

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Fall 2014

28.4

DR. SIDNEY McDANIEL'S STUDENT RETURNS

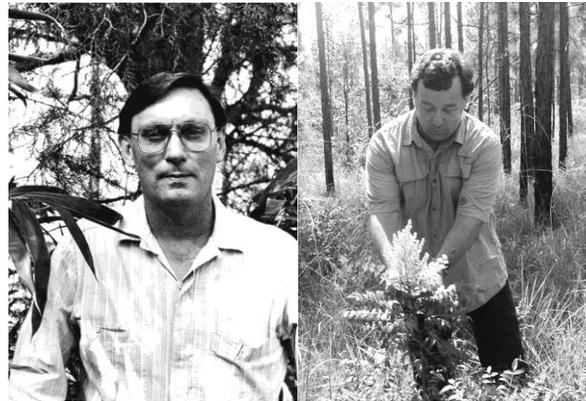
A tale of Dr. Wayne Morris, Associate Professor of Biology, Troy University, Alabama

Once upon a time, as an undergraduate student at Delta State University majoring in biology and chemistry in 1984, Wayne Morris was invited to travel from Cleveland to Picayune with a self-trained botanist named Travis Salley, who said that he and his wife were planning to visit some "savanna habitats". At the time, Wayne had only read about such places, and the tremendous plant diversity that occurred there. Wayne first met Sidney McDaniel in June 1984 on a trip to the Crosby Arboretum, when Sidney was leading a Mississippi Native Plant Society field trip. Sidney was in his element in the field, and "seemed to know everything about every plant we ran across," said Wayne. "He truly enjoyed what he did, and this showed." He opened up a "whole fascinating world that people are not aware of – the many connections that plants have with other organisms, with people, and how they shape society." This tremendous passion for what he did, along with his vast knowledge, served to inspire many, Wayne among them, to choose a career in botany.

In the fall of 1985, Dr. McDaniel visited Wayne's potential study site in Grenada County. Impressed, he told Wayne he wanted him to study the county. Wayne came on board as his graduate student at Mississippi State in January 1986, receiving a Crosby Arboretum fellowship for the purpose of inventorying plant species within the Arboretum's natural areas, which he used to pay his tuition. After completing his first semester, at MSU, Wayne traveled to Picayune to assist Dr. McDaniel with the natural areas inventory, being pleased to do so as it had been these Coastal Plain communities that inspired him to pursue botany.

In summer 1986, the Crosby Arboretum was just forming. There were no buildings, except for a small trailer of Ed Blake's on the site. The office was located on Goodyear Boulevard, and the Pavilion was being discussed, as he recalled, but was not yet built. The inventory of the plant species in the natural areas was in process. Wayne used a working plant list, drafted by Dr. McDaniel, to determine if species he encountered were not on the list. That summer, Wayne made around seven trips to the Arboretum, visiting several natural areas one day, and several more the next, including Hillside Bog, Dead Tiger Creek Hammock, Dead Tiger Creek Savanna, Red Bluff, Crane Pond Bog, and Phillips Swamp.

Wayne would bring plants in from the field to the headquarters on Goodyear Boulevard, rinse off the mud from the roots, and document the plants. He would then bring them back to campus, where museum quality herbarium specimens were made.



In summer 1986, Dr. Wayne Morris (right, during the August field walk he led at Hillside Bog) worked at the Crosby Arboretum's natural areas inventory under Dr. Sidney McDaniel, MSU Professor of Botany (left), while working on his M.S. at Mississippi State

Wayne said that Sidney "didn't just have knowledge of southeastern flora. His knowledge of plants extended globally. He knew all the plants in Alaska, Amazonian, South America, described several species new to science, both from the tropics and even from the panhandle of Florida – a new species and genus of lily. I had the honor of showing my students that plant when I was teaching at a college in Georgia, to show them Sidney's plant, *Harperocallis flava*, a spectacular lily in bloom typically early to mid-May in the Apalachicola National Forest."

Sidney has a photographic memory, said Wayne. He remembers when as graduate students they would browse through the MSU herbarium and pull a specimen out without showing the label information to Sidney and ask him about it and he would say, "Oh, I collected that on such-and-such date", and he would remember what was growing with it, everything about it, and that would be the date, the year, and the other information that was given on the label.

