

# The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Spring 2021

35.2

## SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH A MASTER GARDENER'S EYES

Little did I know what the future would bring when I picked up the pamphlet containing information to become a Master Gardener. Being recently retired, I was initially concerned about being in a classroom setting. It was a lot to comprehend, 40 hours of classroom time and then there was the test. It actually was so worth doing the work.

I know we all learned about the food chain in elementary school, but little did I realize how truly intricate the food chain is and how important it is for us as humans and nature as a whole. Basically, I was in the beginning stages of learning about the ecosystem. We hear that term "ecosystem" frequently these days, but do people really understand what that entails?

Each level of insects has its place of importance for supplying food for the next level. Not all insects are bad. There are bad ones, but there are also good ones to take care of the bad ones. I soon learned insecticides break this chain, so we are not only losing the bad insects but the beneficial ones. If you think about it, what are the birds, lizards and frogs going to eat if we take away their protein? If chemicals kill off the caterpillars, what will the birds feed their nestlings? Caterpillars are all they can eat.

Insecticides can also upset our pollinators' world. In the past if I saw something eating my plants, my first thought was to spray with chemicals. The chances are good the pollen will be contaminated and therefore the bees will die. How will our flowers and vegetables get pollinated if the bees aren't there?

This was my first level of understanding of our ecosystem and how to help keep it balanced. Don't use chemicals, rid the bad insects by removing them by hand or simply wash them off. In extreme cases, I've learned to remove the plant, burn and get another plant; problem solved!



*Hungry monarch caterpillars feast on Phyllis's swamp milkweed.*



*Phyllis surveys the many monarch caterpillars eating her Swamp Milkweed plants (*Asclepias incarnata*) she raised from seed.*

My next level of understanding on how to help the ecosystem was to plant native trees and plants. Why native plants? I learned that 90 percent of insects are "specialist," meaning they only eat plants with which they have shared an evolutionary history. I never realized that different plant leaves have different leaf chemistry. Native plants provide the necessary foods for our local insects. Most non-native plants do not.

I have been blessed to have a couple of acres to create a micro-ecosystem but even a small yard can contribute. Where possible, I have created gardens to provide food sources for the pollinators and have turned some lawn areas under trees into leaf floors. I'm fortunate to have many types of trees which support caterpillars and other habitat, but carefully selected trees can be effective in small yards. I have enjoyed many hours of entertainment watching my bird population grow. It's a good way to lower your blood pressure. I've since had a family of rabbits move in, and I never get tired of seeing a variety of frogs and lizards.

Becoming a Master Gardener has gotten me in touch with nature. When I look around outside, I don't just see a tree or bush but also the resources and rhythms of nature.



*Phyllis Goodwin is a Pearl River County Master Gardener and a Green Team volunteer member at The Crosby Arboretum. She is currently fulfilling her presentation requirements for the LSU Advanced Master Gardener training.*



## 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:

There is an excitement in the air this spring, as evidenced by the many visitors who have been enjoying the fresh air and sunshine. Green Team volunteers are hard at work growing milkweed and other perennials for the May 1 Perennials for Pollinators native plant sale. Our plant propagation program is “growing”, and has allowed us to increase our plant sale profits. After the May 1 sale, we will again have an ongoing plant sale area on the Visitor Center deck until the late fall.

Despite this pandemic, we ended 2020 with 390 members, only a 14% reduction from 2019. Although we conducted fewer programs and events, last year offered the opportunity to complete projects such as Mirror Perch Bridge and the Rosen Pavilion in the Gum Pond Exhibit. This year volunteers contributed an astounding 2,207 hours, a value of \$48,648.

Landscape Architecture Prof. Bob Brzuszek's Ecological Planting Design students have been working with Rosen Pavilion designer Robert Poore of Native Habitats, Inc. to study the Gum Pond Exhibit. They are developing detailed planting plans that have demonstrated their grasp of the exhibit's environmental conditions and the appropriate plant material to be located there. Come check out the Gum Pond Exhibit and the rest of the site, which abounds with beautiful spring blooms and emerging plants of this glorious season.

