

# The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Spring 2008

## THE WILDLIFE GARDEN: AFTER THE STORM

How would you feel if you had to face Katrina and Rita every year? To evacuate, uncertain where on the long road away from the storm you'd find shelter and food. To live in exile. To return and find your home as you knew it gone. Every Gulf Coast resident who lived through August and September of 2005 has a story to tell. Every one remembers. No humane person would wish such death and destruction on another living creature. But they might as well.

How does a yellow warbler feel in early April after a grueling flight across the Gulf, when it descends from the sky to gorge on insects and replenish its fat stores, but finds a concrete parking lot and sterile Chinese evergreens instead of native vegetation that was there the year before? Of course, migratory birds don't think and feel the way humans do. They migrate because they're "compelled by a priceless bravery buried deep in their genes," says Scott Weidensaul in his book *Living in the Wind*. Many of them die during the crossing. What a dirty trick: to make it across, and starve to death anyway. Or to make it inland to ancestral nesting grounds and find forest leveled to make way for tract houses with lawns or converted to pine plantations. Birds that don't migrate are at risk, too. Cities and their suburbs are expanding into natural areas, erasing more and more essential habitat, like a storm surge from Katrina, but slow.



Birds need wild places with their intricate habitats and layers full of all manner of plant and animal life – swamps and savannas, hardwood forests and piney woods, prairies and meadows, coastal cheniers and beaches. We can't let those places disappear. We can make up in a small way for the losses so far by recreating patches of the natural past in our gardens. People lure cardinals and bluejays into their backyards with seed feeders; woodpeckers with suet; orioles and hummingbirds with nectar feeders. But birds like warblers, vireos, and flycatchers live almost completely on insects, gleaned from tree trunks or hawked from the air. Hummingbirds eat insects as well as nectar. Woodpeckers chisel them out of wood with their beaks. Thrushes and thrashers eat fruit and seeds, and forage for insects at ground level. For many people, "pest-free and neat" are big selling points in a plant. That means no caterpillars and bugs or messy fruit; little to offer birds but cover. Each plant evolved with a

*(continued on page two)*



Charlotte Seidenberg is author of *The New Orleans Garden: Gardening in the Gulf South* and *The Wildlife Garden: Planning Backyard Habitats* (available in our gift shop) published by University Press of Mississippi. Charlotte is an amateur gardener, a birdwatcher and a registered nurse, working as a telephonic medical case manager. She lives in Uptown New Orleans with her husband, artist Jean Seidenberg. (Images this page are vignettes taken from Jean's painting, the cover art for *The Wildlife Garden*.)



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 WILDLIFE GARDEN: AFTER THE STORM *(continued)*

myriad of creatures: vertebrates and invertebrates that live on or in some part of it, from its crown down to its deepest roots. If grown in the region where it's native, a plant will host that whole complex of creatures, come to live in or on it, feasting on its pollen, nectar, seeds, fruit, leaves, sap and on each other. Native plants will bring birds to and through our gardens, on loan from the wild.

After a natural disaster the land heals, vegetation re-grows; wildlife returns, and life goes on. But man is reversing the process. A fast food restaurant along I-10 comes to mind. Encircled by forest, the building and its parking lot sat on a mound of landfill that was sodded to its abrupt edge at the property line and "landscaped" with everywhere-in-the-world plants, like Indian hawthorn, ligustrum, petunias. From the edge, I could peer into the land's previous life: pine flatwood forest, with loblolly pine, sweetbay magnolia, sweetgum and red maple, dwarf palmetto, gallberry, wax myrtle, and huckleberries, blackberry vines. Calling birds, buzzing insects. Alive and like nowhere else in the world. One restaurant, but the next year there was another, and then a car dealership and a strip mall: a storm surge of cement, sealing the forest's grave.

What can you do to save the land, save the birds, save your region's identity? Include natives when you replant your storm-damaged yard: not just plants native to the U.S. or the south, but native to your immediate region. make your yard a stopover point for migratory birds headed north in the spring and south in the fall, and a refuge for year-round residents: provide cover, food, nest sites and water. Select flowers, shrubs, trees that will bloom and bear fruit each season. Grow evergreens for winter cover. Decrease your area of lawn. Grow an understory of ferns, perennials and shrubs. Add a birdbath or other water source. Never use insecticides in your garden; they will poison the birds as well as the bugs; if it helps, think of insects as bird food. Visit the Crosby Arboretum to learn what specific plants to grow and where to get them. Grow a garden that reflects and supports the rich natural history of your locale, and looks like that locale and no place else in the world. As evacuees in exile know: there's no place like home.

– *Charlotte Seidenberg*

***New and informative MSU Extension Service publications are now available in our Visitors Center, on backyard wildlife habitat, attracting birds to Mississippi gardens, and lists of native plants with a high value to birds and other wildlife.***

**Reservations:** Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311, ext. 101 to confirm all events and to make a reservation, seating is limited. Programs subject to change.

**Address:** 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466; P.O. Box 1639, Picayune, MS 39466

**E-mail contact:** drackett@ext.msstate.edu

**Hours of operation:** Wednesday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

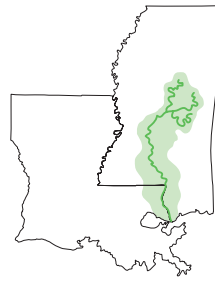
**Admission Fees:** Adults, \$4; children under 12, \$2; members free.

**Webpage:** [www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu](http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu). Lists programs and events, volunteer opportunities, arboretum and natural area information, and news updates.

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## PLANTS AT CROSBY ARBORETUM WITH SPRING INTEREST

<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>BOTANICAL NAME</i>	<i>CHARACTERISTIC</i>
MAYHAW	<i>Crataegus opaca</i>	Pinkish flowers, borne in clusters.
YELLOW JESSAMINE	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Vine with fragrant yellow tubular flowers.
RED STAR ANISE	<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	Deep maroon flowers; fragrant leaves.
LOUISIANA IRIS	<i>Iris fulva</i>	Large purple-hued flowers; at water's edge.
VIRGINIA WILLOW	<i>Itea virginica</i>	Long, white, drooping flower clusters.
MOUNTAIN LAUREL	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Clusters of pink umbrella-shaped flowers.
BIGLEAF MAGNOLIA	<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	Large leaves; large showy, fragrant flowers.
ORANGE FLOWERED AZALEA	<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>	Tubular orange/yellow flowers w/reddish tinge.
WILD AZALEA	<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	Tubular white/pink flowers; at water's edge.
YELLOW PITCHER PLANT	<i>Sarracenia alata</i>	Yellow nodding flowers; reddish veined leaves.
ELLIOT'S BLUEBERRY	<i>Vaccinium elliottii</i>	Pinkish bell-shaped flowers on green stems.
WHITE VIOLET	<i>Viola odorata</i> 'Alba'	Fragrant white flowers, dark green foliage.

### NEWS AND NOTES:

A new **Mississippi Master Naturalist Program** is being planned, to begin in May. This 5-6 week course will provide in-depth training in natural resource and wildlife management, and field trips will be taken to natural areas such as the Crosby Arboretum, with volunteer service in return. For more information, contact **Dr. Chris Boyd**, MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, at (228) 546-1025 or [cboyd@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:cboyd@ext.msstate.edu).

Make plans now to watch **GardenStory**, a ten-part public television series that will begin broadcast on April 5, focusing on how gardens transform our lives and our communities. More information and a schedule is available at [www.gardenstory.org](http://www.gardenstory.org). Of note is an outstanding episode on the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Don't miss Gayna B. Veltman's LSU thesis "**A Louisiana Plantswoman: Margie Yates Jenkins**" (of Jenkins Nursery in Amite, LA); located on the Web with any search engine. The thesis includes enjoyable oral histories by Ed Blake, John Mayronne, Dr. Neil Odenwald and others.

Former Crosby Arboretum curator **Bob Brzuszek** received numerous awards in 2007, including the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Award of Recognition, Mississippi State University's Most Outstanding Faculty Member Award, and an Excellence in Design Award during the Fall Garden Show at New Orleans Botanic Garden.

### FOURTH JEAN CHISHOLM LINDSEY LECTURE IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

**Wednesday, May 21**

**11 a.m.**

**Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library,  
Goodyear Boulevard, Picayune**

The fourth **Jean Lindsey Lecture in Landscape Design Series** will be presented by **Genevieve Trimble**, President of the New Orleans Botanical Garden Foundation in City Park, and **Paul Soniat**, Director of the New Orleans Botanical Garden, who will speak on "The Birth and Rebirth of the New Orleans Botanical Garden." Lunch to follow on Pinecote Pavilion. If interested, please call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SUMMER NATURE CAMP (Kids)

**Wednesday - Saturday**

**June 11 through 14**

**9 to 11 a.m.**

Bring the kids to enjoy this four-day nature camp. Children will learn about nature with fun hands-on lessons, games and activities. Your child will leave camp with an increased appreciation and excitement for nature. Recommended ages 6 through 12. Pre-registration is required; \$25 for members' children; \$35 for children of non-members.

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

March 2008 - May 2008

## March 2008

### **WILDLIFE DAY (Kids)**

**Thursday, March 27**

**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Children will be thrilled to see the array of exhibitors displaying both live and preserved animals, while learning how to protect and maintain wildlife. **Admission is free!** Space is limited so please register by March 21.

### **SPRING PLANT SALE**

**Sat. March 29 & Sun. March 30**

**Sat./Sun. 9 to 10 a.m. Members Only Sale  
General Public Sale – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Grab a cart and choose from a variety of wonderful trees, shrubs and perennials for your home landscape, and 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.

## April 2008

### **GARDENING WITH WILDFLOWERS (Adults)**

**Saturday, April 5**

**10 to 11 a.m.**

Research has shown that using native wildflowers in the home landscape can attract butterflies, hummingbird, and the eye of an occasional neighbor! **Marc Pastorek**, owner of **Meadowmakers.com**, will give tips on growing wildflowers and design, installation and maintenance. Free to arboretum members; \$4 for non-members. Please register by April 3.