Sidney was originally from Forrest City, Arkansas, in the Crowley's Ridge region, where there is loess bluff formation. Coincidentally, Grenada County, which Wayne ended up studying under Sidney doing a floristic survey for his master's thesis, also has the loess bluff physiographic region in it. "He would motivate me to want to find the same kinds of plants that he grew up with", said Wayne, and "to find things that were unexpected, to have that drive to go out there and want to explore, to see what's over the next ridge, what's down in that ravine. Sidney had the ability to make people want to do that."

- From the conversation between Wayne Morris and Crosby Arboretum Director Patricia Drackett on August 2, 2014



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:

As summer draws to a close, we reflect back on our many well-attended summer programs. Participants enjoyed learning new facts about hummingbirds with **James Bell**, edible plants with **Darla Pastorek**, and the native plants found in our Hillside Bog natural area with **Dr. Wayne Morris**. Fall events will include our BugFest event, now in its eighth year. Last year, a record crowd of 1,006 persons attended this two-day buggy extravaganza, which is organized each year by **Dr. John Guyton**, Extension entomology specialist in **MSU's Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology**.

In August, our pathways received a big facelift to prepare for the Teen Challenge 5K Trail Run in mid-September. The doors on our modular buildings also have a fresh coat of paint, thanks to a Navy community service day involving more than 25 NOAC and FST military personnel and NAVO civilians. The day was organized by Navy Petty Officer First Class **Andrew Ribar**, Navy Community Outreach Coordinator for **Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command** at **John C. Stennis Space Center**. The crews also painted the pedestals built by Arboretum volunteer **Tom Heim** for our gallery area and the exhibit opening September 6. If you haven't visited our Gift Shop lately, come see the new work by local artists and craftspersons.

As of July, I am an assistant Extension professor of landscape architecture, and welcome this new opportunity to grow the Crosby Arboretum through a closer relationship with this MSU department that has played a significant role in the planning and implementation of the exhibits in our site master plan.

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



*Crosby Arboretum Building and Grounds Superintendent **Terry Johnson** received a MSU Zacharias Distinguished Staff Award at the annual Staff Appreciation Day in Starkville on May 30. Twelve winners were presented with a plaque of recognition and a check for \$1,000 by MSU Provost and Executive Vice President **Jerry Gilbert**. Among other requirements, nominees for the award must exemplify professionalism and dedication to MSU by performing beyond the call of duty to improve service, quality, and image of the department/unit.*



*Crosby Arboretum's student intern, **Travis Crabtree**, an MSU undergraduate student in landscape architecture, often dons a mosquito net when making field measurements for his "as-built" plans.*

Summer Intern: Travis Crabtree

In July, the Crosby Arboretum welcomed summer intern **Travis Crabtree**, who is a senior this fall in MSU's Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (B.L.A.) program. During his time at the Arboretum, Travis completed an accurate "as-built" plan for both the Gum Pond and Swamp Forest educational exhibits, refining the plan information recorded by landscape architecture professor **Bob Brzuszek** during the earlier implementation of these exhibits. Travis used a metal detector to locate the site plan's metal pins, which occur every 100' feet on a grid. He pulled string taut between the pins, and measured from these lines to locate and record the location of the pathways, Gum Pond edge, stream channel, bridges, and weirs in the exhibits. He also cleared the northwest section of the Gum Pond trail, and a path from the Gum Pond path to the service road.

At MSU, Travis enjoys studying sustainable design, and biophilic urban design (look up that term, and prepare to be amazed). He plans to enter a graduate program in urban design and planning upon completion of his undergraduate degree. Travis arrived at the Arboretum shortly after a study abroad class to Europe with MSU landscape architecture professor **Taze Fulford**. In Europe he took two courses, in urban sketching, and urban gardens and spaces. His class began in Paris, France, and he took trips to the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden. He made numerous sketches, and snapped many inspiring photos on his trip.

About his internship, Travis said, "It was worth it for all the time I got to spend at the Arboretum. I had the entire 64 acres to myself after 5 o'clock when work was over. I would sometimes go out to the Pinecote Pavilion to read Bob's book, **The Crosby Arboretum: A Sustainable Regional Landscape**. I have never been somewhere that I felt more connected with nature than the summer I spent at Crosby."



