

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Spring 2014

28.2

Author Dr. Doug Tallamy: “Landscape for Life”

Chances are, you have never thought of your garden - indeed, of all of the space on your property - as a wildlife preserve that represents the last chance we have for sustaining plants and animals that were once common throughout the U.S. But that is exactly the role our suburban landscapes are now playing and will play even more in the near future. If this is news to you, it's not your fault. We were taught from childhood that gardens are for beauty; they are a chance to express our artistic talents, to have fun with and relax in. And, whether we like it or not, the way we landscape our properties is taken by our neighbors as a statement of our wealth and social status. But no one has taught us that we have forced the plants and animals that evolved in North America (our nation's biodiversity) to depend more and more on human-dominated landscapes for their continued existence. We have always thought that biodiversity was happy somewhere out there “in nature;” in our local woodlot, or perhaps our state and national parks. We have heard nothing about the rate at which species are disappearing from our neighborhoods, towns, counties, and states. Even worse, we have never been taught how vital biodiversity is for our *own* well-being.

Biodiversity losses are a clear sign that our own life-support systems are failing. The ecosystems that support us - that determine the carrying capacity of the earth and our local spaces - are run by biodiversity. It is biodiversity that generates oxygen and clean water; that creates topsoil out of rock and buffers extreme weather events like droughts and floods; and that recycles the mountains of garbage we create every day. And now, with human induced climate change threatening the planet, it is biodiversity that will suck that carbon out of the air and sequester it in living plants if given half a chance. Humans cannot live as the only species on this



Ninety-six percent of birds rear their young on insects. (Image, D. Tallamy)



Caterpillars are one of the most important components of food webs since so many animals eat them. (Image, D. Tallamy)

planet because it is *other species* that create the ecosystem services essential to us. Every time we force a species to extinction we are encouraging our own demise. Despite the disdain with which we have treated it in the past, biodiversity is not optional.

In the past we didn't design gardens that play a critical ecological role in the landscape, but we must do so in the future if we hope to avoid a mass extinction from which humans are not likely to recover. As quickly as possible we need to replace unnecessary lawn with densely planted woodlots that can serve as habitat for our local biodiversity. Homeowners can do this by planting the borders of their properties with native trees plants such as white oaks (*Quercus alba*), black willows (*Salix nigra*), red maples (*Acer rubrum*), green ashes (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*), river birches (*Betula nigra*) and shagbark hickories (*Carya ovata*), under-planted with woodies like serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*), hazelnut (*Corylus americanus*), blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp). Our studies have shown that even modest increases in the native plant cover on suburban properties significantly increases the number and species of breeding birds, including birds of conservation concern. As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great. All we need to do is plant native plants!

- **Dr. Doug Tallamy**, Professor & Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware

Dr. Tallamy is the featured speaker this year for the Crosby Arboretum Lecture Series on March 15 at the Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library in Picayune, MS.



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:

The first signs of spring are upon us, heralded by the swelling buds on *Vaccinium elliottii* and *Rhododendron canescens*. We are looking forward in great anticipation to another outstanding season of programs and events. Volunteer Amy Nichols and I had the pleasure this summer to hear Dr. Doug Tallamy speak this summer at the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, and we know you will enjoy his March presentation our Crosby Arboretum Lecture Series' featured presenter.

Progress continues in the Swamp Forest Educational Exhibit. Trail construction will soon be underway, along with the installation of seven bridges. MSU students in the Fall 2013 class co-taught by Professor Bob Brzuszek and architecture professor Hans Herrmann have constructed two handsome new bridges in the Gum Pond Exhibit. Bidding for the Pinecote Pavilion restoration project is projected for Spring 2014. This project is led by architect Tom Howorth of Howorth and Associates in Oxford. Funding has been allocated by the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration through the Bureau of Building, with completed estimated for this Fall.

Arboretum attendance increased by 15% over the previous year, and our volunteer program is growing as well. At the end of 2013, 73 active Volunteers & Foundation Board Members had contributed 2219 hours, a value to the Arboretum of \$49,128.66.

Thank you, Crosby Arboretum members, for your continued and generous support of our programs and activities!

