



Annual
2006 - 2007
Report



148,151

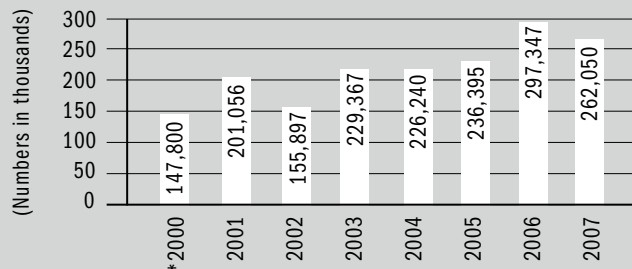
visitors hosted at Museum

+ 113,899

Mississippians served in state-wide outreach

= 262,050

people served through Museum services



* Attendance records for the Museum at our LeFleur's Bluff State Park location began in the spring of 2000. In the four short months, from opening in March to the end of the Museum's fiscal year in June 2000, we welcomed a record 147,800 visitors!

■ For more than seventy years, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science has made a lasting impression on countless lives through exhibits, educational programming, and conservation projects. Members and other supporters are familiar with our breathtaking aquariums, entertaining and enlightening exhibits, and innovative educational programs; while scientists, biologists, corporations, and institutions make good use of our extensive scientific collections and priceless databases.

This year, almost 150,000 people visited our Museum in Jackson to learn about the natural world, our staff gave 17,340 people information and technical guidance, and at least 40,000 new visitors explored our website. As public interest in the environment continues to grow, people increasingly turn to the Museum for the information they need to make informed decisions about the stewardship of Mississippi's abundant natural resources.

Over the past year, the MMNS Foundation funded three fantastic special exhibits that brought visitors pouring through our doors. We were recognized as a tourism and community destination when AAA named the Museum as its "Southern Travel Treasure," and when, for the 7th year in a row, Jackson Free Press readers named us "Best Museum."

The MMNS Foundation is also playing a leading role in the Museum's plans to expand its research wing and to add a larger special exhibits hall. The Foundation has received \$740,000 in federal funding for planning and site



preparation, and architectural plans are almost complete. The Mississippi Legislature has appropriated \$1 million toward the project and additional funds are being sought, but we still have a long way to go to accomplish our goal of expanding the Museum's services to the people of Mississippi. In the coming year, we will present "Bone Up On Bones,"

our first health education exhibit, and next summer "Dinosaurs!" are coming to Jackson.

All of these endeavors would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors and members. Gifts and grants to the MMNS Foundation totaled more than \$350,000 and volunteers contributed more than 7,000 hours of service this year.

We are both very grateful for the many loyal supporters who have embraced the Museum's mission and are striving alongside our diligent staff and dedicated volunteers to bring Mississippians the finest natural science museum possible.

Christine Zachow
MMNS FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Libby Hartfield
MMNS DIRECTOR

MUSEUM FUNDING & EXPENDITURES

The charts below illustrate the Museum's state and federal funding, revenue from admissions and gift shop sales, and operating expenditures.

