

# The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Winter 2017-18

32.1

## HISTORICAL USES OF NATIVE PLANTS BY SOUTHEASTERN AMERICAN INDIANS

Our Southeastern Native American ancestors were resilient. They had to be. They lived on the edge. Their communities were near constantly changing streams, creeks, bayous, rivers, gulfs and oceans. Our ancestors farmed corn, beans and pumpkins – the three sisters, and supplemented their harvests with pecans, pine nuts, acorns, hickory nuts, walnuts, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, persimmons and muscadines. Because they had an agriculture that sustained them all year, our Native American ancestors lived in houses made of mud or clay, with wood posts, and swamp cane or palmetto roofs. Their lives depended on their responses to the changing seasons, vegetation productivity and animal availability.

We have evidence that our ancestors adapted these environments to increase productivity and sustainability of the community – sometimes by burning the forests, sometimes by building mounds. They traded resources all over the U.S., with evidence of the caffeinated leaves of our coastal yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) traded as far north as the Cahokia mound complex in Missouri. They also moved whole communities in response to resource depletion, changing rivers, and European settlements. Our Southeastern native plants, also, are resilient. They can adapt slowly over time to environmental changes by altering their growing – low and squat in colder climates but tall and lean in warmer climates, by forming shallow or deeper roots, and by moving further north or south in subsequent generations. Our native plants can, with care, thrive along with us, as our companions on this journey.



Yaupon Holly, USM Medicine Wheel Garden. Photo: T. Greer

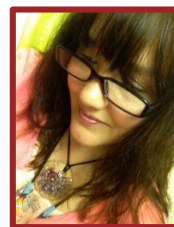


Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) Photo: T. Greer

They are, undisputedly, necessary for the survival of Southeastern Indian material cultures – our palmetto huts with willow frames, supple jack vine basket handles, palmetto, swamp cane and long leaf pine baskets, cane and elderberry blowguns, and hickory rabbit sticks and stick ball sticks. They are the sources of our medicines. And they still have much to teach us about being human and how to live in community. I am reminded of all of this, and often so, as I tend the Southern Miss Medicine Wheel Garden.

The wax myrtle and swamp cane teach me how to set boundaries for my own sake and for the sake of others who need protection, or who need room to grow. I learn about respecting other's boundaries when I get too close and am not careful near the Spanish dagger and blackberry bushes. I've lost blood over those lessons. But then again, blackberry bushes provide nutritious food, great-tasting tea and helpful medicine. Spanish dagger is very useful for keeping critters, large and small, away from protected areas and, also, the root is soap for cleansing and the dagger-shaped leaves are cordage for binding. I have friends like those plants, who, on the one hand, have personalities that jab and poke so that I have to take care around them but on the other hand, have great qualities like fierceness, honesty, and loyalty. Most all plants live in communities, preferring the company of specific species. Some plants, like the very medicinal wild ginger, rely on the shade of others just to survive and remind us that community is necessary and that our communities down here can be quite diverse. Our ancestors taught us that native plants truly are our brothers and sisters, our relatives and our teachers. We need to remember that as we plan and plant our futures in this world.

*Tammy Greer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for American Indian Research and Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi.*





## 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:

Our Quaking Bog Exhibit is quickly becoming established! MSU professors **Bob Brzuszek** and **Tim Schauwecker** and students from the landscape architecture and landscape contracting and management programs visited November 17 to remove the last of the peat bales. Architecture professor **Hans Herrmann** accompanied the group, to discuss the exciting news that the bridge in the Gum Pond Educational Exhibit will be moving forward this spring. Hans reviewed the model he built illustrating the new bridge. Construction drawings will be refined in his directed independent study course this spring, and costs will be developed by students of Prof. Schauwecker in a Construction Cost Estimating course. Funding for the bridge project has been provided by past annual appeals to members.