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



Amy Nichols had the Most Reported Hours this year (434) and received The **Katherine M. Furr Volunteer of the Year** award. Amy coordinates volunteers in the Children's Garden and the nursery and propagation area, and helps prepare for programs and events.



Our new office associate **Cathy Bordelon** poses here with long-time volunteer **Paul Breland** and grounds supervisor **Terry Johnson**. Paul received the award in December for the Third Highest Hours (200) reported for the year.

Welcome, Cathy Bordelon!

We are pleased to welcome Cathy Bordelon, our new office associate, to the Crosby Arboretum team. Cathy was born in Picayune at Crosby Memorial Hospital, and her parents are J.E. and Catherine Seals. She grew up in the Caesar community outside of Picayune, and is a graduate of Pearl River Central High School and Pearl River Community College, where she received an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Office Systems Technology. Cathy has a son and daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren

Cathy has made significant improvements to our office operations, and she is also enjoying coordinating the Arboretum volunteers. As of February 14, 2014, she has added eight new members since the first of the year, increasing our volunteer base to 81 persons.



Arboretum Volunteer **Tom Heim**, pictured with Cathy, received The Fellow Volunteer Recognition Award and reported the Second Highest Hours (238), many gained through helping **Terry Johnson** to construct our brand new Visitor Center deck and ramp.



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Picayune, Mississippi, USA

Thank you, Annual Appeal Contributors

The Crosby Arboretum wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the following persons for their generous contributions to our 2013 Annual Appeal. To date, a total of \$5,375 has been raised toward the construction of a bridge to cross the Gum Pond at its western “panhandle”. Bridge concepts were presented in April 2013 by students in the ARC 4990 Special Topics course taught by Mississippi State University Professor Hans Herrmann, School of Architecture, and Professor Bob Brzuszek, Department of Landscape Architecture.

In October 2013, the ARC 4990 students began construction of two pedestrian bridges, funded through a past annual appeal, at the intersection of the Gum Pond with the Swamp Forest Exhibit stream channel. We are grateful that so many of you are committed to seeing our Swamp Forest and Gum Pond Educational Exhibits completed. It has been a wonderful experience over the past several years to see these long-anticipated portions of the Arboretum’s Aquatic Exhibit become a reality.



Student model (top) showing the proposed bridge, a view of the Gum Pond (center), and students constructing the two pedestrian bridges in October (above). Below, the students pose proudly with their completed project.



Capt. Cornelius and Loretta S. Acheson	Jim and Joann Johnston
Shelley Antoine	Chuck and Deb Kirby
Ann S. Bradburn	Doris C. Knausz
Fay and Phelan Bright	Carol and Jay Knight
Daniel Broome	Gay and Randy Larre
Howard and Henrietta Bruggers	Andy and Judy Leonard
Jervis and Susan Burns	Jean and Paul MacInnis
Richard Cantin	Dennis and Mary Martin
Beverly Coleman	John and Judy Mayer
Ruth Cook	Dr. Robin and Dr. Donna McCall
Charles Cox	Janice McDermott
Robert Davis and Sibyl Ramsey	Louis and Josephine Megehee
Richard and Wilhelmina K. Dickey	Lyle Nelson
John L. Easton	Julia A. O'Neal
Beverly Elston	Janice Oreck
Mike and Carol Fitzwilliam	Gordon & Laura Ousset
JoAnn Fleming	Thomas Price
Katherine M. Furr	David and Janet Schlauderaff
Lynn and Stewart Gammill	James Sones
Lou Ginsberg	Ann Steinmetz and Bruce Campbell
Dr. John A. Grant, Jr.	Norman G. Stevens
David Gurney	Will Sullivan
Ray L. and Jennifer Heffner	William Thames
Betsy Jahnce	

DONATIONS RECEIVED LAST QUARTER

We would like to acknowledge the following generous donations made during the last quarter. A donation in honor of **David Oreck** was made by **John and Yvette Rosen**, on the occasion of his birthday in September. **John and Gloria Green** made a donation toward greenhouse renovations, matched by an anonymous benefactor, who will also match additional donations made toward greenhouse support. **Stewart and Lynn Gammill** made a donation to support Arboretum programs. **Mike and Carol Fitzwilliam**, and **Ruth Cook** donated items to the Foundation's silent auction event held during the Piney Woods Heritage Festival, with proceeds benefiting the New Education Building Fund. **Fay and Phelan Bright** made a donation to the Gift Shop of pottery from the Covington studio of artist Dennis Sipiorski, and **Ruth Cook** also donated craft items to the Gift Shop. **Wayne McLaurin** donated his handmade pottery items during the December Open House. Also in December, the Crosby Arboretum received a \$750 community grant from the **Walmart Foundation**, to support Arboretum programs and events.



WLOX-TV Senior Reporter Steve Phillips gave the Arboretum some much-appreciated coverage of our 5th annual Forge Day event in January.



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.

NATIVE PLANTS WITH SPRING INTEREST

- Mayhaw** (*Crataegus opaca*)
- Southern Blue Flag Iris** (*Iris virginica*)
- Mountain Laurel** (*Kalmia latifolia*)
- Southern Crabapple** (*Malus angustifolia*)
- Bigleaf Magnolia** (*Magnolia macrophylla*)
- Piedmont Azalea** (*Rhododendron canescens*)
- Yellow Pitcher Plant** (*Sarracenia alata*)

See our website's Native Plant Database for more details.

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 ≥30% postconsumer waste recycled fiber. Journal may be received electronically if desired.

Please address correspondence to: **Pat Drackett**, Editor
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 The Crosby Arboretum
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 Picayune, MS 39466

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

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.



The Crosby Arboretum
Mississippi State University
 P.O. Box 1639
 Picayune, MS 39466-1639
 (601)-799-2311
www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

March – April 2014

March 2014

WILDLIFE DAY

Thursday, March 6 (School day)
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Children will be thrilled to see the array of exhibitors displaying live and preserved animals, while learning how to protect and maintain wildlife in a field day open to area K-12 schools and homeschool groups. Admission \$2 per child, free to teachers and chaperones. Call by March 6 to schedule an arrival time.

GOURDCRAFTING WORKSHOP (Adults)

Saturday, March 8
10:00 a.m. to Noon

Gourds have been used throughout history for their function, and beauty. In this workshop, artist **Janet Schlauderaff** will cover how to grow, prepare, and work with gourds. Learn a variety of practices and techniques to begin creating your own beautiful and unique designs. Tools and gourds will be provided; Cost of \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members includes all necessary materials for participants to **take home their own crafted gourd**. Please register by March 7.

THE CROSBY ARBORETUM LECTURE SERIES

"Bringing Nature Home", Dr. Doug Tallamy



Saturday, March 15, 2014

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Margaret Reed Crosby

Memorial Library

900 Goodyear Blvd., Picayune

Dr. Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and the author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, will discuss the important ecological roles of the plants in our landscapes, emphasize the benefits of designing landscapes with these roles in mind, and explore the consequences of failing to do so. Admission \$5. Call 601-799-2311 to reserve your seat.

SPRING VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

9:00 a.m. on Saturday March 8, April 12, and May 3

For more information, please contact Cathy Bordelon,
Ext. 104, or cathyb@ext.msstate.edu.

SPRING PLANT SALE

March 21 & 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fri & Sat

Members Admitted at 9:00 a.m. Friday

Grab a cart and choose from a wide variety of hard-to-find native trees, shrubs, and perennials for your landscape. Plant professionals will be on hand to help you with selections. View and print the plant guide on our website! **Free admission**. Arboretum greenhouse (use Service Entrance).

April 2014

SPRING WILDFLOWER FIELD WALK (Family)

Saturday, April 5
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

This is a wonderful time of year to take a few minutes to walk around and appreciate the natural beauty around us. On this field walk on the Arboretum grounds, you will learn more about the native wildflowers and other plants blooming this time of year, and how to incorporate them into your home landscape. Members free. Non-members \$5. Register by April 4.

HOME LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

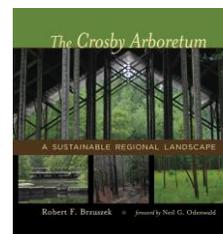
Saturday, April 12 (Adults)
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Learn how to have a low-maintenance and attractive home landscape through the use of Mississippi native plants. Arboretum Director **Pat Drackett** will discuss some outstanding native plants for the landscape and how to analyze your planting site in order to choose appropriate plant material. Program is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register by April 11.