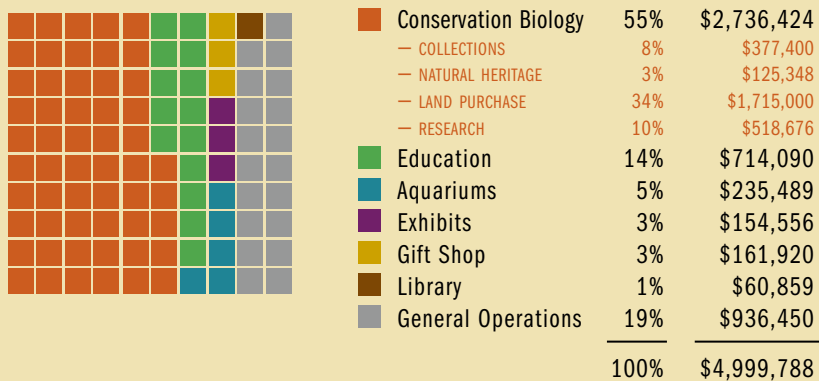
FUNDING BY SOURCE

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007



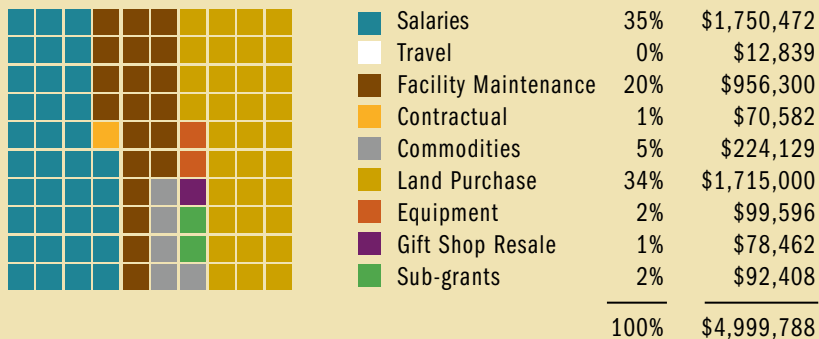
EXPENDITURES BY SECTIONS

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007



EXPENDITURES BY BUDGET CATEGORIES

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007



MEMBERSHIP



The mission of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is to promote understanding and appreciation of Mississippi's biological diversity through collections, research, scientific databases, education, and exhibits and to inspire the people of our state to respect the environment and to preserve natural Mississippi.

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated exclusively to improving the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science (MMNS). This goal is primarily accomplished by providing and encouraging funding for the Museum from a variety of public and private sources. Private funding may come in many forms, including tax-deductible dollar donations, as well as the energy and expertise donated by laypeople and professionals.

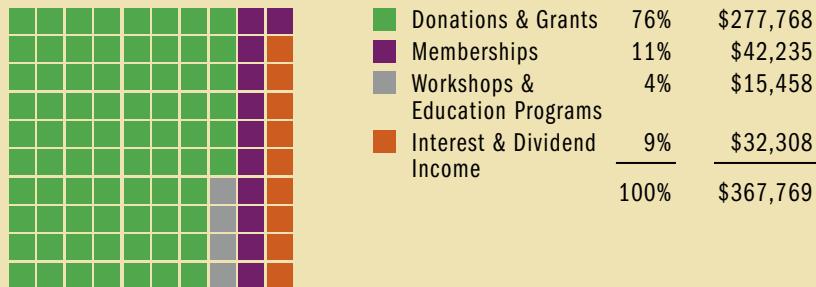
Without the Foundation and its dedicated leaders, volunteers and membership, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science as we know it today would not be possible. Whether through inspiring financial support for the Museum's extraordinary exhibits, recruiting manpower for the Museum's activities and research projects, or accomplishing any number of other fundraising and volunteer functions, the symbiosis between the Museum and the Foundation represents the strongest of natural relationships.

FOUNDATION REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

These charts illustrate the private donations and grants received by the MMNS Foundation and the expenditures made with the funds.

MMNS FOUNDATION REVENUE

January - December, 2006



MMNS FOUNDATION EXPENDITURES

January - December, 2006



STEADFAST SUPPORTERS

Steadfast supporters are donors who have contributed to the Foundation with years of funding through a variety of projects and interests.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY 2006-2007

■ **\$371,389** donations this year to all projects

■ **\$2,636,017** total donations to date over **6** years

\$100,000 - \$200,000

Abe Rotwein Family
The Chisholm Foundation
Regions Bank
Deposit Guaranty/AmSouth Foundation
Ergon
Bryant Mather
Mississippi Museum
of Natural Science Foundation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

\$25,000 - \$50,000

Blue Cross Blue Shield
Bureau of Land Management
Delta and Pine Land Company
Georgia Pacific Corporation
International Paper Foundation
Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau
Merrill Lynch
Mississippi Power Company
Mississippi Valley Gas Company
Molpus Woodlands Group
Paul Benton

\$50,000 - \$100,000

Bell South
Magalen O. Bryant
and Tara Wildlife Management
Community Foundation of Greater Jackson
Chevron
Entergy
Environmental Protection Agency
Friede Goldman
Gannett Foundation/The Clarion Ledger
Gertrude C. Ford Foundation
Phil Hardin Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Hughes
Irby Companies
Richard McRae, Jr. Family
Mississippi Chemical Corporation
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation/
Shell Marine Habitat Program
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Zachow

Plum Creek Foundation
Pruet Companies
Trustmark National Bank
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Forest Service
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Van Devender
Walker Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Julian Wiener
Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Yazoo Mississippi Levee Board

\$10,000 - \$25,000

The Armstrong Foundation
BancorpSouth Foundation
Betsy & Wade Creekmore
Feild Cooperative Association
Howard Industries, Inc.
Mississippi Arts Commission
Mississippi Forestry Association
Mississippi Forestry Foundation
National Geographic Society
Education Foundation
Nissan of North America, Inc.
Soterra LLC
Sprint PC/US Unwired
The Straddlefork Foundation
Wild Turkey Federation

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

These dedicated volunteer leaders give the Museum their time and expert advice in the areas of site development, planning, exhibits, education and fundraising.

OFFICERS

Chris Zachow
PRESIDENT
Alex Alston, Jr.
VICE PRESIDENT
Janice Larson
SECRETARY/TREASURER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Allen	Dick Hall	Avery Rollins
Alex Alston, Jr.	Dick Harding	Rosalie Rotwein
Paul Benton	Libby Hartfield	Ollye Brown Shirley
Betsy Creekmore	Matt Holleman III	Catchings B. Smith
Opal Dakin	Janice Larson	Sheila Smith
Marianne Dempsey	Jennie McIntosh	Scott Steele
Halla Jo Ellis	Ashley Parker	Chris Zachow
Sean Wesley Ellis	John Rings	



EXHIBIT SPONSORS

Exhibit sponsors are donors who have given money to enable our Museum to host special exhibits. It takes funding and commitment to secure traveling exhibits that will relate to our educational mission and attract public attention. Museum staff work diligently for months in advance to prepare for, install, and promote visiting exhibits. This year's lineup included the contract coordination and display of two nationally acclaimed exhibits and the development of a new Walter Anderson exhibit from concept through fabrication and installation.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS/VISITORS FOR FY 2006-2007

- *The World of Giant Insects:*
50,881 visitors, June 17 - September 10, 2006
- *Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica:*
75,070 visitors, October 5, 2006 - May 13, 2007
- *Hunters of the Sky:*
4,295 visitors, June 23 - 30, 2007



HUNTERS OF THE SKY

Regions Bank
Gertrude C. Ford Foundation
Merrill Lynch
Mr. & Mrs. Alex A. Alston, Jr.
Ergon
Dudley Hughes
Nissan of North America, Inc.
Community Foundation of Greater Jackson
Jackie & Avery Rollins
Joye & Scott Steele
Magalen O. Bryant
Melissa & David Patterson
Brunini, Grantham, Grower, Hewes
Chris & Steve Zachow
Deborah & Hunter Dawkins
Deviney Construction Company
Nora Frances & Vaughn McRae
Rosalie B. Rotwein
Ollye B. Shirley, Ph.D.
Dick Hall
Newt P. Harrison
Hap & Hilda Owen
Patagonia/Buffalo Peak Outfitters
Drs. John & Connie Schimmel
Robert Smith, M.D.
Robert & Eleanor Weaver

JEWELS OF THE SEA: WALTER ANDERSON'S AQUATICA

Stuart C. Irby Company
Paul Benton
Howard Industries
Dudley Hughes
Wade & Betsy Creekmore
Feild Cooperative Association, Inc.
Buffalo Peak Outfitters/Patagonia, Inc.
Jack & Marianne Dempsey
Avery & Jackie Rollins
Ollye B. Shirley, Ph.D.
Scott and Joye Steele
Catchings & Lottie Smith

THE WORLD OF GIANT INSECTS

Janet & Luther Ott Charitable Fund
of the Community Foundation of
Greater Jackson
Gertrude C. Ford Foundation
Merrill Lynch
Trustmark Bank

FERN GARDEN EXHIBIT

Robbie Fisher
Lagniappe Foundation



Grey Wiggers, Trustmark Bank, with children at *The World of Giant Insects* news conference.



Chris Zachow, MMNS Foundation President; Ronnie Smith, President of Regions Bank; Dr. Charles Jackson; and Libby Hartfield, MMNS Director at opening reception for *Hunters of the Sky*

GENEROUS GIFTS

Donations and gifts to the Museum come in all shapes, sizes, and purposes. It is gifts like these that make very special collections, undertakings and commemorations possible.

EDUCATION OUTREACH SPONSORS

Paul Benton
Entergy Charitable Foundation
The King's Daughters and Sons
Circle Number Two
Walker Foundation
Yazoo Mississippi Delta
Levee Board
Janet & Luther Ott Charitable Fund
of the Community Foundation of
Greater Jackson

PALEONTOLOGY SPONSORS

James R. Bain
Richard & Suzanne Chandler
Ernest Klatt
North Carolina Fossil Club
Judith Stiles

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Frederick & Marian Anklam
Richard & Suzanne Chandler
Heather Murray
University of Southern Mississippi
Department of Biological Sciences



MEMORIALS

In memory of Ms. Betsy Wages
by Jimmy & Jennifer Anderson
by Tim & Paige Anderson
by M. M. Flechas III
by Mr. & Mrs. Boggs
by Sarah Benton
by Carolyn Thompson
by Richard & Amy Lynn
by John & Lori Oxley
by David & Gerri Hammons
by Lou F. Moore
by MMNS Staff

In memory of Mrs. Kathryn G. Jones
by Walter & Lelia Wilder
by Jimmy Lou Goulet
by Nancy Willis
by Patricia Stephenson
by Debbie Letteri
by Members of the Haddon
Reid Burkes & Calhoun Plc

In memory of Mrs. Georgie Fisher
by Robbie Fisher

In memory of Mr. Charles Kopf
by Communication Arts Company

In memory of Mr. William
"Bill" Lunceford
by N6 Staff at the Naval Air Station
Saufley Field

FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

MMNS Foundation membership is over 1,000 strong and provides vital energy and resources for Museum activities. Member families, individuals, businesses and organizations come from 14 states.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **333** new members welcomed
- **1,093** total members



LIFE MEMBERS

Jan A. Allinder
 Alex Alston, Jr.
 John E. Ashcraft, Jr.
 Sam Beibers
 Katie Briggs
 Polly Briggs
 Magalen O. Bryant
 Kevin Caldwell
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cook
 Opal H. Dakin
 Marianne & Jack Dempsey
 Theo Dinkins
 Halla Jo Ellis
 Billie M. Ellison
 Sylvia Ann Finman
 Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Goings
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hall
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Harding
 Paul Hartfield
 Emily Hartfield
 Matthew Holleman, III

Michael & Janice LeBlanc
 William L. Lee
 Jennie McIntosh
 Mr. & Mrs. David McMillin
 John Palmer
 Jackie & Avery Rollins
 Suzanne Rotwein
 Rosalie Rotwein
 James E. Stary
 Carol & Cavett Taff
 Richard Vavrick
 Ellan Vavrick
 Robert & Janice Whitehead
 William Roberts Wilson, Jr.
 Dr. & Mrs. Steve Zachow

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

(\$1,000 OR MORE)
 Magalen O. Bryant
 Betsy A. Creekmore
 Deborah & Hunter Dawkins
 Melissa & David Patterson
 Margie L. Smith

PATRON MEMBERS

(\$500 OR MORE)
 Chris Hall
 Dick Hall
 Karen & Neil Whitworth

DONOR MEMBERS

(\$250 OR MORE)
 Hap & Hilda Owen
 Don & Becky Potts
 Ernest & Beth Taylor
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Weaver

FRIEND MEMBERS

(\$100 OR MORE)
 Clark & April Blackwell
 Edie Dunn
 Terry Dwyer & Marcy Petrini
 Donna R. Godwin
 Lyle E. Nelson
 Eddie Pope
 Grace & George Smith



Museum volunteer, Carolee Kuchirka, provides hands-on learning for visitors at the saltwater touch tank.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteers are an essential part of the Museum's workforce. Volunteering at the Museum is an opportunity for teens, college students, professionals, and retirees to interact, share, learn, teach, and serve in a stimulating environment. Fifteen volunteers have each devoted more than 1,000 hours (see list below) during the past 20 years. This year, the Museum celebrates just such a milestone with volunteer Peter Kuchirka, who began volunteering in 2005, after many years of service to the Vertebrate Paleontology Section at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History as a specialist in molding and casting fossil bones. Through his volunteer work with MMNS's Paleontology Program, Peter has created replicas of our most valuable and rare fossils.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR FY 2006-2007

- **5,608** hours volunteer time—a dollar value of **\$90,008!**
- Milestone: Peter Kuchirka, **1,000** volunteer-hours
- Outdoor Projects:
including trail repairs, introduced species removal, gardening and trash pickup
- Museum Services:
including greeting visitors, gift shop assistance, exhibit assistance, informal programs, event assistance, research assistance, aquarium diving, special projects assistance, general office functions

OVER 1000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Martha Boone Cooper
 Marianne L. Dempsey
 Gladys Gurman
 Jean Headrick
 Mary Bea McArdle

Mike McNeese
 Michael A. Stegall
 Halla Jo Ellis
 John D. Davis
 Billie Ellison

John Suedel
 Judith T. Davis
 Joy Rushing
 Lou F. Moore
 Peter Kuchirka



Museum staff and volunteers interact with members and visitors during the 23rd Annual Snake Day.



(top left) Museum director, Libby Hartfield, welcomes our one-millionth visitor—the Pirrucios!
 (left) Coordinator of Aquariums, Terry Majure, fascinates the crowd with live specimens at Snake Day 2007.

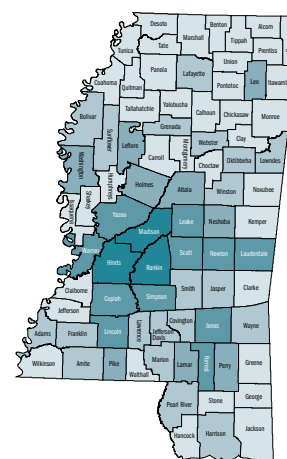
EVERYONE



see
 —
 visit

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is literally for everyone. This year alone, the Museum hosted within its doors and on its grounds over 148,000 visitors from all 82 Mississippi counties, all 50 states, and over 40 foreign countries. The Museum's one-millionth visitor was welcomed in October 2006: the Pirrucio family, who traveled from Lafayette, La., but hailed all the way from Italy!

With over 30,000 square feet of display space, 100,000 gallons of aquatic attractions, and over two miles of flora- and fauna-filled walking trails, these masterpieces of science, education, and entertainment are enough to keep people coming back to the museum all year and every year.



OF MUSEUM VISITORS

- 0 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 5,000
- 5,001 - 50,000

PERMANENT & CHANGING EXHIBITS

Much of the Museum's public appeal comes from its exquisite collection of carefully crafted permanent exhibits, which give its educational mission substance and give the public something they can see, hear, touch, and explore. Our committed exhibit and aquarium management team collaborate with other biologists and naturalists to create and maintain static, interactive, and live exhibits within the Museum walls and throughout its grounds at LeFleur's Bluff State Park.

This year, progress continued in recovery from Hurricane Katrina storm damage to the Museum grounds and we celebrated the establishment of the Fern Garden Exhibit along the handicap-accessible Yellow Trail.

Full installation was painstakingly completed for "Basil," our 62-foot, 35-million-year-old *Basilosaurus* from Scott County, Mississippi—one of only three casts on display in the world.

In addition to the ongoing maintenance of hundreds of animals and plants on display in the aquariums, Museum staff celebrated the arrival of newborns this year. Four endangered black knobbed sawback turtles were produced by our long-term captive turtles and, although unusual to be bred in captivity, ten baby horseshoe crabs were generated by our captive adult population.



Dragonfly TV cameraman captures video images of aquatic life in The Swamp—our 12,000-gallon terrarium.

We were also honored to be the location for a segment of the nationally aired PBS *Dragonfly TV* science program. One million viewers are estimated to have seen some of the wonders of our Museum and of the State of Mississippi in April when it aired and thousands will access repeat broadcasts or downloads of the program's free podcast.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS/AQUARIUMS HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2006-2007

- Basilosaurus Exhibit outfitting completed
- Fern Garden Exhibit installed along Yellow Trail
- 2 new protein skimmers installed in Mississippi Sound Aquarium



SPECIAL EXHIBITS

The World of Giant Insects

(50,881 visitors, June 17 - September 10, 2006)



The summer of 2006 found the Museum crawling with giant, robotic bugs—and swarming with more than 50,000 bug-loving visitors. These hugely magnified insects allowed visitors to observe closely some of the behaviors and adaptations that have helped these creatures thrive. Insects included a 19-foot long praying mantis intimidating its prey, a 21-foot giant walking stick, a 15-foot swallowtail butterfly caterpillar, and two rhinoceros beetles—each the size of a Volkswagen Beetle—in fierce battle. Three of the giant

insect heads had mouthpieces that visitors could operate with a push button, revealing how an 80-times-magnified dragonfly chews; how a bee, 200 times life-size, sucks nectar; and how a mosquito, 600 times its real size, pierces its victim's skin to draw sustenance.



Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica

(75,070 visitors, October 5, 2006 - May 13, 2007)

The Museum's fall/winter 2006-2007 special exhibit was a collaborative development project that attracted over 75,000 visitors. Walter Inglis Anderson's works, provided by the Family of Walter Anderson and the Walter Anderson Museum of Art, included watercolors, block prints, drawings, and pottery featuring aquatic animals that live in or near the Mississippi Sound.

JEWELS OF THE SEA

WALTER ANDERSON'S AQUATICA

Most of the watercolors were on public display for the first time and a number were recently restored after being soaked in seawater, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast and Anderson's Shearwater compound in Ocean Springs. MMNS staff curated and displayed these striking artworks, complimenting them with live and mounted specimens, sounds, music, and media components.



Exhibit development by the Museum provided strong graphic coordination between promotion and display.



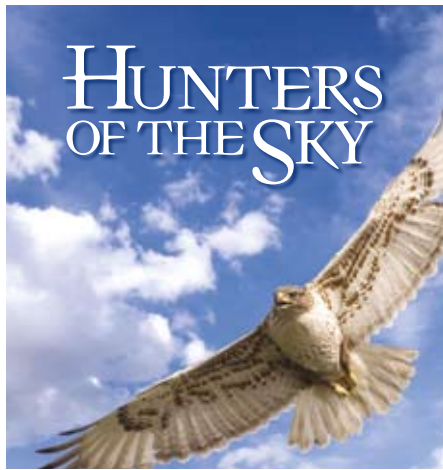
Visitors were engaged by the companion displays of live and mounted specimens at *Jewels of the Sea*.



