

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Spring 2018

32.2

OBSERVING NATURE'S CALENDAR: A PRACTICE CALLED PHENOLOGY

All of you at one time or another, whether you realized it or not, have practiced phenology, the observation of the life cycles of the plants and animals within our natural world. If you took a “leaf peeping” tour along one of your favorite trails or roadways in early fall or went bird watching along the shore or through a forest during migration season you were informally observing phenology. If you were just sitting on your patio enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and listening to the first bird or frog calls of spring and breathing in the sweet perfumes of the first plants to flower you were informally observing phenology.

What if you wanted to take your observations more scientifically and begin recording them? In the past, many naturalists kept journals of their observations. Much of what we currently know about many species of plants and animals can be credited to these early naturalists and the data they collected. This information would not have been useful had it not been shared. Today, you can make and share your observations through a variety of citizen science programs such as eBird, Adopt-A-Stream, International Beach Cleanup, and Frogwatch. These are just a few examples of programs that citizens use to collect data used to assist scientists with their research, and eventually lawmakers in making wise decisions. The program we are implementing at the Arboretum is called *Nature's Notebook*, https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook. “*Nature's Notebook* is a national online program where amateur and professional naturalists regularly record observations of plants and animals to generate long-term data sets.” Data collected from thousands of volunteers from around the nation are gathered and analyzed through this project.



Thank you to all of the volunteers and community members who participated in the Nature's Notebook citizen science volunteer training held in February at the Crosby Arboretum!



Samantha Fabacher observes the spring blooms of a reference plant, Elliott's blueberry, along the Arboretum's phenology trail.

Our volunteers are being trained and mentored to collect and report data such as absence or presence and abundance of buds, leaves and flowers on a variety of plants as well as reproductive traits of animals found within the Arboretum. Volunteers will collect data weekly on several reference plants and animals selected for study. At first, the only plants we will be observing are red maple, red bay, bayberry, wild azalea, longleaf pine, and Elliot's blueberry. Soon we will be incorporating some important pollinator species such as milkweed, blazing star, and pitcher plants. Animals to be monitored include monarch and gulf fritillary butterflies, northern mockingbird and American robin. As we recruit more volunteers for this project, more plant and animal species will be added to our program.

Our citizen science trail is called the Crosby Arboretum Phenology Journey, part of the Gulf Coast Phenology Trail (GCPT), <https://www.facebook.com/GCPTtrail/>, coordinated in part through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the USA National Phenology Network. The GCPT was established to provide data from the Northern Gulf Coast Region between Pensacola, Florida and south-central Louisiana. In Mississippi, there are also trails at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Mississippi Sandhill Crane Refuge, the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Estuarine Education Center. Volunteer to help at a site today!

- Jennifer Buchanan



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:

It's spring! Yellow pitcher plant blooms are unfurling, pink honeysuckle azaleas are drawing swallowtail butterflies, and sweet-scented buckwheat tree blooms are delighting us on the Pond Journey. Membership renewals are still coming in, and new visitors continue to join, as they are inspired to make the Arboretum a part of their lives. Remember that your membership includes library privileges, so stop in and visit our book collection. Your membership also includes the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions program, which now allows you to visit 320 other public gardens for free or reduced admission. Have you heard about the Smart Landscapes website? (<http://extension.msstate.edu/smartlandscapes>) This is a new MSU Extension plan of work program designed to help you create attractive and ecologically sound gardens that will support wildlife, use water wisely, lower energy costs, and benefit both your home and neighborhood. Would you happen to have photographs of your home garden that demonstrate sustainable landscape methods, or showcase flourishing native plant species? We're in need of photos to use in future calendars or in Smart Landscapes presentations. Please contact me if you would like to share! Thanks to Pearl River County Master Gardeners Lenore Ladner and Bertha Page, there have been many improvements to our welcome booth. They have cleaned and painted the booth and added lovely new curtains, and the flower arrangements by Lenore have really perked up our "welcome"! The Gum Pond bridge construction project will take place this spring. Prof. Hans Herrmann's directed independent study course "Bridging the Crosby" will help with planning, and Prof. Tim Schauwecker's construction cost estimating students will develop materials costs. The project is funded through past annual appeals. Finally, our 2018 goal is to increase our business memberships, so please encourage any businesses you may know to consider joining the Arboretum!

- Patricia Drackett, Director

The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service



Please welcome our newest business members, the Slidell branch of Rotolo Consultants, one of the largest full service landscape contractors in the Southeast!



Terry Johnson with Mary Donahue and Phyllis Goodwin have been pruning and mulching in the Pollinator Garden, helping to get things in shape for spring!