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Picayune, Mississippi, USA

FIELD TRIP TO THE ARBORETUM'S HILLSIDE BOG NATURAL AREA



Dr. Wayne Morris was in his element at Hillside Bog.

The August field walk to the Crosby Arboretum's Hillside Bog in Hancock County with **Dr. Wayne Morris**, and state botanist **Heather Sullivan** was a momentous occasion. Not only was this an excellent opportunity for participants to pose any plant question, knowing they would receive a thorough answer, but it was a real treat to hear about Wayne's history with the plant species inhabiting this natural area, and to share in that relationship. Later on, he provided us with a detailed list of the species he and Heather discussed that day. We would be glad to send you a copy, which in addition to the evident yellow pitcher plants (*Sarracenia alata*) includes the following species:

Bartonia paniculata, a diminutive, wiry plant that appears to be all stems, in the gentian family (Gentianaceae); *Cirsium lecontei*, a rare thistle species (Asteraceae) in the drier longleaf pine area near the gate; *Ctenium aromaticum*, toothache grass, with an aroma like citrus when fresh. During colonial times, it was used to numb the oral cavity if one was experiencing a toothache; *Gaylussacia dumosa* and *G. mosieri*, both shrubs are often called huckleberries, relatives of blueberries and cranberries; *Helianthus radula*, an unusual fall-blooming native sunflower found mostly in drier longleaf pine areas; *Hibiscus aculeatus*, a relative of cotton and okra (Malvaceae), flowers are white with maroon spot in center ("Mississippi State" colors!); *Hypericum brachyphyllum*



IMAGE SOURCE: Morris, M. W. 2013. The genus *Platanthera* (Orchidaceae) in Mississippi. *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 7:323-339.

Both P. ciliaris, yellow fringed orchid (L) and P. integra, yellow fringeless orchid (far R), occur at Hillside Bog natural area.

and *H. gentianoides*, St. John's worts, related to the Eurasian species (*H. perforatum*) that is the source of specific, patented extracts prescribed by physicians in Europe to treat patients with depression; *Lophiola aurea*, goldencrest, spectacular whitish-blueish-greenish plants that appear as an aspect dominant during early summer in the bog; *Platanthera integra*, yellow fringeless orchid, listed as rare in the state (Sixty *P. integra* were seen on our August field walk!); *Solidago odora*, sweet, or fragrant, goldenrod (Asteraceae), blooms late summer/fall; crushed leaves have an aroma of licorice or anise, attracting many insects including beetles and butterflies; *Stokesia laevis*, Stoke's aster, a horticulturally desirable native plant; blooms much of the summer; *Tofieldia racemosa*, a native lily that goes by the common name false asphodel; *Toxicodendron vernix*, poison sumac; any part of the plant potentially causes dermatitis in sensitive individuals, related to poison ivy and poison oak; and *Utricularia cornuta* and *U. subulata*, two species of bladderworts with yellow flowers, both occurring in the wet, acidic, nitrogen-deficient soils of the bog.

Wayne wrote an article on the native fringed orchids (*Platanthera* spp.) of Mississippi, recently published in the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*. The article contains beautiful photographs, and an image of the Hillside Bog natural area, where *P. ciliaris* (yellow fringed orchid) and *P. integra* (yellow fringeless orchid) are found. A copy of Wayne's article will be in our library.

ARBORETUM PLANTS OF FALL INTEREST

Deertongue (*Carphephorus odoratissimus*)

Bog Button, a.k.a. Lady's Hatpin (*Eriocaulon* spp.)

Eryngo, a.k.a. Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium integrifolium*)

Swamp Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)

Blazing Star, a.k.a. Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*)

Pinewoods Lily (*Lilium catesbaei*)

Black Gum a.k.a. Swamp Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*)

Panic Grass, a.k.a. Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Stokes Aster (*Stokesia laevis*)

Tree Huckleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)

Yellow-eyed Grass (*Xyris* spp.)

