

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Fall 2013

27.4

A regional treasure: The Gloster Arboretum

By Patricia Drackett, Director, The Crosby Arboretum

When I heard about the existence of another Mississippi arboretum, the Gloster Arboretum, my interest was sufficiently piqued. After making inquiries of persons acquainted with the area's garden history, I learned that the site is located in Gloster, MS and is legendary for the Gresham hybrid magnolias planted there. D. Todd Gresham bred magnolias in California in the 1950s and 1960s, developing many cultivars having the largest blooms of all the deciduous flowering magnolias – up to a foot in diameter.

However, the Arboretum's website states that their collections also include native species – beech, magnolia, *Stewartia*, mountain laurel, *Rhododendron*, azalea, holly, and *Viburnum*. It was obvious that a trip needed to be charted for Gloster. A brief site visit has only whetted my appetite for spending more time there.

Frank and Sara Gladney of Baton Rouge were passionate and knowledgeable horticulturists and lovers of native flora. In 1956 they bought a house and 350 acres, and founded the Arboretum in 1965. Two LSU professors, landscape architect Dr. Robert Reich and botanist Dr. Clair Brown, were instrumental in assessing the area's plant species and advising the Gladneys in managing and developing their property. Over a 35 year period they worked most weekends at the property adding to the site's native plants, and sharing the land generously with students, professionals, family, and friends.

On my June tour with site director Von Odenwald, I learned that much renovation has taken place over the past few years, including removing invasive species, planting new trees, and creating a memorial garden. Amazing discoveries have been made along the way, such as uncovering an impressively large blueberry orchard. Our drive through the property revealed a variety of landscapes, including ponds with cypress, wildflower meadows, and wildlife gardens. Pines are being thinned in some areas to create savanna habitats.

My tour began with a tour of the spacious house. Being locked in the library overnight to read through the hundreds of volumes here on gardens and plants would be a heavenly pastime. The Frank and Sara Gladney Memorial Garden is located near the house. Planted in spring of last year, it is laden with many familiar and robustly growing native species. Several varieties of old-fashioned roses ramble up the beautiful new arbor at the entrance to the garden.



Site Director Von Odenwald adjusts a climbing rose in the new Frank and Sara Gladney Memorial Garden. (image by P.Drackett)

Today this site is a nature preserve managed by the John James Audubon Foundation to “preserve and protect the unique indigenous plant associations found there and to preserve and enhance non-indigenous plants introduced by the Gladneys and others”. The current president of the Foundation is Dr. Neil Odenwald, Professor Emeritus and a former Director of the LSU School of Landscape Architecture. The overall mission of the Gloster Arboretum is preservation, conservation, and education.

Visitors to the property may hike the trails, fish the pond outside the main fence, and camp overnight (see website for fees). Site admission is free. The property may be explored with a high-clearance vehicle, mountain bikes are allowed, and leashed dogs are welcome. See the website at www.glosterarboretum.org for specific information on planning your visit. The Gloster Arboretum is located at 1345 Arboretum Lane in Gloster, MS, in the southwest corner of the state, about an hour's drive from Baton Rouge. Yearly and lifetime memberships are available, and include eligibility for overnight accommodations in the three-bedroom house/headquarters. Fishing interior ponds, and blueberry picking is available to members. For more information: Email glosterarboretum@bellsouth.net or call 601-225-4132.



The Gloster Arboretum features many species of deciduous magnolia. (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:

Planning is underway for the construction of two small bridges in the Arboretum's Gum Pond Educational Exhibit at the pond's overflow. Students in a Fall 2013 course led by Mississippi State University landscape architecture professor Bob Brzuszek and architecture professor Hans Herrmann will be constructing the bridges, which were proposed in the Spring 2013 ARC 4990 class also co-taught by Brzuszek and Herrmann. These structures will become prototypes for the numerous bridges that will be installed in the Swamp Forest Exhibit spanning the 900 foot stream channel.

Summer Nature Camp this year was a great success. Students dissected owl pellets with Mississippi Museum of Natural Science educational outreach biologist Crystie Baker, learned the definition of a herbarium from summer intern Conner Ryan from Auburn University, and explored edible plants from MSU Extension horticulture professor Dr. Christine Coker. The camp was led by Linda Bouffard, a fifth grade science teacher Hancock North Central Elementary School through the Hancock County School District's *Internships for Educators* program. Assisting Ms. Bouffard were long-time Nature Camp volunteers Deanna and Breanna Lyle, MSU students of horticulture and entomology, respectively, and Arboretum volunteers/Master Gardeners Cindy Murchison, Matt Olive, and Amy Nichols.

Amy has been invaluable in coordinating Arboretum volunteers to make improvements to the Children's Garden area. The Garden is thriving, and our plant propagation has been steadily increasing. Finally, we are pleased to announce you will have a few more opportunities to rest on your next visit, thanks to volunteer Tom Heim, who played a major role in the construction of four new benches funded by Crosby Arboretum members through a past Annual Appeal. Thank you, all!

- Patricia Drackett, Director

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service



Auburn University Horticulture student Conner Ryan volunteered Wednesday through Friday this summer. He has done a ton of work with the archives, assisting with Summer Nature Camp, and numerous other activities. (Image by R. Stafne)



Teacher Linda Bouffard guides Summer Nature Campers through the Arboretum. June 11, 2013. (Image by R. Stafne)

Senior Curator's Corner:

I would like to begin this issue by thanking everyone who took a few minutes to complete my first Arboretum survey. The online Visitation Survey for the Arboretum closed in June. I presented the data in poster format at the American Society for Horticultural Science annual conference in July. My goal is to repeat the study in several years to see if we have improved how we serve the community and residents of Mississippi and Louisiana. Winner of the 2014 Family Membership is LaJuan Pigott. CONGRATS!

The once monthly Friday lunchtime programs have continued to show success with ~15 folks attending. I plan to continue them once a month, coordinating with our monthly Friday volunteer meetings whenever possible.

Volunteer Amy LeMien is still leading the charge in the greenhouse/nursery & Children's Garden area. She has loyal volunteers who show up every week to assist her out back. For updates on the Volunteer Program, please visit <http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/pages/volunteering.php>. The Arboretum currently has 57 "active" volunteers who have reported service hours in the last year. Those who do not report hours after one year are moved to "inactive" status. The new Volunteer Manual will be online soon. It is a comprehensive manual on par with the best public gardens in the U.S.

I continue to post frequent updates with images and information about what is going on at the Arboretum on our Wordpress Blog. Visit our website for the link or Google "Crosby Arboretum Wordpress". HAPPY FALL!

- Richelle Stafne, Senior Curator

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

September – November 2013

September 2013

FALL WILDFLOWER FIELD WALK

Friday, September 6 (Adults)
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

While fall marks the end of the growing season, it is full of beautiful blooming native plants. Let's see what is flowering in the savannas. Join **Dr. Sue Wilder**, Regional Ecologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, on an Arboretum walk where she will discuss the native wildflowers that are flowering this time of year and talk about the ecology of habitats and the adaptations plants and animals have made to live in their environments. Members free. Non-members \$5. Register by September 5.

HOME LANDSCAPE DESIGN & RENOVATION

Saturday, September 14 (Adults)
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Prepare for our upcoming Fall Plant sale with this program on landscape design basics. Learn the steps for analyzing your property, and creating low-maintenance and attractive landscapes with Crosby Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett**. Pat will also discuss some outstanding native plants for use in your garden. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by September 13.

FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE



Fri/Sat Sept. 20 & 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Members Admitted at 9 a.m. Fri/Sat

Grab a cart and choose from a wide variety of native trees and shrubs for your home landscape. Come early for the best selection of many hard-to-find plants. We'll help you select the right plant for the right place on your property.

Free admission. Arboretum greenhouse. (use Service Entrance)

BUGFEST (Family Event!)

Friday, Sept. 27, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 28, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A two-day extravaganza of buggy events! Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: insect collecting by school and homeschool groups (groups over 20 must pre-register). Students \$2, adults free until 6 p.m. Insect I.D. and mounting station will be open both days on the Pinecote Pavilion. Friday 6 to 8 p.m., children will enjoy crafts and games on the Buggy Midway. Night collecting activities until 10 p.m., **Bring a flashlight or headlamp!** Saturday, Midway is open 10:00 a.m. to noon. Live insect demonstrations/exhibits continue until 4 p.m., including a presentation by the Audubon Institute's Bugmobile. See our website for a detailed schedule; download an insect collecting manual from our program calendar page. Friday after 6 p.m., and on Saturday, cost is \$5 for adults; \$2 for children.