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



*Weekend visitors have been enjoying stopping by to chat with Julie Johnson, who has been a greeter in our Welcome Booth.*

### Arboretum Programs/Events Update



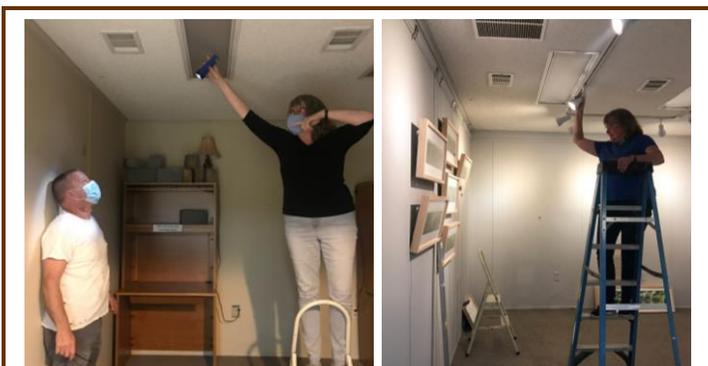
Spring is here and we are going to be pedal to the metal at The Crosby Arboretum. We have something happening every weekend!! One of the many perks of membership is free admission to the many MSU Extension led programs that we host. If you haven't

signed up for one or all of our programs, check out <http://crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/event-calendar> for our event calendar or see our Facebook event page for a complete list of upcoming programs and events.

Our motto at Extension is “Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives”, and we do our very best to do that both onsite and online. Getting the word out about our programs and events as well as the daily splendor that IS The Crosby Arboretum is a top priority in my role as Event and Marketing Coordinator. We do our best to keep a steady stream of information on our social media and websites to keep you updated, including MSU Extension Service helpful tips and learning tools.

Fantastic events are coming your way throughout the rest of the spring, and we are doing our part to keep your weekends packed. To name a few, we have the return of Yoga on the Pavilion, a pollinator plant sale, a printmaking workshop, our 5K Through the Forest in May, and so much more! If you haven't been out in a while, this is your formal invitation to come see what you've been missing. Please don't hesitate to reach out with program ideas you would like to see.

*- Nickie Smith, Event & Marketing Coordinator  
The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



The Crosby Arboretum gallery space underwent a renovation recently, including new paint, a professional gallery hanging rail system, and track lighting. The project was funded through a kind donation from Crosby Arboretum Foundation board member **Ruth Cook**. The gallery layout was designed by visual artist and photographer **Carolyn Norton**, our featured spring exhibitor. With the painting and construction talents of **Terry Johnson** and Arboretum volunteer **Tom Heim**, this impressive facelift was brought to its final splendor. Come visit and see for yourself!



## 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

## Thank you, 2020 Annual Appeal Contributors!

The Crosby Arboretum would like to express our sincere gratitude and acknowledge the persons who contributed to our 2020 year-end Annual Appeal. A total of \$9,380 was raised for the purchase of a 2021 Club Car Villager six-seater golf cart that will be used for special events and site tours.



We are very thankful for your enthusiastic response this year. Thanks to your support, we will now be able to offer visitors additional opportunities for learning about the value of coastal ecosystems and ways to explore this unique public garden.

**Capt. Cornelius and Loretta Acheson**  
Jo-Ann Adams  
Melissa Audler  
Phelan and Fay Bright  
Bruce Campbell and Ann Steinmetz  
Ruth Cook  
Jo Ann Fleming  
Katherine Furr  
Lynn Gammill  
Doug and Phyllis Goodwin

**Mason and Janet Gordon**  
John and Laurie Gwaltney  
Lamar and Jennifer Heffner  
Virginia Hoff  
Robert and Martha Johnson  
Jack and Sue McGuire  
Dennis and Mary Martin  
The Michael Miller Family  
Robert and Cynthia Murchison  
Julia O'Neal  
Rick and Connie Sable

**Chris and Judy Schneidau/Schwartzner**  
Earl Spiece  
Sharon Swope  
William Thames  
Sandy Love Thompson  
Melinda Tucker  
Gene Yeager  
Anita Warner  
Dr. Bill and Yvonne Wolverton  
William and Natalie Locke

## DEDICATION EVENT ON JANUARY 23, 2021 FOR MIRROR PERCH BRIDGE AND ROSEN PAVILION AT THE GUM POND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

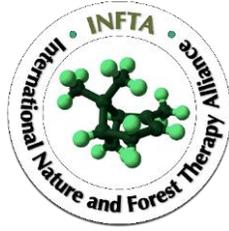


*Photo left: Arboretum volunteer Frank Jackson; Prof. Hans Herrmann and Daniel LeClerq, MSU Architecture; Crosby Arboretum Grounds Superintendent Terry Johnson. Photo right: Robert Poore, Native Habitats, Inc.; Anne Rosen and brother Robert.*

The Arboretum's Mirror Perch Bridge and the adjacent Rosen Pavilion were formally unveiled during a late January ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. In the January 29, 2021 article by Susan Collins-Smith, MSU Extension Service, landscape architecture Extension professor Bob Brzuszek (who has been involved with both the Arboretum's master plan process and various landscape architecture projects since the 1980s) said the completion of these projects are one more step in the garden's mission to bring people closer to nature and help them understand how they are linked to the natural world. Shortly after its completion, Mirror Perch Bridge won two architectural awards from the Mississippi chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the prestigious Sambo Mockbee Spirit of Place Award, which is given to one project in the state each year for design of materials, and the Design Honor Award -- one of four given in 2020 -- from the chapter's design jury.

# Arboretum Volunteer News

## ARBORETUM VOLUNTEER RECEIVES INFTA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP



Arboretum volunteer and instructor **Nadine Phillips** is the proud recipient of an **INFTA-Certified Forest Therapy Guide Training Scholarship**. Nadine has completed the introductory coursework and is in the midst of a 6-month practicum.

Forest Therapy is becoming known worldwide as a Public health practice that is research-based, affordable and effective for everyone. In association with Crosby Arboretum, Nadine will lead public walks designed to help participants relax more deeply in nature while improving both their physical and mental well-being. INFTA stands for the International Nature and Forest Therapy Alliance which is the world's peak body in the area of Forest Therapy forming a network of research institutions, governments, departments, health and wellbeing stakeholders and practitioners. INFTA's mission is to raise awareness about and promote the benefits of Forest Therapy internationally. For more information, please see the INFTA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/INFTA.org> or their official website at <https://infata.net>.

### 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)	\$	20.00
_____	Individual		35.00
_____	Individual/Senior		30.00
_____	Family		45.00
_____	Donor		100.00
_____	Patron		250.00
_____	Benefactor		1,000.00



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

#### BUSINESS / CLUB MEMBERSHIPS:

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

## WALK THE CROSBY PHENOLOGY TRAIL!

**Sandi Wicklund** (L), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service volunteer, and **Terry Downs** (R) display the newly designed map and guide for the Crosby Arboretum Phenology Journey. Terry has chosen to study phenology and will lead a program on Saturday, May 8 interpreting Crosby's Phenology Journey to fulfil the presentation requirements for her LSU Advanced Master Gardener training. Representatives of the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** created this special trail to allow for observations of individual plants along the pathway. To take the Journey, pick up the map that is available at the Visitor Center. Stop at each of the identified plants and make your observations on the phenology phase (leaf out, flowering or fruiting). In addition to seeing nature in a more detailed lens, you will be contributing to a national database called **Nature's Notebook**. Your observations will be used to understand how plants are adapting to a changing climate locally and nationally.



The News Journal is a quarterly publication of The Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University Extension Service. A subscription is included with an Arboretum membership. Journal may be received electronically. **Contact:** Patricia Drackett, Editor,

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

April - May 2021

## SPRING GALLERY EXHIBIT:



### **“Wild Grace: Wind, Water and Grasses”**

*On display through Sunday, June 6, 2021*

Come celebrate our newly renovated art gallery space that features a stunning photography exhibit of images taken in London and Canterbury, England by Carolyn McIntyre Norton. Carolyn has captured the wind sculpting almost 50 species of grasses, rushes, and sedges in Richmond Park and grasses merging above and below the crystal-clear surface of a chalk river on the River Stour. The show will be on display through Sunday, June 6, and is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

## PERENNIALS FOR POLLINATORS

### \*\*\*FLASH PLANT SALE\*\*\*

**Saturday, May 1, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

*(Members enter at 9:00 a.m.)*

Choose from a variety of native perennial plants that will attract birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators to your garden, grown by the Arboretum’s Green Team! Plant experts including Pearl River County Master Gardeners will help you choose the plants best suited to your property. Free admission. Sale at greenhouse; please use Service Entrance.

## Printmaking Workshop: Cyanotypes

*Saturday, May 1, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

Celebrate the renovation of Crosby’s art gallery with a cyanotype printmaking workshop and the opening of the art exhibit “Wild Grace: Wind, Water, and Grasses” by Carolyn Norton, fine art printmaker, photographer, and book artist who has taught visual arts at the university level for 14 years and the instructor for this workshop. You can see more of her work at [carolynnortonart.com](http://carolynnortonart.com) or [@carolynnortonart](mailto:@carolynnortonart). A cyanotype or sun print is a camera-less way of making images. We will forage for natural materials in the arboretum, arrange them on photo-sensitive fabric, expose them to the sun, and develop them in water to create blue images of your foraged plants. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Registration is required.



The cyanotype fern image “*Lastrea dilatato, British*” (left) was made in 1853 by botanist Anna Atkins, who was experimenting with the cyanotype process invented by her neighbor Sir John Hershell in 1842 to document natural plant forms. Attend Carolyn Norton’s May 1 printmaking workshop and consider making yours from a scientific perspective like Anna Atkins or from an artistic one—arranging your grasses and flowers into fantastic compositions!

## Creating Microclimates

### To Enhance your Garden Environment

*Saturday, May 8, 9:15 to 10:00 a.m.*

What is a microclimate? Simply put, it is a unique area in the landscape with a climate that differs from the surrounding environment. Microclimates can be naturally occurring or man-made. Mary Donahue, Pearl River County Master Gardener, who is fulfilling the presentation requirements for her LSU Advanced Master Gardener Training. Learn how to manipulate your garden environment, allowing you to include plants in your landscape that you may never thought were possible! Reservations required. Program is free to all.

## Phenology and Crosby’s Phenology Trail

*Saturday, May 8, 10:00 to Noon*

What is phenology? Simply put, it is “nature’s calendar”, or the study of recurring biological events. Learn about this popular subject with Terry Downs, Pearl River County Master Gardener, who is fulfilling her LSU Advanced Master Gardener Training requirements. Throughout history, humans have historically tracked dates of plant behavior: the first day of cherry blossoms in Japan, peach blooms in China, harvest dates of French grapes, but phenology is so much more! After the program, walk Crosby’s phenology trail with Terry and Gail Bishop from the USA National Phenology Network. Reservations required. Program is free to all!

## YOGA ON PINECOTE PAVILION

*Saturday, May 15, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.*

Bring your yoga mat and a friend and get fit while enjoying the natural beauty surrounding Pinecote Pavilion with yoga instructor Jim Sones. Please arrive 10 minutes early. Members \$3, non-members \$6. Reservations requested.

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

May 2021

## GUIDED FOREST THERAPY WALK



**Sunday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

We are pleased to announce the first of several guided Forest Therapy sessions that will be led by **Nadine Phillips**, INFTA-Certified Forest Therapy Guide in training. Throughout the session, you will be walking slowly and in quietness, and spend some time sitting. The activities offered will enable you to relax and calm your busy mind so you can best receive the medicine of the forest. What is Forest Therapy? Deeply rooted in the Japanese concept of *Shinrin-yoku*, or “forest bathing”, Forest Therapy is an evidence-based Public health practice considered to be a natural remedy to reduce stress and a pathway to a happier, healthier and more rewarding life. Forest Therapy provides gentle and de-stressing natural practices which result in many positive benefits to mind and body. Guided Forest Therapy walks combine a specific blend of complementary physical and mental exercises in suitable forest surroundings. This inviting way of immersing our senses in the atmosphere of the forest is backed by significant medical and scientific research, and the plethora of health benefits are wide-reaching. Reservations required. In the event of inclement weather, you'll be notified by 8:30 a.m. the day of the program if cancelled. Members \$10. Non-members \$15.

## 5K “Through the Forest” Trail Run/ Walk



**Saturday, May 22, 8:00 a.m. to Noon**

Join us for a 5K run (or walk) and enjoy the bounty of spring blooms while getting fit and breathing in the fresh air! Follow the ticket link on our Facebook event page to pay online, mail a check, register in the Visitor Center, or pay on the day of the event. Entry fee is \$35 per athlete. Check-in opens at 8:00 a.m. and the 5K begins at 9:00 a.m. For questions: [nickie.smith@msstate.edu](mailto:nickie.smith@msstate.edu) or call the office.



*The mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia) blooming along the Arboretum's Arrival Journey bridge has been stunning this year!*

## YOGA ON PINECOTE PAVILION

**Saturday, May 29, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

Bring your yoga mat and a friend and get fit while enjoying the natural beauty surrounding Pinecote Pavilion with yoga instructor **Steven Furr**. Please arrive 10 minutes early. Members \$3, non-members \$6. Reservations requested.

## SMART LANDSCAPES: BOTANY FIELD WALK

**Saturday, May 29, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a late spring field walk around the Arboretum grounds to learn about the native plant species in the exhibits, tips for identification and how you can use them in your home landscape, with Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett**. Members free; \$5 for non-members. Reservations required.

## SMART LANDSCAPES SECRETS: Creating Low-maintenance Gardens with Purpose

**Saturday, May 29, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

Why do you have a garden, and how much time do you spend maintaining it? What does your landscape “do” for you and your neighborhood? Learn tips to design low-care landscapes that will save you time and money, and work with ecological processes to contribute to the local biodiversity. Spend more time appreciating your garden, and not laboring in it, with Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett**. Members free; \$5 for non-members. Reservations required.



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

Please note that per MSU Covid-19 protocol, face coverings and social distancing is required in all indoor and outdoor Extension programs. **RESERVATIONS:** Call (601) 799-2311. **PHYSICAL ADDRESS:** 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466. **HOURS:** Wed-Sun, 9 AM to 4:30 PM.

*Programs of Mississippi State University Extension Service are open to all people, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, group affiliation or any other status protected by applicable law. Mississippi State is an equal opportunity institution. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Compliance and Integrity, 56 Morgan Ave. PO Box 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (662) 325-5839*