

# The Crosby Arboretum

## Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Fall 2017

31.4

## MSU EXTENSION SMART LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

The Crosby Arboretum is recognized as one of the first arboreta in the nation to fully embrace landscape sustainability in its design and management. And as they have discovered over the past 30 years now—it works! The Crosby Arboretum has inspired countless gardeners to understand that landscapes are living systems that can enrich our lives as well as our local environments. In March of this year, the American Society of Landscape Architects sent a survey out to its members to find out what people are most asking for in their residential landscape designs (available online at <https://www.asla.org/NewsReleaseDetails.aspx?id=50027>)

The top three landscape elements that people across the nation are requesting include:

- Native/adapted drought tolerant plants (82.3%)
- Native plants (81.6%)
- Low-maintenance landscapes (79.25%)

Sound familiar? Many Crosby Arboretum members have implemented what they have learned from programs for using native plants and attracting backyard wildlife. At Mississippi State University, we are teaching our students in landscape architecture and contracting to design and manage landscapes in a sustainable way. This includes not only using native plants and attracting wildlife, but to minimize development footprints, build soil health, manage stormwater, and develop efficient landscapes, to name a few. And now we are bringing this knowledge to the Mississippi public.

Crosby Arboretum director Pat Drackett, Pearl River Country Extension agent Eddie Smith, MSU research assistant Simon Powney, and myself have developed a new Extension Service sustainable landscape training course entitled—*Smart Landscapes*. The Smart Landscapes program will provide information on **six important sustainable landscape practices** that people can achieve in their own backyards. The main focus areas for the program include water management, backyard wildlife, healthy soils, plant diversity, energy conservation, and integrated pest management. This past summer we had sent out a survey on the interests of sustainable landscape topics and practices to Arboretum members and Extension clientele. We received 257 responses from across the state, and if you had responded to the survey, thank you for your strong interest in sustainable landscape practices in



*Beautyberry is a tough, durable, native plant species that is not only a visual treat but a food source for local wildlife.*

input! We found out from the survey results that there is a Mississippi for the above topics. Even more importantly, many of you are already using good landscape practices in your own backyards and you would like to learn more about how to create a more sustainable landscape.

So, we are happy to announce a few avenues where you can do just that. First, a new Extension website will be available within the next few weeks entitled **Mississippi Smart Landscapes** (<http://extension.msstate.edu/smartlandscapes>). The website will feature a wealth of material where you can learn much more about each of these topics. Mississippi already has great resources available through MSU Extension experts, state agencies, and non-profit organizations; and we compiled them together into one spot for you. Also, we will have full-day training workshops beginning next year that will be held periodically throughout the state. Experts in these topics from Mississippi State University will give lectures and resources, and a full day of attendance will give you certification as a Mississippi Smart Landscape homeowner. Dates for upcoming trainings and registration will be listed on the Smart Landscape website, so be sure to visit it for updates!



*Bob Brzuszek is an Extension professor of landscape architecture at Mississippi State University. He was the site director/curator of the Crosby Arboretum from 1990 to 2003 and continues to serve the Arboretum in an advisory/design development capacity.*



## 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:

Thinking back over the two decades since The Crosby Arboretum joined with Mississippi State University, we have been considering the many ways we have grown. We continue to strengthen connections with the public, and to expand our reach. Although the Arboretum is internationally renowned in the design and horticultural world (exemplified by being the recipient of the American Public Gardens Association's 2016 Garden Excellence Award), we are pleased that locally we are continuing to attract new visitors and build support in the community, as those who have realized our value choose to give us a permanent role in their lives.

Although recent reductions in our operating budget have resulted in the need for us to think creatively and innovatively, exploring outside sources of funding and restructuring our educational activities, we have surprisingly found that these challenges are allowing us to find fresh and exciting ways to improve the visitor experience. Curator Jennifer Buchanan has been applying her talents in grantwriting, and we have benefited from the strategic marketing plan prepared by Jessica Smith, a recent graduate from the MSU Agricultural Communications department. We are grateful to Scott Fabacher (see page 3) for his willingness to function as the volunteer coordinator. And, thanks to the Pearl River County Master Gardeners, our pollinator garden has just been designated a Monarch Waystation!