Refer to the Native Plant Database on our website for details.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Did you know that Crosby Arboretum member benefits include library lending privileges? Volunteer **Tammy Mokray** has cataloged some interesting books lately. We extend our thanks to Foundation board member **Fay Bright**, who made a recent donation of books from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Titles include: **Edible Gardens, Easy Compost, Green Roofs and Rooftop Gardens, Butterfly Gardens: Luring Nature's Loveliest Pollinators to Your Yard, Healthy Soils for Sustainable Gardens, The Tree Book for Kids and Their Grown-ups**, and more, so come "check" them out!

The 59th Edward C. Martin Landscape Design Symposium

October 15, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Bost Auditorium, Starkville (MSU campus)

Sponsored by

The **MSU Department of Landscape Architecture** and the **Garden Clubs of Mississippi**, to teach the public about landscape architecture and gardening.

The Artful Garden: Creative Inspiration for Landscape Design

Eric Groft, FASLA; Principal, Oehme, van Sweden, Washington, D.C.

Gardening with Nature

John Mayronne; Principal, John Mayronne and Associates, Covington, Louisiana

Garden Traditions in Japan - A Walkabout in the Historic and Contemporary Gardens

Sadik Artunc; Head, Department of Landscape Architecture, Mississippi State University

Bob Brzuszek, ECM Symposium Program Chair, will also be signing copies of his new book, **The Crosby Arboretum, A Sustainable Regional Landscape**. Copies will be available for purchase. The event is \$25 for attendees who preregister by Oct. 1 and \$30 at the door. For speaker and program information, and registration details (registration can be completed on-line), visit:

http://www.lalc.msstate.edu/workshops/martin_symp/



In August, trails were spruced up, vegetation pruned, and buildings were painted by Navy NOAC and FST military personnel and NAVO civilians crews during a much-appreciated community service day.

FALL VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Volunteer meetings will be announced via the volunteer listserv later in the fall. Interested in volunteering? Call the Arboretum office at 601-799-2311 or email Pat at drackett@ext.msstate.edu.

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: **Pat Drackett**, Editor
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The Crosby Arboretum
P.O. Box 1639
Picayune, MS 39466

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

Membership Application

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

_____	Student (send copy of 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.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University

P.O. Box 1639

Picayune, MS 39466-1639

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www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

September – October 2014

September 2014



**CROSBY ARBORETUM GALLERY OPENING:
ROBIN VEERKAMP & JANET SCHLAUDERAFF**
Saturday, September 6
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Arboretum gallery features exhibits by area artists whose work celebrates nature. **Robin Veerkamp** and **Janet Schlauderaff** will exhibit their work together. Veerkamp, of Picayune, specializes in color pencil, and pen and ink drawings of landscapes, plants and animals. Schlauderaff, from Lumberton, crafts gourds into baskets, bowls, and decorative display items. Light refreshments will be served. The opening event is free to members and non-members.

RUN BABY RUN 5K TRAIL RUN

Saturday, September 13

Registration opens 7:00 a.m.; Run at 8:00 a.m.

Enjoy an early morning 5K run through the Crosby Arboretum's beautiful exhibits! The event is being conducted by Teen Challenge of Poplarville, a non-profit organization that reaches out to men and woman of all ages who suffer from addictions. Register on-line at www.ACTIVE.com. Cost of \$25.00 includes site admission. The event will be a Teen Challenge family day, including face painting and crafts. For information, contact Erica Sloan at tcofms.ericah@hotmail.com, or (601) 795-8063.



Volunteer Maureen Wheat has been collecting and identifying a weekly "What's in Bloom" display for the Visitor Center.



Friday, Sept. 26, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 

Bring the family for a two-day extravaganza of buggy events! Friday 10 am to 2 pm is open to insect collecting by school and homeschool groups (groups over 20 persons must call 601-799-2311 to pre-register for an arrival time). Students \$2; no charge for teachers, chaperones, or bus drivers until 6 p.m. Collecting continues 2 to 6 pm; this is an excellent time period for concentrated collecting and a greater opportunity for individual assistance at the insect ID/mounting station (open the entire event). Friday 6 to 8 pm children will enjoy entomology-based activities on the Buggy Midway. Night collecting begins at dusk, using lighted sheets to draw insects. **Bring flashlight or headlamp!** Midway is open Saturday 10:00 am to noon. The New Orleans Audubon Institute's Bugmobile presents in the afternoon. See live insect demonstrations, collections, pet bugs, exhibits, and more. Friday after 6 pm., and all day Saturday, non-members entry \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Members free. Visit www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu to download an insect collecting manual, from the site's program calendar page.

COASTAL MISSISSIPPI WILDFLOWERS

Saturday, September 20

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Even through autumn marks the traditional end of the growing season, it is still full of beautiful wildflowers. Join Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett** for an overview of the area's most stunning bloomers, and the species that are best-suited for your home garden. We'll also cover resources for wildflower identification, and discuss species currently blooming in the savannas. Members free; non-members \$5. Register by Sept 19.

October 2014

FALL PLANT SALE!

Fri/Sat Oct. 3 & 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Members Admitted at 9 a.m.

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, and offer advice on the best plants for your unique site conditions. **Free admission.** Arboretum greenhouse.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

October – November 2014

October 2014 (con't)

HOW TO HAVE A FIREWISE HOME (Adults)

Saturday, October 11

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Firewise is an educational program for homeowners and community leaders. Information will be presented on how to design, construct, landscape, and maintain home or community so as to withstand a wildfire without the aid of firefighting resources on scene. Participants will learn about why homes burn, various wildland fuel reduction techniques, and how to assess the fire danger of their home. Firewise events are free to all, but pre-registration is required. Register by Wed. Oct. 1.

ALL ABOUT BATS!

Saturday, October 25 (Family)

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Learn about bat biology and ecology with **Kathy Shelton**, state conservation biologist for South Mississippi, with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Kathy will discuss threats, research and conservation on Mississippi bats, what species we have in the state, and ways you can attract and keep bats around your property. Members free, non-members \$5. Register by October 24.

November 2014

GIRL SCOUTS: ENVIRONMENTAL BADGES DAY

Saturday, November 8 (Scouts)

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

These two-hour programs are for Girl Scouts who are working on environmental badges. Daisy scouts will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Cadet scouts will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Scouting groups may picnic before or after program times on the grounds as part of their visit. The program fees for Scouts and their siblings is **\$10** per participant. Scout leaders and parent chaperones are free. The maximum number per group is 20 participants. All materials provided. Call Girl Scouts of Greater MS to register at [228-864-7215](tel:228-864-7215) or register online at gsgms.org.

FALL ARBORETUM FIELD WALK (Family)

Saturday, November 1

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

This is a wonderful time of year to take time to appreciate the natural beauty around us. In a field walk around the Arboretum grounds you will learn about the native plants in our exhibits, and how to incorporate them into your own home landscape. Members free. Non-members \$5. Register by October 31.

INTRODUCTION TO FLY TYING FOR YOUTH

Saturday, November 8 (Ages 9 to 14)

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Crosby Arboretum volunteer and fly fisherman **Will Sullivan** will teach how to use simple, inexpensive materials such as flipflop foam, thread, rubber bands etc. to create flies to catch fish. All materials and equipment will be provided. **Class is limited to 5 participants.** Best suited to ages 9 to 14. Parent or guardian is required. Materials fee for members, \$2, and for non-members, \$4. Call to register by November 7.



PINEY WOODS HERITAGE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, Nov. 14
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Schools)

SATURDAY, Nov. 15
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Family)

Celebrate the early days of the Piney Woods in this 12th annual festival featuring exhibits and demonstrations of traditional skills such as blacksmithing, quilting, spinning, basket-making, and more. Friday is open to preregistered school groups (\$2 per child), free to teachers/chaperones. Saturday features live music performances. Saturday admission, adults \$5, children \$2. Members free.

GOURDCRAFTING: CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS!

Saturday, November 22 (Ages 10 & up & Adults)

10:00 a.m. to Noon

In this workshop, artist **Janet Schlauderaff** will show you how to create Christmas ornaments from small gourds. Learn a variety of practices and techniques to craft your own unique designs. For adults and children 10 and up, accompanied by an adult. Cost \$4 for members; \$6 for non-members. Includes all necessary tools and materials for participants to take home their very own handcrafted ornament. Register by November 21.

Reservations: Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311 for questions, and to make program reservations.

Physical Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466

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.

www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu

