

# The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Summer 2019

33.3

## GROWING NATIVE PLANTS THAT SUPPORT POLLINATORS

This spring, following the renovation of the Crosby Arboretum's greenhouse irrigation system, our "Green Team" volunteers embarked on the long-awaited opportunity to grow plants. The focus was to produce species beneficial to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators for a Pollinator Plant Sale held May 31 and June 1. During this first nursery project many lessons were learned, and we will be applying this knowledge as we continue to supplement our plant sales with Arboretum-propagated species. As spring unfolded, we enjoyed seeing new growth emerging on the perennials in our Pollinator Garden and observing the activity of foraging bees and other insects. The herbs in our garden (basil, oregano, rosemary, etc.) are also highly attractive to bees. The summer months will bring a variety of butterflies, from tiny skippers to giant swallowtails, and hummingbird moths that can cause a doubletake because they so closely resemble their namesake. Hummingbirds will undoubtedly visit the coral honeysuckle vine, salvia, and scarlet monarda. Native plant species attractive to pollinators, many of which were available at the recent sale, include milkweed (*Asclepias*), Coreopsis, American crinum lily, Indian Blanket flower, Joe-Pye weed, scarlet hibiscus, native Iris, blazing star (*Liatris*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia*), Stokes' Aster, black-eyed Susan, wild bergamont (*Monarda*), Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia*) hollies, asters, coneflowers, Gaura, Liatris, and passionflower vine. We sold out of groundsel bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) at the sale. It is the only woody member of the Aster family, and a highly useful species to fall-migrating monarch butterflies due to its abundant nectar and providing roosting habitat (protection from wind and other elements).

When we think of pollinators, we often picture bees and butterflies. Bee species pollinate flowers more than any other group, including birds and butterflies, but pollinators include other wildlife such as bats, birds, geckos, possums, and insects such as moths, beetles, wasps, and flies. Interestingly, many



*Stokes aster (Stokesia laevis), and Blanket Flower (Gallardia pulchella) were offered at the recent Pollinator Sale.*

people believe that the domesticated honey bee is in decline or threatened with extinction, and while it is true that there are pest insects and diseases destructive to honeybees, a 2017 USDA report found that the numbers of honeybee colonies had increased by three percent over the previous year. Honey bees did not exist in America before European settlement, as hives were brought over from Europe. However, many of the 4,000 species of bees native to North America are experiencing substantial losses. Over the last 100 years, half of the Midwestern native bee species have disappeared. Most native bee species are solitary (do not live in colonies), and about three-fourths of these either nest underground or build nests in hollow stems of plants. Gardeners can make a difference if they are aware of how to provide habitats that encourage bees, for example, by leaving open, unmulched areas in the garden, providing a source of mud for bees that create nests with the material, or locating mason bee houses with tunnels for nesting.

Bees and gardens go hand in hand! These pollinating insects offer the benefit of increasing your yield of flowers, fruit, and seed. When our bee hives were first installed, volunteer Jac Coleman, who tends the colonies, remarked we would soon be noticing an increase in the abundance of blooming perennial species in the savanna areas near the hive locations. An informative publication about bees, specific to Mississippi, is available for download from the Extension Service at <https://extension.msstate.edu>, titled "Gardening for Beneficial Bees in Mississippi" (No. 2976). This document provides a wealth of information on designing gardens to attract these insects, for example, the times of the year when bee foraging is heaviest, why flower shape matters, tips on planting in masses and providing water and housing sources. Lists of plants that attract bees are also included.



*Joe-Pye weed (Eutrochium purpureum), and Liatris spicata shown with Eastern Black Swallowtail, in the Savanna Exhibit.*

- Patricia Drackett, Director  
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

