

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Fall 2012

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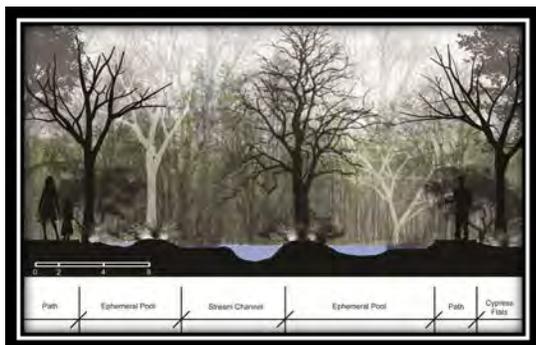
Step Into the Forested Stream Exhibit

By Robert Brzuszek, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University

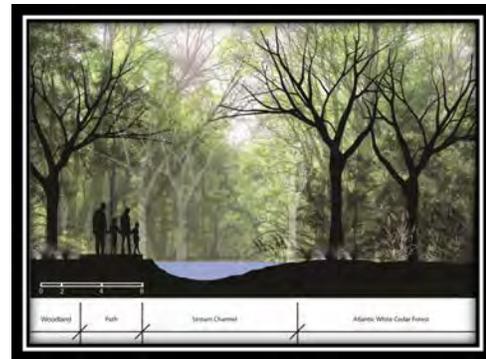
Imagine that you are sitting next to a shady stream. The air is heavy with the scent of moss, and shiny green damselflies dance between shafts of sunlight. The creek water is dark and sluggish, yet its surface shimmers with the reflection of silver-trunked trees. But what if there was no water here? Could a dry gully still hold value as an important wetland corridor?

The answer is a resounding yes. Ephemeral streams (also called intermittent) have water that flows only when it rains, and these waterways may be dry for most of the year. Small drainage swales such as these are all around us, even in our own backyards, and play an enormous role in affecting the health of our local rivers and streams. Ephemeral streams serve as important wildlife habitats, filter sediments and pollution, store flood water, recharge groundwater, and serve as travel routes for many forms of wildlife. Rainwater that flows from your backyard most likely runs into a larger drainage swale that forms the community stormwater system. Somewhere, at the end of a pipe, all of this rainwater empties into the nearest river. Just imagine all of the oil, gasoline, lawn fertilizer and waste that wash from our streets and properties into nearby streams. We don't often see the water pollution that happens around us because it's usually hidden in underground pipes. But what if we could see our impacts?

The proposed Forested Stream Exhibit at Pinecote is designed to be a journey along a small wooded stream. Approximately 1000 feet in length, the new waterway will connect the GumPond Exhibit to the existing Slough and Beaver Pond Exhibits. Importantly, the Forested Stream Exhibit will be the last constructed major wetland exhibit as designated by Pinecote's master plan.



Swamp Forest Exhibit. (image by Odie Avery)



Swamp Forest Exhibit. (image by Odie Avery)

Last year, I taught a class of landscape architecture graduate students that studied the exhibit design. We visited and researched small streams in Pearl River County and produced a detailed design for the proposed stream corridor. We were fortunate to work with local landscape architect Robert Poore and representatives from an internationally-known landscape architecture firm, Jones and Jones of Seattle, Washington. Last summer, I was able to visit Pinecote and stake the proposed stream corridor and pathway locations.

Director Pat Drackett and the Crosby Arboretum Foundation worked hard to secure a Five Star Restoration grant to fund the construction of the exhibit, which is scheduled to begin within the next year. Soon you will be able to experience the new stream exhibit, whether it is full of water or not. Small bridges will cross the stream and offer a variety of viewpoints to see how the creek interacts with the land. The pathways will guide visitors through a variety of wetland-related habitats and will be interpreted through pathway signage. The stream exhibit will provide new plant community exhibits to explore, such as the proposed white cedar swamp forest.

Since coming to teach at the Mississippi State campus nearly a decade ago, I have been able to travel to some of the best new gardens and landscapes in the nation. I can say from experience that The Crosby Arboretum, MSUES is one of the finest examples of ecological design in the arboreta world. The Forested Stream Exhibit will enhance the Arboretum's abilities to teach visitors about the important values of forested wetlands. It will also provide poetic moments of just how beautiful these ephemeral wetlands can be.

The recent construction of the new wetlands exhibit was made possible by a grant through the Five Star Restoration program, administered by Southern Company in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



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:

Exciting things are unfolding in the Gum Pond Exhibit. Over the summer, an interpretive signage kiosk designed to architect Fay Jones' specifications was installed, made possible through annual appeal funds from members. Volunteer Paul Breland worked diligently with Terry Johnson and Jarrett Hurlston to clear and prepare the area for the kiosk, fabricated locally by Ricky Martin. Concrete footers were formed, and the crew installed the kiosk after a coat of primer and paint by Terry. Volunteer Rick Enkoji painted the kiosk signage board and assisted Terry with its cutting and installation. Ten wooden interpretive signs focused on gum pond ecology developed by MSU landscape architecture professor Bob Brzuszek were installed along the Gum Pond trail. Summer volunteer intern Colin Johnson, a zoology student home for the summer from Delaware Valley College in Pennsylvania, assisted with the sign installation. Colin was one of three summer interns who provided assistance with educational projects. He educated Arboretum visitors about the reptiles, amphibians and fish found on the site, and identified and inventoried our wildlife for creating several informational handouts.

This is the third year we have received assistance from the Hancock County School District's teacher intern program. Teachers Ann Wainwright and Kerri Farmer helped to develop student activities that will be used by visiting school groups on Arboretum field trips. Kerri also helped compile information about our trees for use by visitors, highlighting tree identification, historical uses, and landscape value. Upcoming volunteer projects include plant propagation and improvements to the Children's Garden area. If you are interested, please contact Richelle Stafne at Extension 101.

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



Local teacher, Ann Wainwright, volunteered her time assisting with Summer Nature Camp in June and helping to develop educational activities. (image by R. Stafne)



Vocal frog near the visitor center at The Crosby Arboretum. (Image by R. Stafne)

Senior Curator's Corner:

With fall just around the corner, I seem to have survived my first summer on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Each changing season brings new interest within the Arboretum, whether it be blooming flowers, flitting butterflies or slithering snakes along the paths. The sounds of the Arboretum are always impressive. Frogs are my favorite noisemakers here, but the cicadas, birds, grasshoppers and crickets also make an impressive native orchestra. I invite you to come out to the Arboretum, find a quiet place to sit, close your eyes and enjoy a front row seat to their latest performance.

If you haven't checked out the website lately, you might give it a peek to see things I have updated. The Crosby Arboretum News Journal archives are available for viewing or download back to the first issue of 1983. On the front page, if you click "Visit the Arboretum", then "Plants" and finally "Bloom Times", you can now view and print off the entire Bloom Guide or Plant List in one document. From the front page of the website you can access our Wordpress Blog, our Twitter account, our Facebook page, and our Youtube Channel. Did you know you can sign up to follow our blog? On our blog page, just look for "Follow Blog via Email". You will get an email each time a new entry is posted. The Crosby Arboretum is also on Google +, so if you use Google search, you can "add" us to your circle. As of July, I have transferred our email contacts over to listservs. This should reduce errors and duplications. If you find you are receiving the same email updates more than once, you may be in more than one of our listservs (for example: general public, schools or MSU employees). Just let me know if you think you are in more than one or would like to update your email address.

*- Richelle Stafne, Senior Curator
The Crosby Arboretum, MSU Extension Service*

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

September – October 2012

SEPTEMBER 2012

MUSHROOM WALK (Family) **Saturday, September 8** **10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Bring your collecting basket, and join **Dr. Juan Mata**, Assistant Professor in Biology from the University of South Alabama, who will return this summer to treat us to a guided mushroom walk of the Arboretum grounds. His students have called him "the best biology teacher in the south." Learn about fungi's fascinating ecology, taxonomy, and relationship to mankind. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by September 7.

BUGFEST (Family Event!) **Friday, Sept. 21, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.** **Saturday, Sept. 22, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Bring the family for a two-day extravaganza of buggy events! Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is open to insect collecting by school and homeschool groups (groups over 20 persons must call to pre-register for an arrival time). Students, \$2. No charge for teachers, chaperones, or bus drivers until 6 p.m. Collecting continues from 2 to 6 p.m.; homeschool groups and family groups will find this an excellent time period for more concentrated collecting and a greater opportunity for individual assistance. An insect I.D. and mounting station will be open for the entire event on Pinecote Pavilion. Friday 6 to 8 p.m., children will enjoy crafts and games at the Buggy Midway! At dusk, night collecting activities begin, using lighted sheets to draw insects. **Bring a flashlight or headlamp!** On Saturday morning, the Midway is open 10:00 a.m. to noon. All day Saturday, enjoy on-going live insect demonstrations, collections, pet bugs and exhibits. Please visit our website at www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu to download the insect collecting manual available on the Arboretum's program calendar page. Friday after 6 p.m., and all day Saturday, cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Please Note Change: Arboretum volunteer **FRIDAY** meetings for fall: Sept. 7, Oct. 12, and Nov. 2. Meet in the mobile by the greenhouse at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Richelle Stafne, at (601) 799-2311 Ext. 101 or via email at rstafne@ext.msstate.edu. Can't make the meetings? No problem. Just contact me and we will work with your schedule.

FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Fri/Sat Sept. 28 & 29 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Members Admitted at 9:00 a.m. Fri/Sat

Grab a cart and choose from a wide variety of native trees and shrubs for your home landscape. 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.

Arboretum December Events:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Winter Sparrow Banding Field Walk, Dec. 1, 9-11 am
Wildlife Ornaments (Kids), Dec. 1, 1-2 pm
Arboretum Open House, Dec. 8, 10 am -1 pm

OCTOBER 2012

PROJECT LEARNING TREE WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 13 (Teachers)
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Project Learning Tree workshop - one of the oldest and most successful environmental education programs in the world. PLT activities are unbiased, interdisciplinary, fun, hands-on lesson plans, based on sound science. The goal is to "teach students HOW to think NOT WHAT to think about environmental issues." For more information, see www.plt.org. Includes the 96-lesson-plan, 400-page "**PLT Pre-K-8 Activity Guide.**" High School teachers will also receive two of PLT's five Secondary Education Modules. PLT has a New early childhood education book that comes with a music CD. Early childhood teachers will receive that material. **TEACHERS JUST NEED TO BRING A BROWN-BAG LUNCH.** THIS IS A FREE WORKSHOP for all counties in Mississippi, courtesy of a DEQ grant. 0.6 CEU credits available – cost is \$10.



The Annual Piney Woods Heritage Festival offers visitors a chance to see, hear, taste, learn, and participate in all sorts of crafts and activities from the Piney Woods region. Join us this year for the 10th annual event. Fun for the whole family! (images by R. Stafne)

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

October – November 2012

LEARN THE ART OF BONSAI

Saturday, October 20 (Adults)
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Patrick LaNasa, Co-Founder of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society, will conduct a hands-on bonsai workshop. Participants will develop a real beginning bonsai from selected nursery stock. The cost to members is \$30, non-members \$35. **Sign up early** as the class is limited to 12 persons, ages 16 and up. Materials list will be provided.

PAINTED PUMPKINS (Kids)

Saturday, October 27
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Design a painted pumpkin to add to your fall décor! Families will use natural materials and a variety of props to personalize their pumpkin in this program with Director **Pat Drackett** and other assistants. One pumpkin will be provided per person; however, you are welcome to bring more pumpkins for decorating. Members' children, \$4, non-members' children, \$6. Register by Thursday October 25.

YOGA AT PINECOTE PAVILION

Saturday, October 27 (Adults)
1:00 to 2:00 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 is limited to 16. Yoga mats will be provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Free for members; non-members \$5. Register by October 26.

NOVEMBER 2012

FALL FIELD WALK: NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE

Saturday, November 3 (Family)
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Join Director **Pat Drackett** for a field walk through the Exhibits to discuss plants growing in these habitats and how you can use them in your home landscape. Learn how to select plant material based on your property's site conditions. Free to Arboretum members; \$5 for non-members. Please register by November 2.

GIRL SCOUT ENVIRONMENTAL BADGES DAY

Saturday, November 10 (Girl Scouts)
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Crosby Arboretum will offer 2-hour programs for Girl Scouts working on environmental badges. Daisy scouts will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Cadet scouts will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Scouting groups may picnic before or after program times on the grounds as part of their visit. Program fees for Scouts and siblings is \$10 per participant. Scout leaders and parent chaperones are free. Maximum number per group is 20 participants. All materials provided. Contact Girl Scouts of Greater MS to register at [228-864-7215](tel:228-864-7215) or register online at gsgms.org.

PINEY WOODS HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Friday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Schools)
Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Family)

Celebrate the early days of the Piney Woods in this **10th** annual festival with exhibits and demonstrations of traditional skills such as blacksmithing, quilting, spinning, basket-making, and more. Friday open to preregistered school groups, \$2 per child; free to teachers/chaperones, and bus drivers. Saturday admission adults \$5, children \$2.

Reservations: Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311, to confirm all events and to make program reservations, as seating is limited. Programs are subject to change.

Physical Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1639, Picayune, MS 39466

E-mail Contact: rstafne@ext.msstate.edu

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

2012 Admission Fees: Adults, \$5; Seniors (over 55), \$4; Children under 12, \$2; Members, free admission to grounds and programs.

Webpage: www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu. Lists programs and events, volunteer opportunities, Arboretum and Natural Area information, and news updates.

For more information, or to register, please call the Arboretum at (601) 799-2311. Membership is \$40 for families, \$30 individual; \$15 students. The Crosby Arboretum is located in Picayune, Mississippi, off I-59 Exit 4, on Ridge Road (between Wal-Mart and I-59). Follow signs to the Arboretum. Please park in our Visitors Parking lot and enter the site at the ticket booth. Follow the Arrival Journey (woodland path) to the Visitor Center. Those needing special assistance may choose to enter via our Service Entrance across from The Cycle Shop on Ridge Road. Please let us know if you require special assistance so that we may expect you.

Stay connected with the Crosby Arboretum!



Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status.

Volunteer Needs for Fall:

We will need volunteers to assist with the Fall Plant Sale, Piney Woods Heritage Festival, maintenance of the Children's/Butterfly Gardens and clean-up of the Arboretum nursery. We rely on the hard work and generosity of our volunteers. Call Richelle to find out how you can help, 601-799-2311 ex. 101 or rstafne@ext.msstate.edu.



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 Edward L. Blake, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

By Robert Brzuszek, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University

Ed Blake (or some may remember as ‘Ned’) was the Crosby Arboretum’s first Director and Master Planner of Pinecote from 1984 to 1994. It was through his vision and leadership that resulted in much of what we experience at the Crosby Arboretum today. Sadly, Ed passed away from a heart attack in 2010 at the age of 63. To commemorate Ed’s nationally-recognized contributions at the Crosby Arboretum and elsewhere, we have initiated a student scholarship in his memory at Mississippi State University. The Edward L. Blake, Jr. Memorial Scholarship will annually recognize and reward students in landscape architecture that display excellence in ecological design in their coursework. His wonderful friends and colleagues have generously donated \$10,000 so far, and our goal is to reach \$25,000 to fund the scholarship. If you have contributed to this worthy cause—thank you. If you would like to make a donation in Ed’s name, please send checks made out to Mississippi State University Foundation, P.O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762-6149. Please note that your contribution is for the Edward L. Blake, Jr. Endowed Scholarship. All gifts should be considered 100% tax deductible and will be properly receipted by the MSU Foundation, Inc.



Eupatorium rotundifolium, roundleaf eupatorium, November 2011 at the Arboretum. (image by R. Stafne)

PLANT PROFILE: Roundleaf eupatorium

The Crosby Arboretum currently has two species of eupatorium. This quarter we profile roundleaf eupatorium (*Eupatorium rotundifolium*). We find a clue to the taxonomic character with the species name which essential means “round leaf.” Also commonly called roundleaf thoroughwort or boneset, this herbaceous perennial is one of our fall blooming native plants. A member of the Asteraceae family, roundleaf eupatorium can be found in open/cleared woodlands and savannas (such as we have here at the Arboretum) where it produces white flowers from July-September. This plant is also a pollination source for native bees.

Did you know you can sign-up on our blog to receive email alerts when a new blog is posted?



Arboretum volunteer, Rick Enkoji, works hard to maintain the Children’s Garden. (image by R. Stafne)

PLANTS AT THE ARBORETUM WITH FALL INTEREST

Short aster (*Aster shortii*)

Rayless goldenrod (*Bigelovia nudata*)

Boltonia (*Boltonia diffusa*)

White alder/Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)

Roundleaf thoroughwort (*Eupatorium rotundifolium*)

St. John’s Wort (*Hypericum brachyphyllum*)

Comfort root/Pineland hibiscus (*Hibiscus aculeatus*)

Yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris iridifolia*)

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Floating primrose willow (*Ludwigia peploides*)

Cow lily (*Nuphar luteum*)

Winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*)

For detailed information, and photographs for the above plants and other native plants found in our Exhibits, visit www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu to search the Crosby Arboretum Native Plant Database, hosted by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (www.wildflower.org). A printable comprehensive plant species list for the Arboretum is also available.

LOUISIANA SUPER PLANTS INCLUDE NATIVES

By Dr. Allen Owings, *Professor of Horticulture, LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station*

The LSU AgCenter has a relatively new plant promotion and recommendation program, called **Louisiana Super Plants**. This program markets specific plants to home gardeners each spring and fall. Several great natives have been included in the program thus far. This fall, sweetbay magnolias are a Louisiana Super Plant.

Sweetbay magnolias are native to a large portion of the eastern and southeastern United States. They are very common in the coastal regions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and are found in association with swamp red maple (*Acer*) and titi (*Cyrilla*). These magnolias perform well under a wide range of soil and planting conditions – their native habitat is swamp, bog, pond or sandy stream areas but they grow best in fertile, moist, well drained silty loam soil. A slightly acid soil is preferred.

Louisiana Super Plants also shares a native with the Mississippi Medallion program - Henry's Garnet virginia sweetspire.



Sweetbay magnolia (Magnolia virginiana). (image by P. Drackett)



Colin Johnson , summer intern and zoology major from Delaware Valley College, worked at the arboretum documenting wildlife. (image by R. Stafne)



Thank you to those Members who have opted to receive their Quarterly News Journal *electronically* rather than via mail. To receive your copy electronically, please send your name and email address to kimj@ext.msstate.edu or call 601-799-2311, ext. 103.

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.

Please address correspondence to: **Richelle Stafne**, Editor
 rstafne@ext.msstate.edu
 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 student i.d.)	\$ 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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Renewing? Memberships are for one year.



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Picayune, MS 39466-1639

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