October 2013

EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH GARDEN ART

Friday, October 4 (Adults)
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

The garden is the perfect setting for having a little fun with garden art. It's pretty safe to assume that everyone has seen a bed frame planted with flowering annuals, also called a flower bed. Join **Dr. Gary Bachman**, MSU associate horticulture professor and Host of Southern Gardening as he explores ways to express yourself in the garden using "art". Bring a sandwich and make a date with a friend for Friday lunch at the Arboretum. Members free; non-members \$5. Please register by October 3.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 5 (Teachers)
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Project Learning Tree workshop - one of the oldest and most successful environmental education programs in the world. PLT activities are unbiased, interdisciplinary, fun, hands-on lesson plans, based on sound science. The goal is to "teach students HOW to think, not WHAT to think about environmental issues." For more information, see www.plt.org. Includes the 96-lesson-plan, 400-page "**PLT Pre-K-8 Activity Guide**." High School teachers will also receive two of PLT's five Secondary Education Modules. PLT has a New early childhood education book that comes with a music CD. Early childhood teachers will receive that material. **TEACHERS JUST NEED TO BRING A BROWN-BAG LUNCH. THIS IS A FREE WORKSHOP** for all counties in Mississippi, courtesy of a DEQ grant. 0.6 CEU credits available - cost is \$10.

YOGA AT PINECOTE PAVILION

Saturday, October 12 (Adults)
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 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. Class size is limited to 16. Yoga mats will be provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Free for members; non-members \$5. Register by October 11.

PAINTED PUMPKINS (Kids)

Saturday, October 19
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Design a painted pumpkin to add to your fall décor! Families will use natural materials and a variety of props to personalize their pumpkin in this program with Director **Pat Drackett** and other assistants. One pumpkin will be provided per person; however, you are welcome to bring more pumpkins for decorating. Children must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian. Members' children, \$4, non-members' children, \$6. Register by Thursday October 17.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

September – November 2013

November 2013

NATIVE BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

Friday, November 1 (Adults)

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

Join **Dr. Blair Sampson**, USDA/ARS Research Entomologist at the USDA/ARS Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory in Poplarville for an informative discussion of the valuable role that native bees play in the pollination of flowering plants, our world's food supply, and the to the ecological health of our planet. Learn how you can encourage bees and other native pollinators to visit your home garden.. Bring a sandwich and make a date with a friend for Friday lunch at the Arboretum. Members free; non-members \$5. Please register by October 31.

TREE CARE IN THE HOME LANDSCAPE

Saturday, November 2 (Adults)

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

Dr. Jason Gordon, MSU Extension Community Forestry Specialist and Certified Arborist, will discuss planning and caring for trees around the home. Topics include the homeowner's purpose for planting the tree, soil conditions, tree location, species growth and form, and undesirable species traits. Dr. Gordon will also discuss tree pruning and maintenance, which is an unavoidable task that homeowners should include in their evaluation of a tree. Members free; non-members \$5. Register by November 1.

GIRL SCOUT ENVIRONMENTAL BADGES DAY

Saturday, November 9 (Girl Scouts)

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

The Crosby Arboretum will offer 2-hour programs for Girl Scouts 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. Pinecote Pavilion will be CLOSED due to a wedding. Program fees for Scouts and siblings is \$10 per participant. Scout leaders and parent chaperones are free. Maximum number per group is 20 participants. All materials provided. Contact Girl Scouts of Greater MS to register at [228-864-7215](tel:228-864-7215) or register online at gsgms.org.

PINEY WOODS HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Friday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Schools)

Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Family)

Celebrate the early days of the Piney Woods in this 11th annual festival with exhibits and demonstrations of traditional skills such as blacksmithing, quilting, spinning, basket-making, and more. Friday open to preregistered school groups, \$2 per child; free to teachers/chaperones, and bus drivers. Saturday live music performances in the Pinecote Pavilion. Call 601-799-2311 to register school groups. Saturday admission adults \$5, children \$2.