Thank you, Arboretum members, for your kind support throughout this challenging year. Thanks are also extended to our indispensable Arboretum volunteers who generously give us their gift of time helping with our events and programs, and site maintenance tasks. Jac Coleman graciously tends to the welfare of the Savanna Exhibit's bee colonies, and we're grateful to the Pearl River County Master Gardeners for working to have our Pollinator Garden designated a Monarch Waystation. Bertha Page, Phyllis Goodwin, and Lenore Ladner have worked wonders to clean and paint the ticket (welcome) booth so it is now much more "aesthetically pleasing" for arriving visitors. We simply couldn't run the Arboretum as successfully as we do without all of YOU!

- **Patricia Drackett, Director**

*The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



*The Arboretum is benefiting from a Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area grant. Shown with the \$13,000 check (L to R) are Pauline Rogers, Patricia Drackett, Ruth Cook, Jennifer Buchanan, Lynn Crosby Gammill, Kyla Sims and Rhonda Price.*

### Curator's Corner:

Good News! The staff of the Arboretum would like to thank the Crosby Arboretum Foundation for applying for and receiving a grant from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Natural Heritage Area to assist the Arboretum in upgrading its front gates and signs, and promoting our cultural and ecological festivals through a community planning partnership and targeted marketing. The following community organizations supported the Foundation in its pursuit of this grant: the **City of Picayune, Picayune Main Street, Carver Cultural Museum, the Hilda Hoffmann Memorial Archive, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science** and **Mississippi State University**. Representatives from the organizations will provide representatives to serve on a local advisory board to promote regional heritage tourism efforts over the coming year. The first event to benefit from this grant was our recent Piney Woods Heritage Festival. The funding allowed the arboretum to provide the public with keynote speakers and cultural entertainment such as the **Bogue Homa Choctaw Indian Social Dancers**. The Arboretum would also like to thank the **First National Bank of Picayune, Kellie's Poor Boy** and **Ted Musgrove's State Farm Agency** for providing donations to the Foundation to allow the board to leverage the additional funding needed to expand the initial grant award. Upcoming Arboretum activities associated with this funding include a Nature Festival in the spring for school children and monthly cultural presentations for the public. Additionally, the funding will be used to provide certified interpretive guide training to several regional cultural and environmental educators including Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners.

- **Jennifer Buchanan, Educational Programs Coordinator**  
*The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



*MSU Architecture Professor Hans Herrmann demonstrates where the planned 70' Gum Pond bridge will cross the pond's panhandle and pass through a cluster of Titi slightly east of the original plan.*



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Picayune, Mississippi, USA



### IN MEMORIAM: STEWART GAMMILL III, DR. SIDNEY McDANIEL



#### Stewart Gammill III

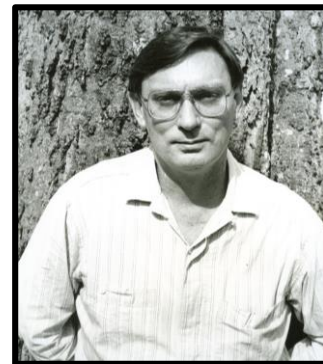
Mr. Stewart Gammill, III, age 81, of Hattiesburg, passed away at his home on October 5, 2017 with family present at his side. A native of Jackson, MS, he attended Jackson Public Schools before graduating from Columbia Military Academy in Columbia, TN. He attended Rice University and graduated from Milsaps College, where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He received his Master's degree in Mathematics from the University of Mississippi. He served in the Mississippi Air National Guard and was a former member and past president of Hattiesburg Rotary Club; Senior Warden of Trinity Episcopal Church; past president of Pine Burr Area Council Boy Scouts of America and founding member of the L.Q.C. Lamar Society. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lora Hooper Gammill and Stewart Gammill, Jr. Mr. Gammill is survived by his wife, Lynn Crosby Gammill of Hattiesburg, MS; three children, Stewart Gammill IV (Tish), L.O. Crosby Gammill and Jennifer Gammill McKay (Kennard), all of Hattiesburg; one brother, Sam Hooper Gammill of Jackson, MS and six grandchildren. Stewart was president of Interpine, formerly the Crosby Wood Preserving Company. His grandfather, Stewart Gammill, Sr., purchased a sawmill in Canton, Mississippi from Lynn Crosby Gammill's grandfather, L.O. Crosby, in 1916.



*The Stewart Gammill III Family in 1984 (L to R) Jennifer, Stewart IV, Stewart III, Lynn Crosby Gammill, and Crosby.*

#### Dr. Sidney McDaniel

Dr. Sidney Thomas McDaniel, age 77, passed away on Nov. 12, 2017 in Starkville. Dr. McDaniel was born October 15, 1940, in Memphis, and attended Forrest City High School, graduating in 1958. He was a Professor of Botany at Mississippi State University, where he had received his



Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. He received his doctorate degree from Florida State University. A pre-eminent botanist and a taxonomist knowledgeable about all plant families, Dr. McDaniel founded the Institute for Botanical Exploration, whose field station was established in Iquitos, Peru in 1972. He collected and identified more plants for medicinal research than any other single individual or institution in the United States, more than 10,000 for the United States Department of Agriculture, for research by the National Institutes of Health. He retired from MSU in 2002. During the development of the Arboretum, Dr. McDaniel was instrumental in selecting the series of natural areas that represent floristically different ecosystems found in the Pearl River drainage basin. He was the founder of the Mississippi Native Plant Society, and had an enduring influence on his taxonomy students at MSU. He was the recipient of the 2015 Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence, receiving an unprecedented 28 letters in support of his nomination. He had one sister, Mary Jane McDaniel who preceded him in death.

## Crosby Arboretum Memberships Make GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!



*Show someone you care!*

Crosby Arboretum memberships include special admission privileges and discounts at nearly 300 other public gardens through the **American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program**. Call Sherri Lowe at 601-799-2311 to order, or for more information.



*Participants thoroughly enjoyed exploring pigments found in nature in Robin Whitfield's "Earth Colors" workshop. We are planning another workshop with Robin on March 17!*

## PLANTS WITH WINTER INTEREST:

- Big Bluestem** (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- Bushy Bluestem** (*Andropogon glomeratus*)
- Red Chokeberry** (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
- American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- Witchhazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- Florida Anise** (*Illicium floridanum*)
- American Holly** (*Ilex opaca*)
- Goldenclub** (*Orontium aquaticum*)
- Longleaf Pine** (*Pinus palustris*)
- Southern Smilax** (*Smilax smallii*)
- Elliot's Blueberry** (*Vaccinium elliotii*)
- Farkleberry** (*Vaccinium arboreum*)
- Netted chainfern** (*Woodwardia areolata*)

*Refer to the Native Plant Database on our website for more details.*

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  $\geq 30\%$  postconsumer waste recycled fiber. Journal may be received electronically if desired.

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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 i.d.)	\$ 20.00
_____	Individual	35.00
_____	Individual - Senior	30.00
_____	Family	45.00
_____	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.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University

P.O. Box 1639

Picayune, MS 39466-1639

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

December 2017 – January 2018

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 9

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Children will enjoy this creative holiday card workshop led by members of the Pearl River County Arts League! A variety of paper and decorating materials will be available, and children will be able to create several cards in the workshop. Materials fee is \$3 for members' children and \$5 for non-members' children. Reservations requested. Space is limited.

## PROJECT WILD TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 20

9:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs by K-12 educators. This hands-on interdisciplinary workshop is for teachers, homeschool educators, and others who serve in a teaching role. Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Outreach Educator **Sabrina Cummings** will use wildlife topics to show how to teach subjects across the curriculum. Bring a brown bag lunch. Both workshop and CEU's (.6) are free to educators. Call to register by January 17.