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 13 (Family)
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Bring the family, and join us to 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!



Special Event: *Booksigning* with
Robert F. Brzuszek

THE CROSBY ARBORETUM: A
SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL LANDSCAPE
Louisiana State University Press
April 13, Strawberries & Cream Festival

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

April – May 2014

April 2014

EARTH DAY AT THE ARBORETUM!

Saturday, April 26 (Family)

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the 44th anniversary of Earth Day! Visit exhibits focusing on nature and sustainable gardening, with topics such as beekeeping, rainwater irrigation, gardening, birds & butterflies, and composting, and “Kids Go Green” activities. Members free; non-members \$5 adults, \$2

May 2014

NIGHT INSECT COLLECTING! (Family)

Friday, May 2

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Many insects are emerging during the spring. Children will enjoy a night entomology event led by Hancock County Extension Agent **Christian Stephenson**. Collecting equipment will be provided. Bring your flashlight! Members free; non-members, adults \$5 and children \$2. Please register by May 1.

YOGA AT PINECOTE PAVILION (Adults)

Saturday, May 3

1:00 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 is limited to 16. Yoga mats will be provided, but you may bring your own. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Members free, \$5 non-members. Register by May 2.

PAPERCRETE POTS (Adults)

Friday, May 9

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Learn how to turn discarded paper into a one-of-a-kind pot for plants. Extension Area Horticulturist, **Donna Beliech** and Warren Co. Master Gardener, **Joelyn James**, will familiarize participants with the mixing of ingredients and demonstrate molding into a beautiful, weatherproof planting container. **Everyone will take home their own Papercrete Pot.** Cost is \$4 for members ; non-members \$6. Register by May 2.

PAINTED POTS

Saturday, May 10 (Kids)

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Here is the perfect Mother’s Day Gift for moms who love plants! Decorate a clay pot and design a Mother’s Day Card using recycled materials. Workshop led by Arboretum Director, **Pat Drackett**. Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. All materials provided. Members’ children \$3; nonmembers’ children \$4. Register by May 10.

YUMMY GARDENING! (Adults)

Saturday, May 17

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Christine Coker, Assoc. Res. Ext. Professor of Urban Horticulture, will present ways to plan and plant your home landscape with an edible twist. You are sure to come away with new and delicious ideas for your yard and garden! Arboretum and NPS members free; non-members \$5. Register by May 16.

MNPS FIELD TRIP: MEADOWMAKERS SEED FARM

Saturday, May 17 (Adults)

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Walk through fifty different seeding experiments, from local provenance, wild-collected seed, with **Marc Pastorek** of Meadowmakers, State botanist **Heather Sullivan**, and members of the Mississippi Native Plant Society. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Meadowmakers Seed Farm, 65 Fox Run North, Carriere, MS. **Admission is free to all.** For more information, call (504) 296-8162 or contact meadowmakers@gmail.com.

NATURAL AREA FIELD TRIP: HILLSIDE BOG

Saturday, May 17 (Adults)

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join State botanist **Heather Sullivan** and **Marc Pastorek** of Meadowmakers for a field trip to Crosby Arboretum’s Hillside Bog natural area, a highly diverse 70 acre habitat in northern Hancock County. Meet at Crosby Arboretum Visitor Parking Area, to carpool to the site. Prepare for off-trail trek and potential underbrush. Bring snacks, and dress for walking. Members free, non-members \$5. Register by May 16.

ARBORETUM SPRING BOTANY WALK

Saturday, May 31 (Adults)

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Explore the Arboretum’s native plant exhibits with **Dr. Mac Alford**, Herbarium Curator and Associate Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. After a short indoor discussion of plant taxonomy and ecology, the program will move outside for a field walk through the grounds. Free for members, \$5 non-members. Register by May 30.

Reservations: Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311 for questions, and to make program reservations.

Physical Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466

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

2013 Admission Fees: Adults, \$5; Seniors (over 55), \$4; Children under 12, \$2; Members, free admission to grounds and programs.

www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu