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.

2013 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!



VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Arboretum volunteer **FRIDAY** meetings for fall: September 6, October 4, and November 1. Meet in the mobile by the greenhouse at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted on the website. If you are not on the Vol. listserv, call ahead to verify date/time. If you would like to volunteer, contact Richelle Stafne, at (601) 799-2311 Ext. 101 or via email at rstafne@ext.msstate.edu. Can't make the meetings? Just contact us and we will work with your schedule.



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

Picayune, Mississippi, USA

THE CROSBY ARBORETUM LIBRARY

Did you know The Crosby Arboretum has a library? Did you know that Arboretum Members may check out books? It's one of the perks of Membership. Arboretum Volunteer Tammy Mokray (pictured below) worked hard the last few months cataloging new books for our library, which included many donations). Browse our library which includes books on plants, insects, design, birds, etc.



Balduina uniflora, oneflower honeycombhead, August 2012 at the Arboretum. (image by R. Stafne)

PLANT PROFILE:

Oneflower honeycombhead

This quarter we profile oneflower honeycombhead (*Balduina uniflora*). This member of the Asteraceae family provides brilliant yellow-orange fall color from June through November. The genus name *Balduina* is given for the 1700's American botanist William Baldwin. We find a clue to the taxonomic character with the species name which essentially means "single flower." There are three species of *Balduina*: *B. atropurea* and *B. uniflora* (both perennial), and *B. angustifolia* (annual). The tiny butterfly, arogos skipper (*Atrytone arogos arogos*), can often be viewed on the flowers of *B. uniflora*. Oneflower honeycombhead can be found in savannahs, pinelands and bogs. Its habitat ranges from Louisiana to North Carolina. Consider this tough Mississippi native in your perennial bed, meadowscape or cutflower garden.

Did you know you can sign-up on our blog to receive email alerts when a new blog is posted?

PLANTS AT THE ARBORETUM WITH FALL INTEREST

- Gerardia** (*Agalinis tenuifolia*)
- Rayless goldenrod** (*Bigelovia nudata*)
- Partridge pea** (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
- Swamp lily** (*Crinum americanum*)
- Ladies' hatpins** (*Eriocaulon decangulare*)
- Eryngo** (*Eryngium integrifolium*)
- Common boneset** (*Eupatorium serotinum*)
- Blazing star** (*Liatris aspera*)
- Spiked lobelia** (*Lobelia spicata*)
- Climbing hempweed** (*Mikania scandens*)
- Pickeralweed** (*Pontederia cordata*)

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.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS FOR FALL

Volunteers are needed to assist with Fall Native Plant Sale, Bugfest, Piney Woods Heritage Festival, ticket booth greeters, trail raking, and setting up the new mobiles.



Pinecote Pavilion, fall 2012. (image by R. Stafne)

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. **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 Jim Johnston and Martha Frost (computers), and Fred & Tammy Mokray (shop vac) for recent donations. Thank you to everyone who has been volunteering to answer phones and greet customers during our time of need. Thank you for donated nursery pots, flats and containers.*



RECENT EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

In early summer two young men completed Eagle Scout projects at The Crosby Arboretum. **Dominic McConnell** from Troop No. 351 in Picayune worked with his own crew cutting a new trail in the Gum Pond south exhibit measured about 300' in length (images below left, by R. Stafne). **Michael Kinnick**, Troop No. 5 in Picayune, took his crew out to the Piney Woods Pond and removed up ~16 cubic yards of invasive alligatorweed. Their two day efforts made a huge difference. Both of these Eagle Scout candidates coordinated their projects with Arboretum Maintenance Supervisor Terry Johnson. The Arboretum greatly appreciates their time, a minimum of 100 hours per project We look forward to having the Boy Scouts assist us in the future. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts: have a project in mind? Contact us!



Thank you to 157 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 ≥30% postconsumer waste recycled fiber. Journal may be received electronically if desired.

Please address correspondence to: **Richelle Stafne**, Editor
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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 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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