- **Patricia Drackett, Director**

*The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



*Summer MSU intern Brady Dunaway has returned to campus and is already hard at work this semester. We're grateful for Brady's help with the Swamp Forest signage and the native milkweed project!*



*The June "Beekeeping for Beginners" program with MSU Extension professor and research apiculturist Dr. Jeff Harris was well-attended.*

## THE CURATOR'S CORNER: *Forecasting a Fabulous Fall!*

With temperatures hovering in the high nineties, it is hard to think about the fact that fall is technically just right around the corner on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. While we often think of fall as the time that the trees' leaves change color and fall to the ground, did you know that the late fall is the best time to plant trees here in the deep south—especially during the month of October? Because many people associate planting trees with Arbor Day which falls closer to our spring, they often miss out on the opportunity to take advantage of the best tree planting window in the fall.

Mark your calendar for our fabulous fall events that are coming up: On September 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>, enjoy the annual **BugFest**. A Friday field day will feature time slots for pre-registered schools and homeschool groups from 9 AM till 2 PM. Enjoy family fun times on Friday evening (featuring Blacklighting for Bugs) from 6 till 9 PM (bring flashlights!) and Saturday from 9:30 AM till 2 PM, featuring the **Bugmobile** from the **Audubon Zoo** from 12:30 till 2 PM. Our fall native plant sale is October 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> (Sat/Sun this year!). Our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Piney Woods Heritage Festival will be held, November 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> (Fri/Sat), beginning with historically-themed presentations Saturday evening at the Senior Center of South Pearl River County. This year's festival will feature hands-on, "Old Timey" themed exhibits and presentations on Saturday for the whole family to enjoy. Finally, on November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, stop by and visit our booth at Picayune's Fall Street Fair. "Like" us on Facebook so you will be reminded about these upcoming events, or ask to be added to our General Announcements email listserv to receive periodic event notices. I look forward to seeing you this fall!

- **Jennifer Buchanan, Senior Curator**

*The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



## 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

## WELCOME, SCOTT FABACHER!



Volunteer Coordinator **Scott Fabacher** is both an Arboretum volunteer and a new MSU intermittent worker. Scott has been helping with marketing and promotion for the Arboretum, planning the volunteer activities for our fall quarter, and applying his organizational talents to improve our use of work spaces. He has also created a volunteer area in the Library!

Scott is a very dedicated and passionate worker. He enjoys helping others to make their lives easier and feel special. He is a great problem solver and loves to put others first. He feels that being a part of the community and involvement is very important. It is a huge part of his life. A retired veteran of the United States Navy, he served 20 years. Married to the former Samantha Snyder of Mobile Al, he has two beautiful children Brett, 17 and Helena, 15 from a previous marriage, and has been a resident of Gulfport, MS for the past 16 years.

### PLANT PROFILE: Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)



**Virginia Sweetspire** is a native sweet-smelling, showy shrub that is perfect for your landscape. This shrub's fragrant flowers attract a variety of pollinators in the late spring and summer, and its colorful fall foliage persists well into the winter. Sweetspire not only provides protection for a variety of small animals, but also serves as "eye candy" to those of us in the south looking for an indicator that a change in seasons has actually occurred. Plant this shrub in a group, as it tends to get leggy if it is planted alone. Sweetspire prefers moist, rich soils and will produce the most brilliant fall red and purple leaves, if it receives direct sunlight at least part of the day. References: [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org), The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center; Photos: Sam Bahr (left) and Gary Bachman (right).

## FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE: PRE-ORDERS FOR POPULAR SPECIES

In order to provide a greater quantity of some of the most requested species, and to emphasize the fact that fall is the best season for planting trees, **the Arboretum is piloting an online tree and shrub sale**. Because this is the first time we are trying this, we'll be starting small. Therefore, **FOR ONE WEEK ONLY from September 24<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>**, the Arboretum will be offering ten popular trees and shrubs for sale on our website on a first-come, first-served basis. You must order and pay in advance online. No phone orders will be accepted. Additionally, you must pick up your orders at the Arboretum during our regular fall plant sale hours on October 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>. When the ordering form becomes available on our website, we will announce this via our member email listserv, and on social media.

**Please note we cannot issue a refund once an order is placed, so be certain you really want these plants.** The ten species we intend to presell at this time (although the final list will be based on availability) include: *Asimina triloba*, Pawpaw; *Chionanthus virginicus*, Fringetree; *Cliftonia monophylla*, Pink Buckwheat Tree; *Illicium floridanum*, Starbush; *Itea virginica*, Virginia Willow or Sweetspire; *Lyonia lucida*; Fetterbush; *Rhododendron canescens*, Piedmont Azalea (pink); *Rhododendron serrulatum*, Swamp Azalea (white summer bloomer); *Vaccinium elliottii*, Elliott's Blueberry; and *Viburnum dentatum*, Arrow-wood. Inventory will be limited; however, many of these same species will also be available in limited numbers at the regular fall plant sale.