### **FLY TYING DEMONSTRATION (Family)**

**Saturday, April 5**

**1 to 2 p.m.**

**John Mayer** returns for his popular workshop! Learn how to enhance your fly fishing experience and knowledge by learning to tie your own flies. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by April 3.

### **STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM (Family)**

**Sunday, April 6**

**1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Join us as we celebrate the history of the old strawberry farm on the lovely Pinecote Pavilion. Ice cream, fresh strawberries and Picayune Frog Lemonade will be served. **Admission is free** and open to the public!

### **TRAIL DEDICATION – DR. WILLIAM G. CIBULA**

**Saturday, April 12**

**10 to 11:30 a.m.**

Please join us for the official opening of our newest trail, named in memory of **Bill Cibula**, well-known Southeast mycophile, long-time friend of the Arboretum, and leader of many inspiring mushroom forays here. We are planning a guided mushroom walk following the path dedication.

### **CONEFLOWERS & OTHER WILDFLOWERS**

**Friday, April 18 (Adults)**

**10 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Dr. Gary Bachman**, Extension Horticulturist with the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, will discuss native coneflower species available for use in South Mississippi, how to prolong the flowering season, and how *you* can create your own unique coneflower hybrids. After his presentation, Gary will lead the class on a walk through the arboretum to search for wildflowers in bloom. Free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by April 16.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES SEMINAR (Adults)**

**Thursday, April 24**

**1:30 to 3 p.m.**

**John Huddleston**, former President of the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, will tell what makes a plant a dangerous or noxious invasive, why these plants present a real threat to our native plant communities and natural biodiversity, what is being done to control them, and how you can help. After his talk, John will conduct a walk to seek out invasive species lurking in the arboretum. Free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by April 23.

### **SPRING VOLUNTEER MEETINGS**

**Saturday, April 5 and**

**Saturday, May 10**

**9 a.m.**

The Crosby Arboretum is always searching for volunteers to assist with guided tours, visitor orientation, trail maintenance, gardening projects, clerical work, and special projects. All are invited to attend these meetings. For more information, call Robin Veerkamp at (601) 799-2311 Ext. 104.

# Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

March 2008 - May 2008

**Presentation by Bob Brzuszek  
"THE CROSBY ARBORETUM:  
A TWENTY-FIVE YEAR PERSPECTIVE"  
Saturday, April 12 – 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
Senior Center of South Pearl River Co.**

**Bob Brzuszek**, Crosby Arboretum curator 1990-2003, will present a retrospective of the arboretum. (The Senior Center is right before the arboretum, on El Patch Parkway, turn at Kobe Grill). Admission is free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by April 10.

**SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK (Adults)  
Friday, April 25  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Join the Senior Curator on a wander through the arboretum grounds to search out and identify what is currently in bloom. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by April 24.

**PAINT & PLANT A POT (Kids)  
Saturday, April 26  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Children will learn about herbs while painting pots, then will plant them and take home their own herb. If desired, they can also help plant and label herbs in the Childrens' Garden. Dress children in old clothes, as we will be using acrylic paints. Parent or guardian must be present with each child or group of children. Admission is \$5 for arboretum members and \$7 for non-members. Please register by April 24.

**May 2008  
ALL ABOUT BUTTERFLIES! (Adults)  
Saturday, May 3  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Dr. David Held**, Extension and Research Entomologist, MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, will discuss how to provide the ideal environment to attract butterflies, as well as a discussion of the species most often seen in Mississippi. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by May 1.

**PLEASE NOTE:** When attending our educational programs, please use our Visitors (front) parking area, in order to keep our rear entrance open for service, deliveries, and emergencies.

**ALL ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS! (Adults)  
Saturday, May 3  
1 to 2 p.m.**

**Jim Bell**, federal and state licensed hummingbird and bird bander, and member of the Hummer/Bird Study Group, Inc. will "tell all" about hummingbirds. Jim will cover the species found in Mississippi, and great plants to attract them. He will also discuss hummingbird banding, and the type of information gathered. Free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by May 1.

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN ART (Kids)  
Saturday, May 10  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Children will design butterfly garden ornaments. If desired, they can help plant and label the new butterfly plants in the Childrens Garden. Each child will receive a butterfly i.d. card, and a list of great plants to attract them. A parent or guardian must be present with each child or group of children. Admission, \$4 for members; \$6 for non-members. Please register by May 8.

**YOGA AT PINECOTE PAVILLION (Adults)  
Saturday, May 10  
1 to 2:30 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 limited to 16. Yoga mats will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own; please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Free to members; \$5 for non-members; please register by May 7.

**PLANT SWAP (Adults)  
Saturday, May 24  
9 to 11 a.m.**

Have too much of one plant and want to trade it for something different? Come to our plant swap that will be held in the Visitor's Center parking lot. **Admission is free.**

**INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS AND BIRDING  
Saturday, May 31 (Family)  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Adam Rohnke**, Extension Associate with the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, will cover birding basics and biology for those who seek to better understand birds. Adam will lead a short birding walk around the arboretum following his talk. Free for members and \$4 for non-members. Please register by May 30.

