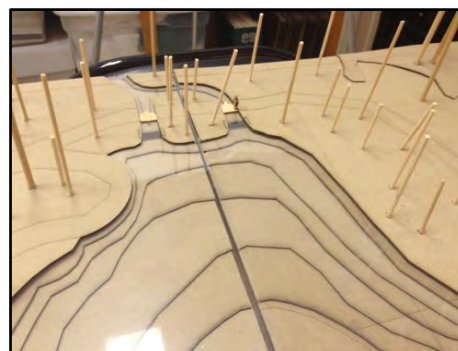
Gum Pond Exhibit Spring 2013. (image by H. Herrmann)



Prof. Brzuszek with student Michael Davis. (image by H. Herrmann)

The final student design has been refined by faculty including, Associate Prof. Robert Brzuszek, ASLA and Assistant Prof. Hans Herrmann, AIA, LEED Green Associate. Picking up on the language established by Fay Jones and Ed Blake, the new pedestrian bridges will be built to minimize the visual and environmental impact on the landscape. The completed exhibit will link the Gum Pond with the Piney Woods Pond via a new pathway network featuring 10 small pedestrian bridges traversing the seasonal stream. The design features modular construction and assembly that was developed to accommodate the challenges of construction within the site and the issue of the students having to work remotely from Starkville, MS. With a palette of local materials and a design that requires little to no special equipment, the bridges may be rapidly replicated by Arboretum staff and volunteers labor for a minimum expense.

The project is scheduled for completion in late December with the third and final phase, the primary Gum Pond interpretive space, beginning later in the year.



Student model of the gum pond bridges. (image by P. Drackett)



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:

September's 7th annual Crosby Arboretum Bugfest was a great success, with a record crowd of 1,008 attending the two-day event. Much positive feedback was generated. We know that this success was made possible through the outstanding teamwork demonstrated by our Arboretum volunteers and staff.

The Crosby Arboretum was a topic of discussion at the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Asset Development and Mapping Team meeting in September hosted by Picayune Mayor Ed Pinero, City Manager Jim Luke, and Main Street Manager Reba Beebe. The team identified the Arboretum as a significant community asset, and recommended that stronger ties between the local community and the site should be explored and implemented.

Tom Howorth, principal architect of Howorth and Associates, Oxford, visited the Arboretum in early September and reported that the Pinecote Pavilion preservation project, funded by the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration through the Bureau of Building, is on schedule. The estimated bid date is November 2013, and completion anticipated by June 2014.

In early October, MSU students (Arch 4990) of School of Architecture Professor Hans Herrmann and Professor Bob Brzuszek, Department of Landscape Architecture, began construction of the two pedestrian bridges at the south edge of the Gum Pond. The bridges are located at the intersection of the 900 foot stream channel at the center of the Arboretum's new four acre Swamp Forest Educational Exhibit, constructed last October. Completion of the bridges is projected for February 1, 2014.

- **Patricia Drackett**, Director

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service



Professor Bob Brzuszek coordinated MSU students and Arboretum staff and volunteers who constructed foundations for the Gum Pond pedestrian bridges in early October. (Image by P. Drackett)



Arboretum Staff and Volunteers move items into new rear mobile storage. Left to right: Terry Johnson, Paul MacInnis, Jarrett Hurlston, and Paul Breeland. (Image by R. Stafne)

Senior Curator's Corner:

This year, at the December Volunteer Meeting on Friday December 6, Arboretum Volunteers with the three highest reported volunteer service hours for the past year will receive free Arboretum Memberships for 2014! In addition, one Volunteer will be chosen by his/her peers to receive the Fellow Volunteer Recognition Award. The recipient will receive a 2014 Arboretum Membership. For the first time in many years, The Crosby Arboretum is pleased to announce the return of the Katherine M. Furr Outstanding Volunteer Award. Beginning this year, each recipient will have his/her name engraved on the plaque that will hang in the Visitor Center. The recipient will receive a 2014 Family Membership and will be chosen by the Arboretum Foundation Board Members with input from the Director.

If you are putting in a garden, orchard or revamping landscape beds, consider attending our lecture on soils and soil testing with **Eddie Smith**, Co. Extension Coordinator, on Sat. December 14. Proper soil testing, soil amendment and soil adjustment (if necessary) are key to understanding what you can expect from a garden or landscape bed. Begin with the soil first!

Please review our winter calendar and share with friends and family. We try to offer a variety of programming for everyone each Quarter. Missing a program offered in the past? Let me know and I'll check into it.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2014 Crosby Arboretum Lecture Series March 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Crosby Library. This year we're pleased to feature **DR. DOUG TALLAMY**, author of *Bringing Nature Home!*
<http://bringingnaturehome.net/>

- **Richelle Stafne**, Senior Curator

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

December – February 2014

DECEMBER 2013

ARBORETUM OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Dec. 7

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please join us for the Arboretum's annual holiday open house celebration. Come browse the gift shop, and the work of local artisans and craftspersons. Light refreshments will be served. Program is free and open to the public.

RESIDENTIAL SOIL TESTING: GET PREPARED FOR SPRING PLANTING!

Saturday, December 14

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Winter is a good time to have your soil tested to prepare for spring planting. Pearl River County Extension Agent, **Eddie M. L. Smith**, will discuss the importance of soil testing. Participants will also learn about the different soils located here in Pearl River County. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by December 13.

HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS FOR BACKYARD WILDLIFE

Saturday, December 14 (Kids)

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Birds and other critters often need extra food in the winter for fuel and warmth. Children will enjoy making tasty delights such as peanut butter pinecone feeders and popcorn-cranberry garlands that will attract birds and wildlife to your backyard. All materials will be provided. Cost: members' children \$3; non-members children \$5. Please register by December 13.

VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Please Note Change: Arboretum volunteer **FRIDAY** meetings for winter: Dec. 6, Jan. 10, and Feb. 7. Meet in the mobile by the greenhouse at 9:00 a.m. 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.

TIP! Email rstafne@ext.msstate.edu to sign up to receive **News and Updates** from The Crosby Arboretum via the email listserv!

JANUARY 2014

CULLOWHEE NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE: Post-Trip Report!

Friday, January 10 (Adults)

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

Join Arboretum Volunteer **Amy LeMien** as she brings you exciting information and colorful highlights from her recent participation to Cullowhee Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina University. Bring a sandwich and make a date with a friend for Friday lunch at the Arboretum. Members free; non-members \$5. Space limited. Please register by January 9.

WILD ABOUT PLANTS

Saturday, January 11 (Teachers)

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

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is offering a fun-filled and hands-on, interactive workshop for teachers and homeschool educators to learn more about native plants and their biology. Come join us for a WILD About Plants workshop. This advanced Project Wild workshop will focus on native Mississippi plants, their biology, and how to incorporate botany into your classroom, including extra teaching materials from the NSF-funded Magnolia grandifLORA program. Attendance in a previous Project WILD workshop is suggested, but not required. Open to both teachers and homeschool educators, it is FREE and includes 0.6 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](tel:601-799-2311) or contact Richelle Stafne at rstafne@ext.msstate.edu.

FORGE DAY: BLACKSMITHING & METALWORKING

Saturday, January 25 (Family)

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

Join us for a day of metalsmithing demonstrations by area craftsmen. A chance to learn techniques and tips to get started in metalworking! Enjoy the demonstrations, or try your hand at the forge. (Those doing forge work must complete a waiver form prior to participating). Safety equipment for participants will be provided. Items available for purchase. Knife sharpening. Members free; non-members \$5, and \$2 for non-members' children.

2014 CROSBY ARBORETUM LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Doug Tallamy

Saturday March 15, 2014 10:00-11:30a.m.

Margaret Reed Crosby Library, Picayune, MS

601-799-2311 Details in February!

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

December – February 2014

FEBRUARY 2014

FOR THE BIRDS: BADGE EVENT (GIRL SCOUTS)

Saturday, February 8
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual event that relies on volunteers throughout the country to help scientists count birds in their own “backyards”. Learn bird identification as well as ways to attract birds to your neighborhood. Materials will also be provided for participation in the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count scheduled for February 14 – 17. “For the Birds” meets the requirements for the Animal Habitats Badge for Junior Scouts. Program fees for Scouts and siblings is \$8 per participant. Scout leaders and parent chaperones are free. Maximum number is 20 participants. Contact Girl Scouts of Greater MS to register at [228-864-7215](tel:228-864-7215) or register online at gsgms.org.

Volunteer Requests for Winter

We will need volunteers to assist with Forge Day, Arbor Day Plant Sale, the ticket booth, maintenance of the Children’s & Butterfly Gardens, planting in the greenhouse, raking trails, and the Arboretum Burn Crew. We rely on the hard work and generosity of our volunteers. Call Richelle to find out how you can help 601-799-2311 x101 or rstafne@ext.msstate.edu.

Crosby Arboretum Memberships make GREAT HOLIDAY gifts!

Show someone you care.



Contact Kimberly Johnson 601-799-2311.

ARBOR DAY NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday February 15: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Members Admitted at 9:00 a.m.

Winter is a good time to plant trees and woody shrubs. Choose from a variety of trees and shrubs at this plant sale, and come early for the best selection of hard-to-find native plants. We'll help you select the right plant for the right place! **Free admission.** Arboretum Visitor Center.

GLOSTER ARBORETUM: An Inside Look (Adults)

Saturday, February 15
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Join Mr. **Von Odenwald**, Site Director of Gloster Arboretum, in Gloster, MS as he presents information and images on the history, current projects, site information and Memberships of The Gloster Arboretum. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by February 14.

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING—No Weeding, No Digging, No Tilling, No Kidding! (Family)

Saturday, February 22
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Do you want to grow your own vegetables, but don't have the space, time, or energy? Then join **Brenda Myers**, Certified Square Foot Gardener and Master Gardener, and learn how easy and fun gardening can be. The class is based on America's best-selling vegetable gardening book by Mel Bartholomew. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by February 21.

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. 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!



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The Crosby Arboretum Mississippi State University

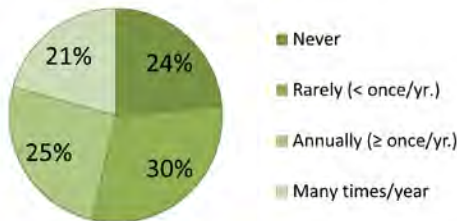
A regional arboretum representing the native flora of the Pearl River Drainage Basin in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Picayune, Mississippi, USA

Crosby Arboretum Visitation Survey: results!

In July 2013, Sr. Curator, Richelle Stafne, made a poster presentation at the American Society for Horticultural Science annual meeting in Palm Desert, CA. The presentation consisted of data and results from the *Online Visitation Survey for The Crosby Arboretum*. Five survey questions were distributed using online survey software. The survey was directed at those 18 years of age and older from Mississippi or Louisiana. Results indicated 54% of respondents had either never been or rarely visit the arboretum. Of reasons why respondents don't visit more often or at all, 12% indicated they do not know what an arboretum is or what it has to offer them. Read more from this poster presentation on our website by going to www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu and clicking on ARCHIVES on the front page, bottom. From there you can review past articles, presentations, posters, etc.

Frequency of Visitation



Frequency of visitation to The Crosby Arboretum by survey respondents. Four choices were given as options: never, rarely (< once/year) annually (≥ once year), and many times per year. Respondents could only choose one answer.



Orontium aquaticum, goldenclub, at the Arboretum. (image by R. Stafne)

PLANT PROFILE: Goldenclub

When I have an opportunity to walk out into the Arboretum, I realize that I frequently see goldenclub (*Orontium aquaticum*) looking fabulous. I must admit, I pass it by and often don't give it a second thought. But why? I love to look at its brightly yellow and white -colored flowering stems (spadixes) and it's so easy going. Water droplets collected on the dark green leaves make wonderful photography objects. Had I an aquatic area at home, I would certainly include this fine species of the Arum (Araceae) family. Goldenclub is a native, perennial, herbaceous, monocot that is hardy throughout the Gulf Coast (zones 5-10). Spreading by rhizomes, this aquatic plant grows one to two feet tall. You may find goldenclub in "bloom" February through late spring at The Crosby Arboretum. Look for plants to purchase at our annual Aquatic Plant Sale in July.

Sign-up on our blog to receive email alerts when a new blog is posted? Join 43 other subscribers, today!



Come out and enjoy the two-day 11th annual Piney Woods Heritage Festival, Nov. 15 & 16, 2013. Picayune Piecemakers featured above at the 2012 event. (image by R. Stafne)

PLANTS AT THE ARBORETUM WITH WINTER INTEREST

Drummond's Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *drummondii*)

Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*)

Goldenclub (*Orontium aquaticum*)

White oak (*Quercus alba*)

Pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*)

Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

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

DONATION REQUESTS

1. Good condition, used nursery pots and containers.
2. NURSERY PROJECT: A couple of dump truck loads of road base & several rolls of weed barrier for our new nursery stock area.
3. Concrete blocks to support additional greenhouse benches.
4. Roll of used or new hogwire/metal/mesh fencing
4. **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 Ruth Cook (\$500 donation for insect nets for Bugfest), Ruth Cook and Fay Bright (sponsoring Audubon Nature Institute BugMobile at Bugfest). The Crosby Arboretum also acknowledges a gift of \$250 from John and Yvette Rosen honoring Mr. David Oreck's birthday.



The annual Fall Native Plant Sale brought great crowds despite rain on Saturday. (image by R. Stafne)



The Audubon Nature Institute Bugmobile presented to a large crowd Saturday September 28 on Pinecote Pavilion. This attraction was made possible through the gift of Arboretum Board Members Ruth Cook and Fay Bright. (image by R. Stafne)



Thank you to more than 170 Members who have opted to receive their Quarterly News Journal *electronically*. 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 $\geq 30\%$ 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
 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 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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