CURATOR'S CORNER

I would like to thank all our volunteers who have helped us with recent programs and projects. Our volunteers are all very dedicated, but today I want to acknowledge those that are associated with the Pearl River County Master Gardener Program. This MSU Extension program trains local citizens in horticulture, botany and conservation, and in return requires the participants to assist in several community service gardening and/or environmental projects and training sessions each year. The Crosby Arboretum is fortunate to have been "adopted" by the Pearl River County Master Gardeners. Not only do the Master Gardeners give their time, but the group recently donated two new garden wagons to the Arboretum. We use these wagons for our everyday landscaping and educational activities, and we greatly appreciate these kind gifts. Currently, Master Gardeners, Mary Donahue (our new Volunteer Coordinator) and Phyllis Goodwin, along with our Building and Grounds Superintendent Terry Johnson (all pictured), are cleaning out and preparing our pollinator garden, now a designated Monarch Waystation, for the spring planting. One observation that they made while cleaning out the beds of dead plant material, is that milkweeds are already sprouting from the base of last year's growth!

In addition to the splendid carts donated by the Master Gardeners, we have other items on our Wish List for the Arboretum. We are in need of landscaping tools such as leaf blowers, weed eaters, a tractor with a bucket attachment, loppers, garden carts, chainsaws, gas cans, shade cloth for the greenhouse, potting soil and pots, spotlights for the art gallery, etc. If you have any of these items but no longer need and would like to donate them to us, we can make arrangements to pick them up from you. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you for thinking about us! Hope to see you at the plant sale on April 13 and 14 (Fri/Sat). Live green and prosper!

- 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

Thank you, Annual Appeal Contributors!

The Crosby Arboretum wishes to express our sincere gratitude, and to acknowledge the persons who made contributions to our 2017 Annual Appeal. A total of \$7,595 was raised to fund signage improvements throughout the property and also to support a summer internship for a Mississippi State University landscape architecture and/or landscape contracting and management student. Improvements to be made will include locating welcome signage at the main entrance, and replacing and adding new directional signage throughout the property.

We are pleased that so many of you have again demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting improvements to the Arboretum and its educational exhibits. Your generosity continues to allow us to provide visitors with new opportunities for learning about the value of our regional ecosystems while exploring this unique public garden.

Capt. Cornelius and Loretta Acheson

Jerry Alexander
Max and Sherry Aycock
Peter and Jeanne Berg
Ivan and Mary Biernacki
Cary and Pamela Blake
Anne Bradburn
Phelan and Fay Bright
Bruce Campbell and Ann Steinmetz
John Coleman
Claire Conlin
Ruth Cook
Robert Davis & Sibyl Ramsey
Beverly Elston
Lawrence Eustis
Jo Ann Fleming
Katherine Furr
Phyllis Goodwin
Mason and Janet Gordon
David Gurney
John and Laurie Gwaltney
Lamar and Jennifer Heffner
James and Joann Johnston
Chuck and Debbie Kirby
Natalie Locke
Dennis and Mary Martin

Charlotte Martory
Robert Marye
Cory Mauldin
Monte and Golda McAndrew
Jack and Sue McGuire
Floyd McLamb
Dr. Noel and Joy Mills
Fred and Tamara Mokray
Robert and Cynthia Murchison
Neil Odenwald
Bob and Laura Perez
T.L. and J. W. Price
Austin Reid
Elizabeth Reese
David and Janet Schlauderaff
Chris Schneidau and Judy Schwartzer
Cherie Schulz
Whitney Shuman
Erlene Smith
Claudette Stewart
Kerry Stewart
Sharon Swope
William Thames
John and June Villani
Gene Yeager
Tony and Sue Wilder



Signage for the Arboretum to be implemented with the 2017 annual appeal funds include improvements to the directional signs at the welcome booth and the main entrance area.

PLANT PROFILE: REDBAY

(*Persea palustris*)



Redbay is one of the twenty reference plants that make up the Arboretum's new Phenology Journey. In spring, its emerging new leaves are downy and delicately colored, in contrast to the dark evergreen leaves. A medium evergreen tree growing to 40', it is found in bogs and wet pinelands in association with red maple, sweet bay magnolia, and black gum, in sun to part sun, and wet or moist soils. Dark blue fruits are produced in late summer and eaten by squirrels, quail, and seed-eating birds. The aromatic leaves are a culinary seasoning. Insect galls are often seen on the leaves, and are an identifying feature. A host plant for the Palamedes Swallowtail, red bay is threatened by a fungus disease called laurel wilt carried by the redbay ambrosia beetle, which was introduced from Asia to the U.S. (Georgia) in 2004 and first seen in Mississippi in 2010. Other members of the laurel family (Lauraceae) are susceptible to laurel wilt, including avocado, sassafras, and spicebush.

MEMORIAL TREE PLANTINGS

Memorial trees were planted this winter for Faye Broome, Dr. Howard Bruggers, Donna Catchott Burt, Henrietta Crosby, L. Y. Foote Jr., Stewart Gammill III, Lula (Mary) Harper, Grace Stumb, and Mildred Tymkiw,



FUNGI BOOKS DONATED TO ARBORETUM LIBRARY

Arthur & Frances Welden Jr.

Thanks to Linda Auld of New Orleans, the Arboretum learned of the opportunity to be gifted a collection of fungi and mushrooms books through Fred and Charles Welden, sons of Arthur L. Welden, Jr., who had passed away in September. Dr. Weldon was Ida Richardson Professor of Botany Emeritus at Tulane University and was admired and respected for his wide interests and knowledge in addition to his specialty. His wife Frances was a well-known butterfly enthusiast who presented programs at the Arboretum.

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. Journal may be received electronically if desired.

Please send correspondence to: Patricia Drackett, Editor
The Crosby Arboretum, P.O. Box 1639, Picayune, MS 39466
pat.drackett@msstate.edu

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

The Crosby Arboretum

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

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

March 2018

SMART PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 10

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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 \$5, non-members \$10. Reservations requested. Limit, 12 persons.

SPRING BOTANY FIELD WALK

Saturday, March 10

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy a spring field walk around the Arboretum grounds to learn about the native plant species in the exhibits, 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. Register by March 9.



EARTH COLORS ART WORKSHOP With Robin Whitfield

Saturday, March 17

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

EARTH COLORS are pigments found in nature, and may come from soil, leaves, bark, berries, flowers, mushrooms or mineral deposits. Participants will learn to identify and collect plant and mineral materials as artistic media. Natural materials will be gathered and sketched for visual ideas and elements reflecting 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 \$35, non-members \$45, cost includes a bag lunch. Please register early, as this workshop is limited to 15 persons.

SPRING GALLERY EXHIBIT OPENING PHOTOGRAPHY: DIANA THORNTON

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Saturday, March 10, Noon to 1:30 PM



Join us for the gallery opening of photography by Diana Thornton. With decades of experience in graphic design, photography, book design, genealogy and computers, she loves sharing what she has learned. With a Master's Degree in Anthropology/Underwater Archaeology and Photography Minor from Texas A&M University, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology and Photography Minor from the University of Pittsburgh, she is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including Offbeat Magazine's "Best Album Artwork" 1999 and 2002, the Independent Publishers Award for The Beatles on Capitol Records by Bruce Spizer, and New Orleans Magazine's "30 People to Watch". Opening event is *free* to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Exhibit runs through May 31.



PINECOTE NATURE DISCOVERY DAY K-12 Educational Field Day

Thursday, March 29

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Students will be thrilled to explore a wide array of hands-on exhibits, presentations/live animals, guided botanical walks, geocaching and letterboxing in this field day open for K-12 schools and homeschool groups. Admission is \$2 per child, and free for teachers/chaperones. All persons must call 601-799-2311 to schedule an arrival time.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

April – May 2018

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 8
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Bring the family and take a stroll through the Arboretum grounds! Celebrate the history of the Arboretum having a former use as a one-mile square strawberry farm. The event will be held on the Pinecote Pavilion. Listen to music, enjoy ice cream, fresh strawberries, and Picayune Frog Lemonade. Admission is free to all for this long-running community event.

SPRING PLANT SALE!



April 13 & 14

Friday & Saturday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(Members will be admitted
at 9:00 a.m. each day)

Grab a cart and choose from a wide variety of hand-picked and hard-to-find native trees, shrubs, and perennials for your landscape. Pearl River County Master Gardeners will help you choose plants suited to your property. **Free admission.** Sale is in the greenhouse area. Please use site Service Entrance. Plant pre-sale: follow us on Facebook, or see our website for our plant pre-sale of popular species such as native honeysuckle azaleas.



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

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

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 \$5, non-member adults \$8. Reservations required.

LETTERBOXING: FAMILY ACTIVITY

Saturday, April 28, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Letterboxing is an internationally popular outdoor "treasure hunt" activity using small, waterproof boxes hidden in public places. Online clues for finding the boxes are on websites such as www.letterboxing.org. Using a stamp in the letterbox, finders imprint a personal journal, and leave their own stamp in the box's log. In the class, participants will make a temporary stamp and journal and participate in a hunt for hidden letterboxes at the arboretum. Free for Arboretum members. Non-member adults \$5, non-member children \$2. Space is limited. Reservations required. Register by April 27.

SMART LANDSCAPES: HOW TO DESIGN ECOLOGICALLY SOUND HOME GARDENS

Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Design low-care "Smart Landscapes" based on ecological processes. Save money, reduce labor and energy needs, and increase your yard's biodiversity. Topics include site selection, soil testing and using long lasting materials. 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 \$5, non-members \$10. Reservations requested.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP: PAINTED POTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Saturday, May 12, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Children will enjoy decorating and planting a terra-cotta clay pot, a perfect Mother's Day Gift for moms who love plants! Kids must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Members' children \$5; non-members' children \$7. (No charge for adults). Reservations requested.

YOGA AT PINECOTE PAVILION

Saturday, May 12, 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 and short meditation sitting. Class size limited is to 16. Yoga mats provided, or bring your own. Arrive at least 10 minutes early. Members free, \$5 non-members. Register by May 11.

Call 601-799-2311 to pre-register for programs and guarantee your space; if the program is full, walk-ins will not be taken, to avoid overcrowding. **Physical Address:** 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466; Open Wed-Sun; 9 - 5.

www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu

