

# The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

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## 'THE UNBUILT CROSBY ARBORETUM' EXHIBITION

*On display at The Octagon in Washington, D.C.*

An exhibition celebrating the work of internationally renowned architect E. Fay Jones was recently installed at The Octagon: Museum of the Architects Foundation in Washington, D.C. The work – originally planned to be on exhibition between March 12 and August 1, 2020 – will be available for viewing when the museum reopens. The new opening date is dependent on the conclusion of current COVID 19 operating procedures. For the most up-to-date news, see:

<https://architectsfoundation.org/octagon-museum/>.

Once reopened, a panel discussion of the exhibition will be held featuring CEO and Executive Vice President of the National American Institute of Architects, Robert Ivy, FAIA, and Mississippi State University School of Architecture Associate Professor Hans C. Herrmann, AIA. Dates and time are TBA. Jones is the architect of the Pinecote Pavilion (one of Jones's three AIA Design Honor Award winning projects) that stands on the grounds of the Mississippi State University Crosby Arboretum in Picayune. "The Unbuilt Arboretum" exhibition – showcasing a digital archive of drawings by Jones of structures that were never realized – was created by Herrmann with the assistance of 10 undergraduate architecture students: Nada Abdel-Aziz, Nicole Columbus, Blake Farrar, Jane Kent, Charlyn King, Danielle Leclercq, Spurgeon Sanders, John Spraberry, Duncan Thomas and Caley Watts. The idea for the exhibition came to fruition when Herrmann was shown a set of Jones' schematic drawings by the director of the Crosby Arboretum, Pat Drackett, during a visit in 2017.

"I was astonished to find that Jones had schematically developed an additional four buildings meant to compliment the Pinecote Pavilion and support the day-to-day activities of the arboretum," the professor said. "I decided then that the design had to be shared with a larger audience, and I began thinking of



ways in which I might help to shed light on this untold story of design and planning."

Herrmann and the 10 undergraduate architecture students began by studying the existing schematic drawings and filling in the gaps in information by researching Jones's prior works. The team worked over the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 to design and construct the exhibition with students working in teams to build the exhibition displays, generate display panels, write descriptive text, build fine basswood models, develop virtual reality three dimensional models and work on the general curation of the exhibition.

"With the financial support of the Criss Trust Award Program, an entirely new generation may be made aware of the spirit and profound nature of architecture created by the hands of E. Fay Jones," said Herrmann. Additional supporters who made the project possible include the Mississippi State University Office of Research & Economic Development Undergraduate Research Support Program, Crown Hardware and the Mississippi State University School of Architecture. Herrmann holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from Mississippi State and a Master of Architecture from Clemson University. He recently completed a written work chronicling the Crosby Arboretum's design as well as the work of its lead landscape architect, Edward Blake Jr. Over his ten years with Mississippi State, Herrmann has won numerous national and international awards and recently created an exhibition, which was featured in the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City, NY. Currently, a six-minute video is available on Vimeo that will walk you through this awesome exhibit at: <https://vimeo.com/329683604>.



*Fay Jones designed four additional buildings for the Arboretum.*



**Christie McNeal**  
*Communications Specialist*  
College of Architecture, Art & Design  
Mississippi State University



## 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:

Although educational programs are suspended, we are pleased that the visitation to the Arboretum has resumed. In response to the pandemic, our public garden closed April 1 and re-opened on June 3. We were fortunately able to conduct a modified version of our spring native plant sale May 15 and 16, with social distancing guidelines in place. We've not been idle the last few months! Several significant construction projects are in the works. Two structures have taken form in the Gum Pond Educational Exhibit. The Rosen Pavilion has been completed and will open to the public once an adjacent bulkhead is constructed. Across the pond from the Rosen Pavilion a unique bridge is nearing completion, designed by MSU architecture professor Hans Herrmann and students. Site construction has been led by Terry Johnson with the assistance of six student interns, Arboretum volunteer Frank Jackson, and others. When the last portion of the gum pond loop trail is built, visitors will be able to walk the complete journey through this exhibit.

The Arboretum "Green Team" has been hard at work growing native plants in our greenhouse, to supply the new ongoing "deck sale" of useful native species for your garden. Through trial and error, they have been learning best methods for making more plants through seed, cuttings, divisions, plugs, and transplanting. The goal is to offer a continuous selection of high-performing native species, including herbaceous perennials.

News about when our programs and events will resume, and other pertinent news, will be released on our Facebook page and via our email listserv. Remember we are available for questions on native plants, resources, and recommendations!

*- Patricia Drackett, Director*

*The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*



*Some of the Crosby "Green Team" volunteers after a gardening day (L to R): Carmen Ulfers, Lenore Ladner, Suzanne Ellis-Landry, Patti Murphy, Mary Cordray, Phyllis Goodwin, and Terry Downs.*



### Crosby Social Media/Marketing News:

While events sponsored by The Crosby Arboretum have been put on hold for a bit, we have restructured our Pinecote Pavilion rental options to suit smaller groups for your personal events. Birthday parties, showers, luncheons, memorials...all of this can be done on the beautiful Pinecote Pavilion. We are also offering table, chair, and linen rentals. The Pavilion is also available for evening rentals. We're excited to be able to offer private access to this Mississippi Landmark for your events. It's a wonderful place to capture the important moments in your life.

On the social media front, we are now active on Instagram (@crosbyarboretum) and YouTube (The Crosby Arboretum). This is in addition to our Facebook page. Follow us to see updates as we begin to open back up in phases to the public. You will also find a TON of info on all things pertaining to the beautiful Mississippi outdoors. We enjoy seeing what you've been doing at home. We often ask for your pictures under posts pertaining to gardening projects or any outdoor activity that could be beneficial to our native landscapes so don't be shy about sharing. We also love when you check in to The Crosby Arboretum and post pictures of your visit!! You may see something on our 64 acres we have yet to see.

For more information on Pinecote Pavilion reservations, call me at 601-799-2311 or email [nickie.smith@msstate.edu](mailto:nickie.smith@msstate.edu).



*-Nickie Smith, Event and Marketing Coordinator  
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

### THE GUM POND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT BRIDGE PROJECT



**Hans Herrmann** (above), associate professor of architecture at Mississippi State University, is learning just how good it feels to have something he has long visualized coming to life. No longer an idea on paper or in model form, this unique seventy-foot pedestrian bridge is the last major component of the Gum Pond Educational Exhibit. In spring 2018, Herrmann, along with **Tim Schauwecker** and **Bob Brzuszek**, MSU landscape construction and landscape architecture professors respectively, along with seven third-year students of architecture and fourteen landscape contracting students, worked with University engineers to finalize the design for the bridge which spans the Gum Pond headwater inlet. This structure completes the walking trail circling the pond excavated in 2010 by site contractor Daniel Broome through Five Star Restoration Grant funding. Year-end appeals to Crosby Arboretum members raised \$11,470 in donations for bridge construction. The bridge design has been studied as part of numerous MSU courses led by Professors Herrmann and Schauwecker. Bridge foundation excavation was performed by Prof. Brzuszek and Prof. Schauwecker and his landscape construction students, which in 2018 included Crosby Arboretum summer student intern **Nate Lambeth**.

Six MSU student interns were hired this summer to assist with the final phase stage of bridge construction thanks, to the generous contributions of Crosby Arboretum Foundation board members. The crew was led by **Terry Johnson** (front left) who was assisted by Arboretum volunteer **Frank Jackson** (seated, on Bobcat). The first group of interns (below, L to R), **Danielle Leclerq**, **Brandon Burton**, **Spurgeon Sanders**, and **John Spraberry**, are profiled in this news journal. They were followed by **Spencer Cummings** and **Ben Gunter**, who will be profiled in our Fall news journal.



*The 35' long poles were hoisted by chain with a mini trac hoe, steered along the path by the crew, and guided into the fabricated cradle.*



*Interns Ben Gunter and Spencer Cummings (L) standing on a test portion of the bridge's steel grating floor. Brandon Burton and Danielle Leclerq (R) are shown at work painting the iron supports.*



## PLANT PROFILE: *Salvia coccinea*



**Scarlet sage** is a high-performing native annual that is perennial in warmer climates. This plant re-seeds freely, and its small “offspring” are very easy to transplant to other areas in your landscape, making it an outstanding “passalong” species for any of your friends and family who claim they will kill everything they plant. The showy red blooms contain abundant nectar that will attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your garden from spring through fall. Scarlet sage grows to 3 to 4 feet tall and is stunning in a container or in the back of a garden bed. It has average water requirements but keep an eye on it wilting back in dry periods. This plant performs best in well-drained soils and full sun to part shade. It will appreciate some afternoon shade in our Deep South gardens. Pinch back the tips and deadhead the blooms to promote fuller growth and encourage repeat blooms. In the coastal plains, scarlet sage is found in sandy forests, roadsides and disturbed areas from South Carolina to Florida and west to Texas. USDA Zones 8 to 10.

## NEW! NATIVE PLANT DECK SALES!



We are pleased to offer a small selection of top-performing, low-maintenance native plants between our fall and spring sales. Crosby Arboretum “Green Team” volunteers have been hard at work with their propagating projects in the greenhouse over the past few months, so come check out this ongoing sale on the Visitor Center deck! The plants are mostly in small, easy-to-carry sizes such as 4” pots and one-gallon containers, to make your planting projects go quickly in summer temperatures. Start growing milkweed now to prepare for the spring monarch migration! We’ve included a plant profile for each species. Snap a picture of the profiles with your phone and take home to guide you in planting!

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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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 ID)	\$ 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



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY-  
EXTENSION

### The Crosby Arboretum

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Renewing?  Memberships are for one year.

# THE CROSBY ARBORETUM GUM POND BRIDGE PROJECT

## Meet our Mississippi State University Summer Interns!

*Get to know the first group of MSU architecture interns who worked on the Gum Pond Bridge Project for three weeks beginning in mid-May 2020. Ben Gunter (MSU landscape architecture) and Spencer Cummings (MSU architecture) started with the project in mid-July and will be profiled in the Fall Quarterly News Journal.*



*By Nickie Smith*



### **Brandon Burton**

Brandon is from Vicksburg, MS and is going into his 4<sup>th</sup> year in the MSU School of Architecture. This was Brandon's first time at The Crosby Arboretum. In fact, he said the only time he had been to Picayune was when he drove past on I-59.

Brandon began his Freshman year at Mississippi State University in chemical engineering. He really was 100% invested in this particular field. One day, on a walk to the architecture building, he took a look at what the students were doing, decided he liked it, and changed his major.

Brandon is in a program that will include a Master's in Landscape Architecture upon graduation. After graduating, he plans to work for a firm to gain experience and then take that experience and become a professor of architecture to share what's he's learned. While at MSU, Brandon has been a member of Alpha Rho Chi, the College of Architecture Art and Design Professional Fraternity. This group hosts talks presented by renowned professionals for students interested in real life experience. He holds the position of Worthy Scribe. He is also president of the Tau Sigma Delta honor society for architecture students. Outside of school, Brandon is an active youth leader at his church.

When asked about his perception of the project he commented that many don't realize how much effort goes into building a bridge, even a small one. They may look at this bridge and think, "Ehhh, that's not much", but there is an enormous amount of prep work, from draining the pond to filling in with dirt for the framing. Then it rains, and fills the pond up again! Sometimes all the pieces and parts don't come together at exactly the same time and you have to work through the situation. All in all, it was a great opportunity to have hands-on experience in a beautiful environment.



### **Danielle Leclercq**

Danielle is a 5<sup>th</sup> year architecture student. For the 2020-21 school year, she will move to Jackson where she will finish out the program. Danielle is a native of Picayune, MS and was also an Arboretum intern last summer.

Danielle's interest in architecture was sparked when she took a drafting class in high school. She went on to MSU, where she is the treasurer of Tau Sigma Delta honor society, a member of Alpha Rho Chi, and AIAS, the student version of AIA, the American Institute of Architects. Upon graduation, Danielle is open to moving anywhere to work with a firm that focuses on both residential and commercial structure design.

As this is Danielle's second time to intern at The Crosby Arboretum, we asked her what she enjoyed most about coming back. She said the staff 😊 and the Pinecote Pavilion. During Danielle's 2019 internship, she built the Rosen Pavilion model along with the virtual reality tour of the Rosen Pavilion. Over spring break, Danielle traveled to Washington DC to help set up the Unbuilt Crosby Arboretum exhibit at The Octagon at the Architect's Foundation. For information on the exhibit, visit <https://www.caad.msstate.edu/news/> and enter "Unbuilt Arboretum" in the search field.



### **Spurgeon Sanders**

Spurgeon is going into his 4<sup>th</sup> year in the MSU Architecture program and is from Madison, MS. This internship wasn't Spurgeon's first time at The Crosby Arboretum. As part of the team that worked on the Unbuilt Arboretum project, his first visit was to research the site and Pinecote structure. He visited a second time on a trip to study hurricane housing.

His early interest in architecture was gained through his family's business that produces custom drapes and hardware. He was exposed to beautiful homes and interiors and the process of creating unique and beautiful spaces for people, which nourished his artistic side. Spurgeon is still involved in the family business, Madison Lane, where he is the Creative Director of the retail side. After graduation, Spurgeon would like to work for a small firm before moving on to managing and owning his own firm.

At MSU, Spurgeon is the Superintendent of the Alpha Chi Ro Fraternity and the Gallery Coordinator of tau Sigma Delta. As a team member of the Unbuilt Arboretum Exhibit, Spurgeon got a better understanding of the architecture of Fay Jones and design of Ed Blake. While working on this project, rain delays have been the big issue. There are also a few issues when a project is planned a few years in advance so to move forward, there are unforeseen kinks that need to be worked out to respectfully keep the design while respecting the landscape. He's very excited to be leaving his mark on the same site as Fay Jones and Ed Blake.



### **John Spraberry**

John will be entering his 4<sup>th</sup> year in the MSU Architecture program in the fall. He is originally from Eupora, MS and his family now lives in Clarksville, TN. This is John's first time to work on a project through MSU Extension but not his first time to The Crosby Arboretum.

John's great-grandfather was a carpenter and it was watching him plan and build things that started his interest in architecture. He also holds a love for music and almost went that route, but architecture won. He would like to build his career in the Salt Lake City area.

At MSU, John is in the marching band playing the French Horn as well as in architecture programs with his peers. He was part of the team that

worked on the Unbuilt Arboretum Exhibit currently housed at The Octagon in Washington, D.C., which features the unbuilt architecture designed by Fay Jones to house The Crosby Arboretum's daily operations and to reflect its surrounding natural landscape. John is also working in an additional program to attain his Master's in Landscape Architecture and is interested in water management and flood mitigation.

John received the Trussel Travel Award which will allow him to travel and research buildings and structures throughout the world. With the current world climate, the project has been put on hold but he hopes to be able to move forward during the summer of 2021.