### Director's Notebook:

On June 1, we bid a hearty and official adieu to Curator Jennifer Buchanan, who had remained with us much longer than originally intended. We look forward to seeing her again in a volunteer capacity, and hearing about the many travels she has planned! In April, I traveled to Mississippi State University for an outstanding exhibit at Giles Hall School of Architecture, "The Unbuilt Arboretum", developed by associate professor of architecture Hans Herrmann and brought to life with the help of ten of his undergraduate research assistants including our summer intern, Danielle Leclercq. The exhibit celebrates unbuilt work at Crosby Arboretum by Arkansas architect E. Fay Jones, who is considered one of this century's most important American architects, and the designer of our Pinecote Pavilion. What Professor Herrmann found intriguing when he examined Jones' plans in the Arboretum archives was that he had also designed four accompanying structures to support the day-to-day operation of the Arboretum, which were never built. While other public gardens are known for a single structure by Jones, the "village" he designed for the Crosby Arboretum was unusual. These unbuilt structures are the restoration center, the visitors center, the administrative building, and the Switzer Pavilion. The exhibit in Starkville included detailed physical models, virtual-reality renderings of the unbuilt structures, and drawings of numerous built features such as entry gates, lanterns, informational kiosks, and the Pinecote Pavilion. Currently, a six-minute video is available on Vimeo that will walk you through this awesome exhibit at: <https://vimeo.com/329683604>. Come visit the Arboretum soon. We have a wealth of opportunities for children and adults to have fun learning about the natural world.

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



*A tour of the Arboretum was conducted in late April for a group of National Garden Clubs Inc. members, who enjoyed visiting during their annual national meeting in Biloxi.*



*The spring "Unbuilt Arboretum" exhibit at MSU in Starkville included built and virtual reality models for a complex of buildings designed by E. Fay Jones for the Crosby Arboretum.*

### CURATOR'S CORNER

This past quarter has been a busy one for our staff and volunteers. Earlier in the year, our "Green Team" composed of mostly Master Gardeners led by Mary Donahue and Amy Nichols, started growing native wildflowers for the arboretum to sell to the public. To say that this project has been a learning experience is an understatement. We found that we had started the seeds too late for most of them to be available for our spring plant sale, so we scheduled a pollinator plant sale at the end of May. We learned a lot during this project, and plan to continue growing natives to share with the community in the future. Our goal for next year is to start the seeds, especially the milkweed seeds, early enough so that they will be available next spring when the hungry monarch caterpillars hatch along the coast! We could definitely use some more help with this project. If you would like to be on our Green Team, please call the office to sign up. Also, this past quarter, our volunteers along with our many exhibitors were instrumental in making our Nature Discovery Day and Strawberries and Cream Festival successes. Our new historical marker, funded in part by the Foundation and the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, was officially dedicated during the Festival, and we were honored to have many members of L.O. Crosby's family on hand to participate in the ceremony. Many of you know by now that I am now officially retired! I originally joined the staff for what I thought would be a year, but I wound up staying two and a half years. Wow, that time went fast. I have met some amazing people during my short time here, and more importantly, made some true friends. I intend to stay connected to the Arboretum as a volunteer on the Green Team, so you will still be seeing me around on occasion. Take care everyone, and live green and prosper!

*- Jennifer Buchanan, Senior Curator  
The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*





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Picayune, Mississippi, USA

### PLANT PROFILE: *Coreopsis nudata*



Pink coreopsis (AKA Georgia tickseed) was planted in our south Pitcher Plant Bog a year ago and is now growing robustly. It has also spread by water-borne seed to other areas. The color is unusual, as most native coreopsis have yellow petals. Although it is rare in Mississippi, the perennial is easy to grow when given its preferred habitat, a sunny location in the consistently wet soils of coastal savannas, prairies, and flatwoods. Pink coreopsis is most abundant in Georgia and is critically imperiled in other states. State botanist Heather Sullivan, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, reports that *Coreopsis nudata* has only been recorded in two locations in Mississippi, one being at a Crosby Arboretum natural area where it occurs in a wet ditch and grows over four feet in height. I've heard that this perennial was once common in wet roadside ditches near the Arboretum. With area road improvements, the species has unfortunately disappeared. Should you encounter a flower you believe could be pink coreopsis, let us know. We will pass on the news to Heather to verify the plant and add a location data point on the state's Natural Heritage Program map.



*Pictured here after a burn on May 23 are (L to R) Rob Lorens, Bob Rouse, Terry Johnson, and summer intern Danielle Leclercq. Rich Hoffman and Tom Heim (not shown) also assisted.*

### Meet Our Summer Intern Danielle Leclercq



We are thrilled this summer to have **Danielle Leclercq** working as our summer intern. She is a Picayune native as well as an architecture student at Mississippi State University, where she has just finished her third year of the five-year program. She graduated from Picayune Memorial High School as valedictorian in May 2016. At Mississippi State, she is a member of Alpha Rho Chi, a professional fraternity for architecture students, and Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society, where she will serve as Treasurer for the upcoming school year.

Danielle was involved in the *Unbuilt Arboretum: Unrealized Structures of Fay Jones for The Crosby Arboretum* exhibition as an undergraduate research assistant during the spring of 2019. The exhibition examined E. Fay Jones' work with the arboretum, specifically his schematic designs of several structures. Danielle studied and created a basswood model of the Switzer Pavilion, also known as the Switzer Orientation Center, a structure that was designed to be the space one would orient oneself at upon arrival at the site.

This summer, Danielle will be creating a basswood model of the new Rosen Pavilion, creating/editing virtual reality models of proposed buildings, and designing interpretive material on Fay Jones and the Pinecote Pavilion for Crosby Arboretum visitors. After she graduates from the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University in May 2021, Danielle plans to become a licensed architect and to design residential architecture.

~~~ *In remembrance* ~~~  
**Kimberly Dawn Johnson**



**Kimberly Dawn Johnson**, age 56, of Carriere, Mississippi, passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2019. For twenty years, Kim was a customer service representative at the Crosby Arboretum. In recent years, she was the manager of our Gift Shop, and grew it to be profitable and well-known. Kim was the wife of Arboretum grounds manager Terry Steven Johnson, her loving and devoted husband of 36 years. She was previously a phlebotomist in Des Moines, Iowa, where she grew up. She loved the beach and loved to travel. She put her family before herself, helping family members in their time of need. A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, June 2, 2019 on the Pinecote Pavilion, where Kim's family and friends shared many memories. A devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend, she will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her.



An unveiling ceremony was held before April's Strawberries & Cream Festival for the new historical marker from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, recognizing the Pinecote Pavilion. The sign was installed at the front entrance to the Arboretum and was funded by a Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area grant. Left to right, Dr. James Henderson, Terry Johnson, Jennifer Gammill McKay, Lynn Crosby Gammill, Kennard McKay, Pat Drackett, Jennifer Buchanan, Fay Bright, Jim Luke, and Reba Beebe.

The News Journal is a quarterly publication of The Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University Extension Service. News Journal may be received electronically if desired.

**Please send correspondence to:**

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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.

|                                         |    |          |
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| _____ Student (send copy of student ID) | \$ | 15.00    |
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| _____ Patron                            |    | 250.00   |
| _____ Benefactor                        |    | 1,000.00 |
| _____ Business                          |    |          |
| _____ Sweetgum                          |    | 100.00   |
| _____ Sassafras                         |    | 250.00   |
| _____ Live Oak                          |    | 500.00   |
| _____ Bigleaf Magnolia                  |    | 1,000.00 |



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
 EXTENSION**

**The Crosby Arboretum**

**Mississippi State University**  
 P.O. Box 1639  
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Renewing?  Memberships are for one year.



# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

June – July 2019

## INTRODUCTION TO NATURE SKETCHING

*Saturday, June 8, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.*

Learn basic skills, and how to get started in nature sketching in this introductory class with artist **Robin Veerkamp**. Reservations requested. Members free, non-members \$5.

## SUMMER GALLERY EXHIBIT: DRAWINGS BY ROBIN VEERKAMP

*(On Display June 8 - August 31)*



Picayune fine artist **Robin Veerkamp** works in colored pencils and chalk pastels, and specializes in drawing architecture, plants, animals and landscapes from original photography. Many images are inspired by the beauty of Crosby Arboretum, where she worked for over a decade. Robin teaches nature sketching throughout the year at the Arboretum. Gallery opening June 8 at 10:30 is free to all.

## CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP: INSECTS!

*Wednesday, June 19, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.*

Hancock County Extension Agent, **Dr. Christian Stephenson** will lead this fun and educational workshop. Children will learn fun facts about insects and why they are important to our environment and humans. Class includes a collecting expedition on the Arboretum grounds. Members' children \$3; non-members' children \$5. Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian (no charge for adults). Reservations requested. Please call to pre-register.

## KIDS' STORYBOOK TEA & CRAFT PARTY!

*Saturday, June 22, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.*

Children will enjoy this indoor craft workshop featuring storybook-themed crafts, open to boys and girls of all ages. All materials, and snacks, will be provided. Program is limited to 20 children. As children must be accompanied by an adult, there is no minimum age requirement. Members' children \$3; non-members' children \$5. No charge for adults). Reservations requested. Please call to pre-register.



## 10 A.M. JUNE 21 & EVERY FRIDAY IN JULY!

Free to members' children; \$2 non-members' children. No charge for adults. Children to be accompanied by an adult.

## LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

*Saturday, July 13, 11:00 a.m. to Noon*

Learn how to have a low-maintenance and attractive home landscape by incorporating Mississippi native plant species. Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett** will discuss the common and uncommon native plants for landscaping your property, and how to evaluate your planting site in order to choose the appropriate plant material. Program is \$2 for members. Non-members \$5. Reservations requested. Please call to register.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: LEARNING ABOUT VENOMOUS MISSISSIPPI SNAKES

*Wednesday, July 17, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.*

Children will learn about Mississippi's venomous snakes in this instructional program with Pearl River County Extension Agent **Dr. Eddie Smith**. Lifelike snake replicas will be used in this program. Great activity for homeschool students! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations requested. Members' children \$1; non-members' children \$3; no charge for adults.



## GARDENING TO ATTRACT BIRDS

*Wednesday, July 17, 11:00 a.m. to Noon*

Learn about what types of birds are found here in the coastal Mississippi area, the plants that are useful to them, and how you can encourage them in your home garden, with Pearl River County Extension Agent **Dr. Eddie Smith**. Members \$2; non-members \$5. Reservations requested. Please call to pre-register.

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

July - August 2019

## KIDS WORKSHOP: "TINY GARDENING"

*Friday, July 26, 11:00 a.m. to Noon*

Children will learn about small space gardening through fun hands-on activities in this workshop led by **Dr. Christine Coker**, Associate Research and Extension Professor of Urban Horticulture. Members' children \$2; non-member children \$4. Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian (no charge for adults). Please call to pre-register.

## NATIVE AND INVASIVE PLANTS OF LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI

*Saturday, July 27, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.*

With the mission of the Arboretum focused on native flora of the Pearl River Drainage Basin in Mississippi and Louisiana, we are pleased to offer this program with **David Baker**, Environmental Curator of **A Studio in the Woods**/Tulane ByWater Institute. David will discuss the region's native and invasive species and the impact that hurricanes have on their movement and growth, as well as the plight the gulf south is now facing with Chinese Tallow, Chinese Privet, and the lack of fire management. Members \$3, non-members \$5. Reservations requested. Please call to register.

## SILVER WIRE-WRAPPED JEWELRY WORKSHOP: MAKE A PENDANT!



**Saturday,  
August 10**  
~~~~~  
**9:00 a.m.  
to  
12:30 p.m.**

You will enjoy this workshop with jewelry maker **Connie Boyd of Unique Stones!** Everyone will go home with a beautiful piece of jewelry. Connie will show you how to create your very own pendant with semi-precious finished polished stones from around the world, wrapped in Sterling Silver. Feel the pride when your friends ask you where you got your necklace, and you tell them you made it! Program cost is \$70, and includes a chain, all tools, silver wire, stone, and lesson to make your pendant, paid directly to the instructor on the day of the workshop, cash or check only. More precious stones will be available for a little more, if desired. Limited to 12 persons. Reservations required. Please call to register.



*April's foraging field walk with Myles Ray was well-attended!*

## ALL ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS

*Saturday, August 17, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.*

Hummingbird bander **James Bell** will reveal how you can fill your yard with hummingbirds. Learn what is going on in the hummingbird's life, how they feed, why they fight so much, and simple tips and tricks to attract them, giving you a chance to enjoy the beauty of one of nature's most dazzling creations. Suited to ages 8 and up. Members \$3, non-member adults \$5, members' children \$1, non-member children \$2. Reservations requested. Please call to register.

## SUMMER NATIVE PLANT FIELD WALK

*Saturday, August 31, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.*

Join Arboretum director **Pat Drackett** on an early morning field walk to explore what is currently blooming in the Savanna Exhibit and pitcher plant bog. Wildlife plants and landscape uses will be discussed on our journey. Bring your camera and dress for walking. Members free; non-members \$5. Reservations requested. Please call to register.



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

Program fees include the cost of admission for non-members. **Reservations:** Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311. **Physical Address:** 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466. **Hours:** Wed-Sun, 9 AM – 5 PM.

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