### WHAT'S IN BLOOM – FALL SELECTIONS:

- Baldwin, *Baldwynia uniflora*, yellow flowers
- Blazing Star (a.k.a. Gayfeather), *Liatris spicata*
- Boneset, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, white flowers
- Deer's tongue, *Carphephorus odoratissimus*, purple flwrs
- Heath Aster, *Sympphyotrichum pilosum*, white flowers
- Southern Blazing Star, *Liatris squarrulosa*, purple flwrs
- Meadow Beauty, *Rhexia alifanus*, pink flowers
- Pickerel Weed, *Pontederia cordata*, purple flowers
- Pinelands Hibiscus, *Hibiscus aculeatus*, white flowers
- St.John's Wort, *Hypericum brachyphyllum*, yellow flwrs
- Swamp Sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolius*, yellow flwrs
- Sugarcane plumegrass, *Saccharum giganteum*, tan plumes

If you've been thinking of volunteering at the Arboretum, we have many opportunities! No amount of time is too small, and we are sincerely grateful for any assistance.

## "EARTH COLORS" WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST ROBIN WHITFIELD



Participants will enjoy the October Earth Colors workshop with Grenada artist **Robin Whitfield**. Robin works on location in rivers, swamps and forests near her downtown studio and around the state, and her art explores the poetic relationships of form and color found in nature. Discovering and sharing the beauty of ecology, natural habitats and biodiversity is a driving force in her creative life. Robin works on paper with traditional watercolors and pigments gathered from the earth. A graduate of Delta State University, she holds a BFA in Painting, and travels the south painting on public land, teaching creative workshops and giving presentations that connect people to nature. Her artworks and illustrations have been featured in numerous publications. See the program calendar for more information on her October 14 all-day workshop.

In her October 14 workshop, Robin will demonstrate ways to extract color and texture from a variety of material found in nature. She will supplement what is gathered with other natural colors such as black walnut ink, oak gall ink, a variety of ochres and charcoal. Learn more about Robin by visiting her on Facebook or at <http://www.robinwhitfield.com/>.

The News Journal is a quarterly publication of The Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University Extension Service. Journal subscription is included with an annual membership to the Arboretum. Printed on recycled paper with ≥30% postconsumer waste recycled fiber.

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Patricia Drackett, Editor, 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 copy of student ID)	\$ 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



The Crosby Arboretum  
Mississippi State University  
P.O. Box 1639  
Picayune, MS 39466-1639

Name \_\_\_\_\_

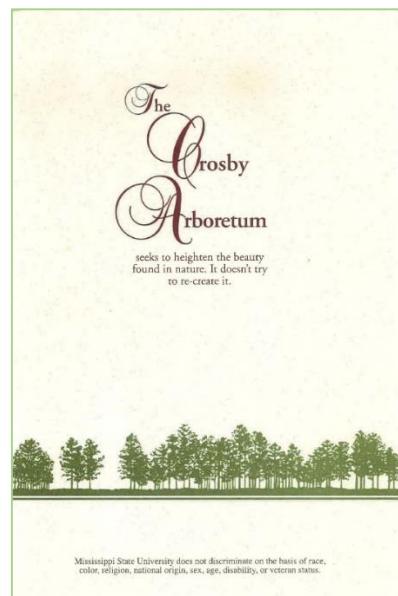
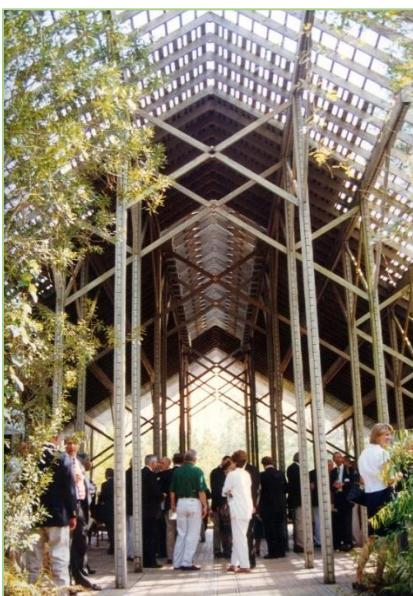
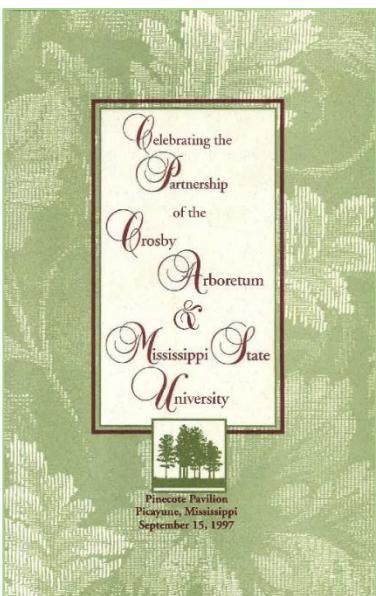
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Renewing?  Memberships are for one year.

## Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of The Crosby Arboretum's Merger with Mississippi State University on September 15, 1997

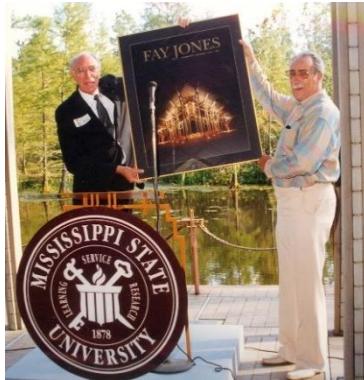


### ***From Celebrating the Partnership Program 9-15-97, "New Partnership Continues a Proud Tradition"***

From its early years – when a former Mississippi State University president and senior professors provided guidance – to the recent signing of a legal agreement of partnership, the Crosby Arboretum has come full circle in its affiliation with the University. The family of L.O. Crosby, Jr., conceived the idea for a living memorial to him at Christmas 1978, the time of his death. L.O. Crosby, Jr. (1907-78), whose father founded the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company, was a south Mississippi timber pioneer and philanthropist who loved the woods and horticultural pursuits and sought to preserve Mississippi's natural environment. Through the efforts of family and friends, planning began for what became the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, Mississippi. The founders established the Crosby Arboretum Foundation in the fall of 1980, bringing together renowned professionals from diverse disciplines: botanists, landscape architects, and foresters. The first Board of Directors was elected in spring 1981, with William L. Giles, botanist and president emeritus of Mississippi State University, serving on the Board. The late Dr. Giles' relationship with the Crosby Arboretum was not the only early tie between MSU and the Arboretum. Mississippi State University Botanist Sidney McDaniel, Forestry Professor George Switzer, and Ed Blake, landscape architect at MSU and later Arboretum Director, were chosen by the Board as consultants in 1981 and provided their expertise to the development of the project for many years. In 1983, MSU graduate Chris Wells was hired as the first employee. The Crosby Arboretum has expanded to become a premier regional native plant conservatory.

### ***From the Quarterly News Journal of The Crosby Arboretum, October-December, 1997, Vol. 15.4***

The Crosby Arboretum is now part of the Division of Agriculture of Mississippi State University. It has the direct support of such departments as Landscape Architecture, Wildlife and Fisheries, Forest Resources, and Plant Sciences. However, other divisions of the University, including the College of Arts and Sciences, will play a vital role in the long-term growth and success of the Arboretum. Administratively, the Arboretum is part of the Coastal Research and Extension Center, a complex of the Experiment Stations and Extension activities, spanning all of South Mississippi. The mission of the Coastal Research and Extension Center is to identify and conduct research and educational programs that will enhance the quality of life of residents in South Mississippi.



Dr. Donald Zacharias



MSU president emeritus Dr. Zacharias



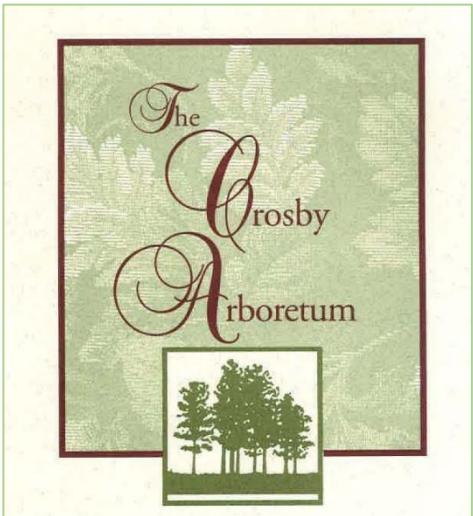
Lynn and Stewart Gammill with Lynn's mother, Dorothy Crosby (C)



Lynn (Crosby) Gammill



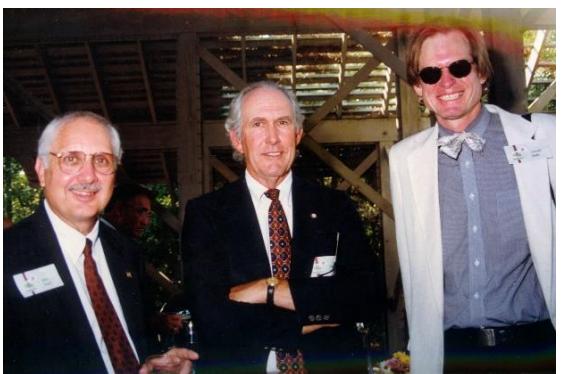
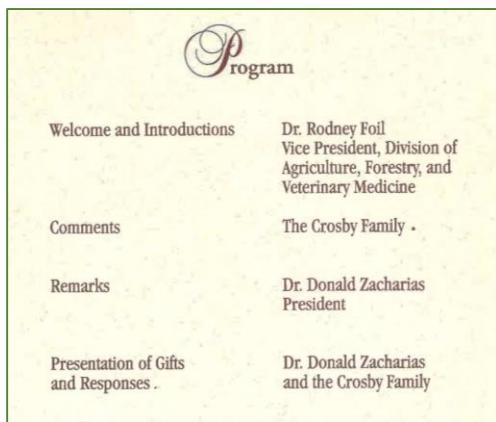
Stewart and Lynn Gammill



Dorothy Crosby and Dr. Donald Zacharias



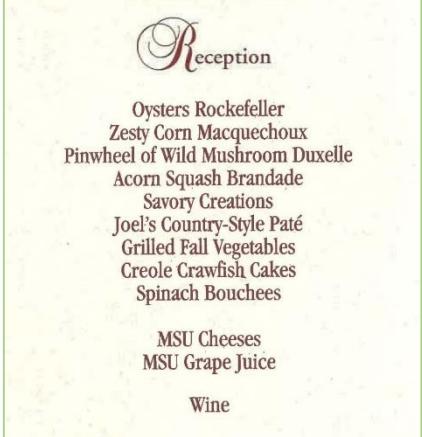
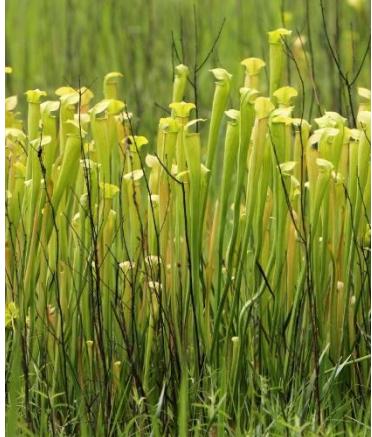
MSU representatives, Dr. Rodney Foil (C), Dr. Zacharias



Two events celebrants along with Ed Blake (R)



Robert Crosby and Bob Brzuszek



# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

September – October 2017

## MUSHROOM FIELD WALK!

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Join **Dr. Juan Mata** for a guided mushroom walk of the Arboretum. Learn about fungi's fascinating ecology, taxonomy, and relationship to mankind. A knife, gloves, and basket or bag are helpful for collecting, but are not necessary. Reservations requested. Members free; non-members \$5.

## USING ART TO CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

Saturday, September 9, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Artist, poet, writer, world traveler, and nature appreciator **Erlene Smith** will touch on the various elements of art, types of media used for artistic expression, styles and periods of art, and the inspiration for her art and writing. She will discuss the art of writing, how to journal, subjects for writing, writing memories, and the reasons people choose to write. Reservations requested. Members free; non-members \$5. Limited to 20 persons.

## Fall Gallery Exhibit Opening: Erlene Smith



Saturday, September 9, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Opening event is *free* to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Exhibit runs through November 30.

## BUGFEST!

Friday, Sept. 22, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

9:00 to Noon, pre-registered school groups

Noon to 2:00 p.m., homeschool groups

6:00 to 9:00 p.m. night collecting

Saturday, Sept. 23, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Explore the world of entomology with insect collecting, identification, and more, with Extension Entomologist **Dr. John Guyton**, along with professors and students from the MSU Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology Department! Schools will enjoy a Friday field day, and the evening will offer night-collecting activities (bring your flashlight!). Explore a Buggy Midway with entomology-based children's crafts from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to Noon on Saturday. **The New Orleans Audubon Institute's Bugmobile** presents from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Field day: Students \$2; no charge for teachers or chaperones. Friday evening and Saturday admission, \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, free for Arboretum members.



