



## About The Crosby Arboretum

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With increasing value being placed on our natural heritage, The Crosby Arboretum, MSU-ES is the premier native plant conservatory of our region. It allows us to study and learn about plants and plant products so that we may use them to their best advantage and ensure their continuous propagation in the future. Through The Crosby Arboretum, aesthetic, agricultural, scientific, and industrial contributions of native plant species and ecosystems can be examined in a real-life setting.



The Crosby Arboretum began as a living memorial to L.O. Crosby, Jr. (1907-1978). It has expanded to become a resource for education in the region and the world. The Arboretum provides for the protection of the region's biological diversity as well as a place for the public's enjoyment of plant species native to the Pearl River Drainage Basin.



The first botanical gardens were established four hundred years ago in Italy. Today, they are round throughout the world. The uniqueness of The Crosby Arboretum lies in its ability to provide for study and enjoyment of native plants in their original habitat.

The Native Plant Center of The Crosby Arboretum 104-acre Interpretive Center (adjacent to Interstate 59 south of Picayune, MS) serves as the focus of the Arboretum activities and development. Additionally, the Arboretum manages over 700 acres in seven associated natural areas. The vast assemblages of carefully selected and protected lands nurtures over



300 species of indigenous trees and shrubs as well as wildflowers and grasses found in the Pearl River Drainage Basin of south-central Mississippi and Louisiana.

It includes a pavilion and the Piney Woods Lake for display of native water plants in their natural setting—providing habitat for aquatic wildlife and waterfowl. Pinecote pavilion and the many wooden bridges that complement the lake were designed to enhance the artistic and functional aspects of the Native Plant Center by award winning architect Fay Jones, of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Visitors can watch an introductory video at the Temporary Visitors Center, which includes a gift shop that features unique

nature-related merchandise. The Interpretive Center is used as a gathering place for activities, events, classes, and for the quiet, reflective enjoyment of nature.

Rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants and wildlife are present at The Crosby Arboretum. Unusual plants have their place as well—the Arboretum protects several lovely pitcher plant bogs within the natural areas that contain many orchids and insect-eating plants. Edible, poisonous, and aromatic plants, too, are found in the Arboretum. As the seasons unfold their splendor, the Arboretum provides a clear, unobstructed view of the variety and beauty of our natural resources.



The Crosby Arboretum increasingly contributes to the scientific community by assisting in research and developing educational materials. It communicates with other arboreta and exchanges information to foster studies of the plant world. Educational programs conducted on the site will bring botanical information to the public. Functional benefits and uses of plants—such as soil stabilization, temperature reduction, and noise abatement—are demonstrated at the Arboretum.

More than attractive features of our landscape, plants are an integral part of the environment we inhabit; our own survival will be threatened if they do not flourish. Therefore, humankind's best interests can be served by the study of our plant neighbors with which we share this planet.

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