## WINTER GALLERY EXHIBIT

### Pearl River County Arts League ARTISTS OF THE YEAR



Opening Event: Saturday, December 9

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Pearl River County Arts League is a group of creative and enthusiastic people who work in a variety of media. At each monthly meeting there is an "Artist of the Month" contest in Traditional Hanging Art, Photography, and 3-Dimensional Art. Members present vote on each of the categories and points are awarded for first, second and third place in each category. At the end of the year, the "Artist of the Year" is announced in each of the three categories based on the total of points accrued during the year. This show will feature the 2017 Artists of the Year, showcasing the work of these three people. The opening event is free to the public, and light refreshments will be served. Exhibit will run through February 28.



## FORGE DAY:

Blacksmithing &  
Metalworking  
Demonstrations

SATURDAY, Jan. 27

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join us for this exciting day of demonstrations by area metalworkers and craftsmen. Learn the techniques and tips to get started in metalworking and try your hand at the forge, exhibitors permitting. (Signed waiver form is required prior to participation.) Browse items by craftsmen for purchase. Members attend free; non-members \$5, non-members' children \$2.



*Breanna Lyle made fast friends with a golden orb weaver spider during our September BugFest event!*

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

## February 2018



### **PRESCRIBED FIRE DEMONSTRATIONS**

*Thursdays and Fridays in January and  
February, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Observe fire management techniques during a prescribed burn of the Arboretum's savanna areas by Certified Burn Manager **Terry Johnson**. Call the Arboretum office at 9:00 a.m. to confirm the weather conditions are favorable for the burn to proceed, and to register for this activity. Free for members; Cost of admission for non-members. Persons under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

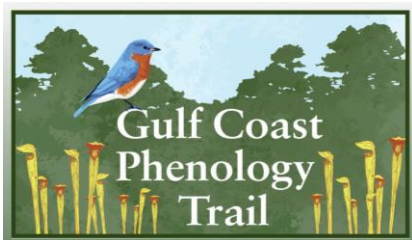
### **PRESCRIBED FIRE WORKSHOP!**



**Saturday, February 17**

**1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (arrive at 12:30 to register)**

Learn the basics for conducting prescribed burns including reasons why to manage land through burning, equipment, ignition techniques, fuel types, factors affecting a burn such as weather elements (humidity, temperature, wind) as well as how to plan and conduct a burn: rules, safety precautions, proper technique, regulations, notifications, and burn associations, with Extension Forestry Specialist **Dr. Glenn Hughes**. Cost is \$10 per attendee; includes refreshments and supplies. Reservations requested.



### **NATURE'S NOTEBOOK VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

*For Master Gardeners, Naturalists & other outdoor lovers!*

**Saturday, February 17**

**9:00 a.m. to Noon**

The Arboretum, in partnership with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be hosting a general volunteer training session called *Nature's Notebook*, a national phenology program that prepares professional and citizen scientists to record long-term observations of plant and animal life stages. *Phenology is the study of the timing of the biological events in plants in animals such a flowering, leafing, hibernation, migration and reproduction.* This is an excellent opportunity for Master Gardeners and Naturalists, as well as other outdoor lovers to learn how to observe, record and report changes occurring along the Gulf Coast Phenology Trail. Although the training is free, a brief commitment to help monitor our coastal trails is required. Reservations required. See [gulfcoastphenologytrail@gmail.com](mailto:gulfcoastphenologytrail@gmail.com) or visit <https://fws.usanpn.org/GulfCoastPhenologyTrail>. Class size is limited, sign up early.

### **PINE NEEDLE BASKETRY WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, February 24 (Please choose time:)**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon, or 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Join **Judy Breland**, Stone County Extension Agent, for this adult workshop on pine needle basket-making. Participants can complete a small basket by the workshop's end and will learn methods for continuing with future projects. Wear old clothes. All materials will be provided. Materials fee, \$5 for members; \$7 for non-members. Reservations requested. Class is limited to 10 persons per session, in order to avoid overcrowding.

Call 601-799-2311 to pre-register for programs as early as possible to guarantee your space; walk-ins may not be admitted if the class has filled. Physical Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune. Hours of Operation: Wed-Sun; 9 am to 5 pm.

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



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