

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Winter 2005

28

Celebrate Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a day dedicated to planting trees and increasing awareness of the importance of trees. This special day began in Nebraska on April 10, 1872 through the efforts of Julius Sterling Morton. Morton, a prominent figure in agriculture and editor of Nebraska's first newspaper, held a deep appreciation for nature. Morton advocated tree planting through his newspaper columns by stressing the value of trees as providing protection from the sun, wind breaks, sources for fuel and building materials, and improving overall aesthetic quality. In January of 1872, Morton proposed to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture that a special day, called 'Arbor Day', be set aside for tree planting. As a result, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in the state of Nebraska in 1885. Other states soon adopted their own Arbor Day holidays and in 1970 President Richard Nixon adopted national Arbor Day on the last Friday in April. This event has also spread internationally with some variation. For instance, Japan celebrates 'Greening Week', Israel 'The New Year's Days of Trees', Korea 'The Tree-loving Week', Yugoslavia 'The Reforestation Week', Iceland 'The Students' Afforestation Day', and India 'The National Festival of Tree Planting.'

Although the last Friday of April is the official Arbor Day, state Arbor Day holidays fall during the time of prime tree-planting weather and therefore vary. Mississippi celebrates Arbor Day on the 2nd Friday in February, while our Louisiana neighbors celebrate this day on the 3rd Friday in February. Please take the time to celebrate this special day by planting a tree or two in areas that need it most. Establish partnerships with local leaders such as teachers, business owners, and city officials to hold a special tree planting in an area of your community.



Plant Longleaf Pines for Arbor Day This Year!

Given the right growing conditions, longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris* Miller) can reach 80-100 feet in height and 2-2 1/2 feet in diameter. These trees once dominated the southern flatwoods and early settlers herded cattle through these towering trees. Longleaf pine was a significant source for lumber, construction timbers, and naval stores because of the strong, heavy, and durable wood it produces. Longleaf pines grow in sandy soils and seedlings require open canopies to flourish. These pines grow much slower than other southern yellow pines. After the seed germinates it sits in the 'grass stage' for up to 7 years. At this stage, the seedling is gathering and storing nutrients for growth by the production of a tap root. The tree then enters the 'bolting stage' where it starts elongating at a faster pace.

Welcome New Crosby Arboretum Board Members!



There are some new faces among the Crosby Arboretum Board! Welcome, Suzan Morris Wilson, David Spector, Ruth Cook, Penny Wallin, and Bobbie Lou Green to the arboretum board. We are delighted to have these people as a part of the Crosby Arboretum family. Shown left to right are: Lynn Crosby Gammill, Yvette Rosen, Ruth Cook, Patricia Knight, David Spector, Bobbie Lou Green, Suzan Morris Wilson, and Tom Rhea Phillips.

North Savanna Loop Complete!

After several set backs due to periods of rain, last year's Annual Appeal trail (North Savanna Loop) was finally completed in September. Crosby Arboretum Burn Manager, Terry Johnson and his crew worked diligently to complete the trail on time. On November 6, arboretum board members participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for this new trail. If you haven't been by the arboretum lately, come walk our newest trail that forms a loop around the North Savanna!



Crosby Arboretum board member, Suzan Morris Wilson, opens the new North Savanna Loop.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

January-February 2005

January 2005

Good Fire, Bad Fire (Children)

Friday, January 7

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

In this activity, children will examine the role of fires in forest ecosystems. They will learn about the elements fires need to survive, the significance of natural and human-induced fires, and the difference between beneficial and destructive fires. Participants will play a game that simulates how trees can be destroyed by fire, how they can be protected, and how they grow back. Admission is \$1 for children under 12 and free for members as well as parent/guardians. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.

Fire Ecology Seminar (Adults)

Saturday, January 15

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fire plays an important role in shaping plant communities. Senior Curator, Melinda Lyman will give a presentation on the benefits fire has on plant communities and Burn Manager, Terry Johnson will present on burning techniques and the environmental variables that must be considered before burning. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.

Prescribed Burn Demonstration (Adults)

Saturdays, January 22 & 29

10 a.m.

Crosby Arboretum, Burn Manager extraordinaire, Terry Johnson will be demonstrating the techniques involved in prescribed burns. Wear old clothes and boots, dress for the weather, and bring a lunch. Program available only if environmental conditions are favorable for receiving a burn permit. Admission is \$4. Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.



February

Arbor Day Plant Sale

Saturday, February 5

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Members only

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. General Public

Get ready for Arbor Day by choosing from our selection of native trees for your yard. Free admission.

Reservations: Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311, ext. 21 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

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

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

Email: crosbyar@datastar.net

Crosby Arboretum Webpage: This website includes upcoming programs and events, volunteer opportunities, natural area information, and news updates.

<http://msstate.edu/dept/crec/camain.html>

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

January-February 2005

February Continued

Prescribed Burn Demonstration (Adults)

Saturdays, February 12 & 19

10 a.m.

Terry Johnson, Crosby Arboretum Burn Manager extraordinaire, will be demonstrating the techniques involved in prescribed burns. Wear old clothes and boots, dress for the weather, and bring a lunch. Program available only if environmental conditions are favorable for receiving a burn permit. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$4 for non-members. Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.

Sweetheart Nature Cards (Children)

Sunday, February 13

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Want to make your valentine's day card for your sweetie special and unique? Then come to the arboretum and make a card out of things found in nature. All materials will be provided. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$2 for non-members. A parent/guardian must be present with each child or group of children. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.

The Nature of Plant Pigments (Children)

Friday, February 18

10 a.m. to Noon

Plants are green because of an efficient light harvesting pigment called chlorophyll, but there are many other accessory pigments found in leaves that are masked by chlorophyll. These pigments are carotenoids (red, orange, and yellow pigments) and anthocyanins (red, blue, and purple pigments). In this activity, children will learn about the location and expression of these pigments in different parts of plants and conduct an experiment where they will observe the nature of

these pigments. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$2 for non-members. A parent/guardian must be present with each child or group of children. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.

Exoskeleton Exploration (Children)

Saturday, February 26

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Insects have skeletons on the outside of their bodies, while other animals such as lizards, fish, and humans have skeletons on the inside of their bodies. In this activity, children will learn about the structure of insect exoskeletons and compare them with skeletons of other animals. Then they will assemble and paint a wood puzzle of a praying mantis that resembles its exoskeleton. All materials will be provided; limit 12 children. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$3 for non-members. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.



Coming This Spring.....

Spring Native Plant Sale (March)

Wildlife Day (March)

Earth Day Celebration (April)

Strawberries & Cream (April)

Native Azalea Sale (May)

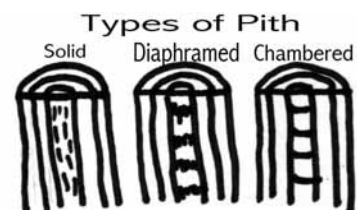
Identifying Deciduous Trees

It is often difficult to identify a deciduous tree during the winter since the easiest characters used are leaf patterns, texture, color, shape, and sometimes odor and taste. One of the first characteristics most plant taxonomic keys will ask if the leaves are alternate or opposite. To the novice, this can be difficult to determine when there are no leaves present. Close observations, however, can give us identifying clues.

An easy way to determine leaf pattern is to look at the leaf scars and at the way in which the twigs are arranged. Trees are filled with repeated patterns if you look closely. Trees with alternate leaves will have leaf scars and twigs that are arranged in an alternate pattern. The same is true for trees with opposite leaves. The shape of leaf scars can also determine the tree species. Leaf scars can be shaped like crescents, shields, triangular, v-shaped, u-shaped as well as many other characteristic patterns. Embedded in the leaf scars are bundle scars (traces of the vascular bundle that were connected to the leaf). The arrangement of bundle scars is another identifying feature. Some trees have leaf stipules (small leaf-like appendages found at the base of the leaf) and, like leaves, these structures leave scars. Most are very inconspicuous, but some such as *Magnolia* species

completely encircle the twig.

Yet another characteristic used in identifying deciduous trees is the characteristics of the buds. The shape and texture of the scales surrounding dormant buds vary among genera. The location of the buds also gives an indication to the type of tree. Lenticels, small slit-like or corky protuberances that function in aeration, sometimes provide identifying features based on configuration, color, and size. The presence of thorns, spines, or prickles is yet another way to identify a deciduous tree. Few trees bear these structures and therefore make it easier to narrow down the identification. For example, *Crataegus* species (Mayhaws) have twigs armed with thorns. The final consideration used in the identification of deciduous trees is the pith composition. The pith is the central portion of tissue in the twig and can be observed by making an angular cut in the twig. Piths can be hollow, solid, or chambered. Identifying deciduous trees without the presence of leaves is not as difficult as it seems if you know what to look for.





The Crosby Arboretum Staff
 Melinda R. Lyman, Senior Curator
 Robin Veerkamp, Volunteer Coordinator/Gift Shop
 Manager
 Kim Johnson, Customer Service/Memberships
 Terry Johnson, Burn Manager/Maintenance
 Jarrett Hurlston, Maintenance

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Membership Application

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed. For more information call: (601) 799-2311

_____	Student (send student i.d.)	\$	10.00
_____	Individual		25.00
_____	Family		35.00
_____	Donor		100.00
_____	Business		100.00
_____	Patron		250.00
_____	Benefactor		1,000.00

 Name

 Address

 City

 State

 Zip

Renewing?

Memberships are for one year.

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 (601) 799-2311