## SMART PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Photographer **Diana Thornton** will show you how to get stunning images with your phone camera. Go beyond just snapping photos and start creating stunning, artistic images. Presentation will be followed by a photo walk. Designed for iPhone 5 or newer, but other camera phones welcome. Bring fully charged phone with adequate memory, walking shoes, bug repellent, and notebook. Ages 12 and up. Members free, non-members \$7. Reservations requested. Limit, 12 persons.

## HOW TO CREATE LOW-CARE LANDSCAPES

Saturday, October 7, 10:00 to Noon

Learn to design low-care landscapes! Save money, and reduce labor and energy needs. Build healthy soils, recycle yard waste and rainwater, and increase your yard's biodiversity. Learn drought-tolerant, attractive native plant species to reduce your maintenance needs, with Pearl River County Extension Agent **Dr. Eddie Smith** and Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett**. Members free, non-members \$7. Reservations requested.

## EARTH COLORS ART WORKSHOP!



With **Robin Whitfield**

Saturday, October 14

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**EARTH COLORS** refer to pigments found in nature, and may come from soil, leaves, bark, berries, flowers, mushrooms or mineral deposits. Workshop participants will learn to identify, collect and experiment with plant and mineral materials as artistic media. Natural materials will be observed, gathered and sketched for visual ideas and elements that reflect a sense of place. Robin will demonstrate ways to extract color and texture from a variety of materials, and supplement what is gathered with other natural colors. Students will experiment with materials collected on the Arboretum grounds, and learn processes of extraction and development of a color and texture palette. Cost for members \$25, non-members \$30, cost includes a bag lunch. Please register early; space is limited to 20 persons.

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

October – November 2017

## Fall Native Plant Sale!



**Saturday/Sunday**

**October 21 & 22  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Members Sale:  
9 to 10 a.m. Saturday**

Grab your cart and choose from a great selection of native trees, shrubs, and perennials at our Fall Native Plant Sale. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers will be on hand to assist with plant questions and offer advice on plant selections for your site. **Free site admission.** Plant sale will be held in Greenhouse area; use Service Road entrance. See Page 5 for how to place online pre-orders this year for popular species.



### **Bringing Nature to Life in Your Writing PLUS Workshop With Mary Beth Magee**

**Saturday, Nov. 11, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

When writers use nature as part of the story, they add a deeper dimension of heart and meaning to the work. Yet, nature is more than listing the flora and fauna around the scene. Whether you write poetry, fiction or nonfiction, you'll find many opportunities to incorporate the beauty and drama of nature into your work.

Bring nature (and your writing) to life with a few simple techniques. Author and trainer **Mary Beth Magee** shares tips and exercises to help you find your voice in nature.

**Session includes a plus:** an hour of free writing time with feedback available. You'll perk up your writing and perhaps find a whole new topic to cover when you attend this workshop! Members free, non-member adults \$7. Reservations required.

## **YOGA ON PINECOTE PAVILION**

**Saturday, October 7, 1:00 to 2:30 p.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. Yoga mats will be provided, but you may bring your own. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Members free, \$5 non-members. Reservations requested. Space limited to 16 persons.

## **FIELD WALK: NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS**

**Saturday, November 11, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a fall field walk around the Arboretum grounds to learn about our native shrubs and trees, tips to identify them, their role in history and culture, and ways to use them in your home landscape with Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett**. Members free; \$5 for non-members. Reservations requested.

## **15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PINEY WOODS HERITAGE FESTIVAL**



**FRIDAY, Nov. 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

*Opening presentations at the Senior Center of South Pearl River County*

**SATURDAY, Nov. 18, 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

*Exhibitors, music, and demonstrations*

Celebrate the early days of the Piney Woods! Historical-themed presentations will open the event from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday (free admission!). Saturday's festivities will feature a variety of musical performances and exhibitors with demonstrations and displays of traditional skills and crafts such as blacksmithing, quilting, spinning, basket-making, and more. Saturday admission, adults \$5, children \$2. Free for Arboretum members.

**Reservations:** Please call the Arboretum office to pre-register for programs as early as possible to guarantee your space; if the program has filled, walk-ins may not be accommodated in order to avoid overcrowding. **Physical Address:** 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466; Open: Wed-Sun; 9 am to 5 pm.

[www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu](http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu)



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