Chris Zachow, Jack and Marianne Dempsey, and Libby Hartfield at the opening reception for *Jewels of the Sea*

Hunters of the Sky

(4,295 visitors, June 23 - June 30, 2007)



With the opening of *Hunters of the Sky*, the Museum welcomed nearly 4,300 visitors in the final eight days of the fiscal year. The exhibit has been acclaimed for its outstanding taxidermy and creative exhibit topics, such as the raptor dinner party. Life-size dioramas featuring exquisite specimens of eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, and the endangered condor illustrate the majesty of these great birds of prey. Interactive components for children and adults

compare anatomy, diet, habitat, and life-cycles. Intriguing artifacts richly demonstrate cultural inspiration and environmental concerns that contrast and magnify the awe-inspiring nature of raptors and their important yet precarious place on this earth. Tangent to the exhibit installation have been dramatic live raptor demonstrations by experts such as David Hall of the Wildlife Outreach Foundation. The exhibit closes December 30, 2007.



David Hall and a Red-tailed Hawk provide up-close and personal learning and entertainment at Camp WILD.



The "raptor dinner party" helped visitors relate to the dietary needs of raptors.



MUSEUM ATTENDANCE & AWARDS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **148,151** visitors hosted at the Museum (from all 82 Mississippi counties, all 50 states, and over 40 foreign countries)
- **1,000,000**th visitor celebrated on October 28, 2006
- **1,000,000** viewers of PBS *Dragonfly TV* segment featuring MMNS
- **40,000** new visitors welcomed to www.msnaturalscience.org
- Southern Travel Treasure Award by AAA—American Automobile Association
- Family Favorite - Best Museum for Kids Award by Jackson's Parents & Kids Magazine readers
- Best Museum Award for the 7th year in a row by Jackson Free Press readers
- Gold Award by Southeastern Museum Conference for *The World of Giant Insects* promotion
- Gold Award by Southeastern Museum Conference for *Natural Newline* newsletter
- State/Federal Government Recycler of the Year Award by Mississippi Recycling Coalition
- Participated in Governor's Task Force on Nature Tourism





(top) Volunteer diver feeding fish in the Mississippi Sound tank. (above) Canoeing on the Pearl River at NatureFEST 2007

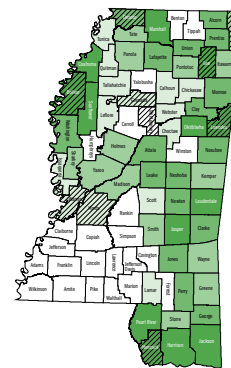
EDUCATION

learn — teach



The Museum is committed to creating hands-on programs and activities that are relevant to today's world. A twelve-person team of coordinators, naturalists, and educators draw on their diverse backgrounds to educate teachers, students, and the general public about Mississippi and its inhabitants. In addition, the Museum draws upon the scientific community at large to inspire staff and visitors through lectures, panels, and literature. The Museum designs and coordinates an enormous amount of educational resources, including printed materials, videos and object kits for loan, as well as online activities. Educational programs on the Museum's campus and in statewide outreach come in many forms:

- Instructional resources: printed materials, videos, object kits, and web-based activities
- Interactive workshops
- Teacher training sessions
- Lectures
- Answers to requests for naturalist literature and information
- Professional contributions to scientific publications
- Hands-on programs



OF OUTREACH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- 0
- 1–200
- 201–500
- 501–1,000
- 1,001–3,600
- ▨ Teacher Workshops

EDUCATION AT MMNS

For Teachers

The Museum maximizes its staff expertise and extends its influence by providing workshops on its campus that prepare teachers to fulfill State curriculum requirements in their own classrooms.

One of our landmark teacher resources is Project WILD—an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. Project WILD educational materials are provided to educators through practical, interactive 6-hour workshops. The program, designed for educators of grades K-12, capitalizes on the natural interest that children and adults have in wildlife by providing hands-on activities that enhance all subject and skill areas.

Project WET is an interdisciplinary water science and education program for formal and nonformal educators of K-12 students which also consists of 6-hour workshops. The mission of this program is to teach responsible water stewardship through excellent and effective water education. The “Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide,” is a collection of innovative, water-related activities that are hands-on, easy to use, and fun! Providing a thorough water education program, the guide also addresses the chemical and physical properties of water, quantity and quality issues, aquatic wildlife, ecosystems, and management strategies.

TEACHER SERVICES AT MMNS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **17** six-hour teacher workshops for Project WILD & Project WET (organized and conducted for **312** participants)
- **2** preschool teacher workshops
- **1** Back-to-School Night teacher resource event
- **1** Museum Resources teacher workshop
- **2** Wild About Birds teacher resource workshops



Museum Naturalist, Angel Rohnke, helps teachers sign up for classroom loan kits at Back-to-School Night.



Junior Naturalist Camp participants and Museum staff pause from their scientific studies.

For Students

Every year the Museum provides quality hands-on programming for students from preschool through college, hosting a number of ongoing and annual events that present unique opportunities for learning.

Camp WILD is the Museum's coveted annual summer camp adventure, which puts kids in the middle of nature for an amazing week of educational experiences. This summer also included the Junior Naturalist Camp—a specially designed pilot program for aspiring naturalists to learn what it's like to scientifically study nature. Our Discovery Room was filled all year long with children ages 3 through pre-kindergarten 5 and their caregivers for age-appropriate hands-on learning.

STUDENT PROGRAMS AT MMNS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **5** Camp WILD summer camp sessions with **81** in attendance
- **3** Stewpot Kids summer camp sessions with **78** in attendance
- **1** Junior Naturalist Camp pilot camp program with **12** in attendance
- **250** preschool group classes with **3,240** in attendance
- **2** preschool summer camp sessions with **158** kids and caregivers in attendance
- **1** Junior Duck Stamp Art Competition sponsorship, exhibition, and reception with **311** entries
- Something's Fishy **3rd** annual hands-on activity day with **513** participants



Preschool Coordinator, Joan Elder, captivates class in the hands-on Discovery Room.

For Everyone

Adult programming with dynamic lectures, live animal demonstrations, and creative activities adds spice to an already flavorful, family-focused menu of educational topics, including fishing, fossil collecting, and bird watching.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AT MMNS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **10** First Tuesday Lectures by the experts
- **8** Fun Fridays for families
- **150** interactive Fish Feedings
- NatureFEST **7th** annual celebration of all things natural
- Make-a-Splash **6th** annual water-awareness day
- Fossil Road Show **4th** annual event of exhibits, expert opinions, and lectures
- Got Fish? **7th** annual fishing seminar with the experts
- Snake Day **23rd** annual hands-on reptile showcase
- **1** International Migratory Bird Day celebration
- Native Plant Garden **1st** annual tours and lectures



Mary Anderson Pickard's First Tuesday Lecture on Walter Anderson packed the Rotwein Theater.



Volunteer, John Davis, identifies fossils in gravel at the Fossil Road Show.

In 1965, Miss Fannye A. Cook, the Museum's founding director, donated her private collection of research materials to the Museum. Since then, that donation has grown into the Museum's marvelous Research Library. There are now more than 18,000 volumes housed within the Library. These volumes chronicle Mississippi's natural history in exquisite detail.

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **18,100**-volume Research Library maintained and open to the public
- **3,900** reference requests answered: phone, interlibrary loan, and conference
- **120** journal volumes bound for the Library's permanent collection



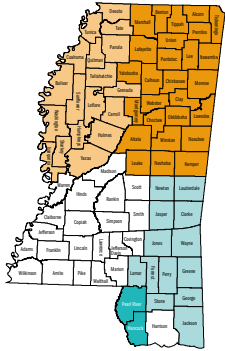
Museum Naturalist, Nicole Smith, held the attention of Make-a-Splash participants this year.



Magnolia Crappie Club volunteering at the special event Got Fish?

EDUCATION OUTREACH

The Museum understands that while everyone needs to know about nature, not everyone can make it to the Museum. That's not a problem for the Museum's outreach team and partners. Through a wide range of specially designed programs, projects, and events, the Outreach Team brings the Museum to schoolchildren and adults statewide. In 2006-2007, we secured funding for Pearl River and Hancock Counties. Funding will be available in 2008 for all counties.



OUTREACH EDUCATION MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES

□ Not covered in 2006-07	
■ Northeast counties	387 classes (15,284 students)
■ Delta region	265 classes (9,717 students)
■ Southeast counties	334 classes (11,886 students)
■ Pearl River/Hancock counties	168 classes (3,467 students)

Statewide Classroom Outreach

Remarkably, our four Outreach Teachers directly instruct nearly 10% of the entire Mississippi Department of Education student population each year with dynamic interactive classroom programs conducted throughout the state.

EDUCATION AND OTHER OUTREACH FOR FY 2006-2007

- **1,154** interactive classroom programs taught statewide
- **40,354** students instructed directly
- **65,600** resource units/information given (including print materials, videos, object kits, loans, technical guidance and all other outreach)



Camp WILD activities



Happy anglers at Katfishin' Kids

Statewide Community Outreach

The Museum provides an array of educational and entertainment opportunities to the broader community through lectures and live animal demonstrations. It also fosters a variety of popular annual events designed to bring special audiences together to enjoy activities centered around specific topics, such as fishing, nature related crafts, fossil collecting, bird watching, and family fun.

For instance, this fiscal year, through partnerships with the Mississippi Wildlife Federation and Wal-Mart, Katfishin' Kids provided more than 750 kids with the chance to get their feet wet in learning the skills of fishing and engaged over 200 parents and adults!



STATEWIDE COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR FY 2006-2007

- Educational materials: provided to Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) Conservation Officers for programs
- Participated in Mississippi Wildlife Extravaganza, Bass Pro Shop event, Great Delta Bear Affair, and Hummingbird Festival
- **3** issues of *Natural Newslines* newsletter published



Katfishin' Kids at Turcotte Laboratory



(top) Todd Slack and Mark Dugo processing fish samples on the Chickasawhay River. (above) Freshwater mussel

SCIENCE

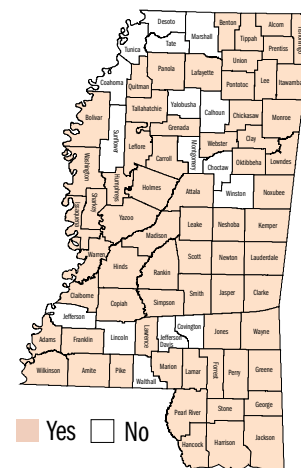


seek
—
study

The Museum's Conservation Biology Section consists of three broad and overlapping programs: Natural Heritage, Biological Collections, and Research. The team is made up of 18 coordinators, biologists and technicians. Their primary mission is to facilitate conservation by studying, documenting and monitoring Mississippi species and ecosystems.

Among the Conservation Biology Section's many accomplishments are the partnerships that it has formed with others. Over the past year the team has worked side by side with individuals, organization and other state and federal agencies, providing information, insight and support for conservation efforts. In FY 2006-2007, they handled more than 3,800 requests for information about non-game species and their habitats and management.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED





Yellow Trumpet Pitcher Plants blooming in a bogs in George County

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

The Natural Heritage Program manages a comprehensive database of Mississippi species, communities, systems and natural areas of conservation concern. Information contained within the database is readily available to resource managers and land developers and provides guidance for species conservation and wise use of land and water resources.

NATURAL HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **850** elements (rare species and biological communities) tracked
- **12,000** new records relating to elements added
- **500** environmental project reviews performed



Round-leaved sundew, a carnivorous plant often found in south Mississippi wetlands

BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

Since their beginnings in 1935, our Biological Collections have grown to contain more than 870,000 specimens, representing the largest single reference for Mississippi vertebrate animals, freshwater mussels, plants and fossils. The irreplaceable specimens have been collected in an ongoing effort to document species diversity, distribution, ecology, and conservation status. They are an essential source of information available to resource managers, biologists and educators.

COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **36,565** specimens cataloged
- **874,170** specimens curated
- **50** loans of specimens to other agencies and institutions



A peek into the Ornithology Collection



Museum staff collecting freshwater mussel shells

RESEARCH PROGRAM

The research program includes studies of animals, plants and fossils with an emphasis on species not traditionally managed as sport game or fish. These species make up the vast majority of our flora and fauna and together form a significant portion of the natural communities of the state. Much of our research is applied toward monitoring and protecting our state's rarest species, such as Gulf sturgeon, snowy plovers, freshwater mussels, and ringed sawback turtles. These species are often viewed as indicators of environmental health.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **18** research projects completed
- **\$780,000** in federal funds managed for research projects



PUBLICATIONS & TECHNICAL REPORTS FOR FY 2006-2007

- **Jones, Robert L.** 2006. Reproduction and nesting of the endangered ringed map turtle, *Graptemys oculifera*, in Mississippi. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*.
- Ciampaglio, C.N., **G.E. Phillips**. 2007. Late Cretaceous echinoderms in the Central Gulf States: An update. *J. Miss. Acad. Sci.* 52(1):88.
- McDonald, J.L., M.S. Peterson and **W.T. Slack**. 2007. Morphology, density and spatial patterning of reproductive bowers in an established alien population of Nile tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus*. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* 22 (3), 461-468.
- Gregoire, D.R., M.S. Peterson, P.J. Schofield, **W.T. Slack**. 2007. Conservation of coastal watersheds through control of aquaculture input vectors: an update on Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in coastal Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. *Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings* 49:9-15.
- **Jones, Robert L., M.A. Dugo, W.T. Slack, J.S. Peyton**. 2007. Stream mussel and fishes inventory - FINAL REPORT. Museum Technical Report, No. 132. Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson, MS.
- **Whitehurst, Andrew**. 2007. Tax Credit for Scenic Streams and Priority Conservation Sites brochure.
- **Dugo, M.A., B.R. Keiser, W.T. Slack**. 2006. Conservation of the Cottogaster (*Percina copelandi sp.clade*): Applying molecular phylogenetics and phylogeography towards the reconstruction of evolutionary history. Museum Technical Report, No. 129. Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson, MS.

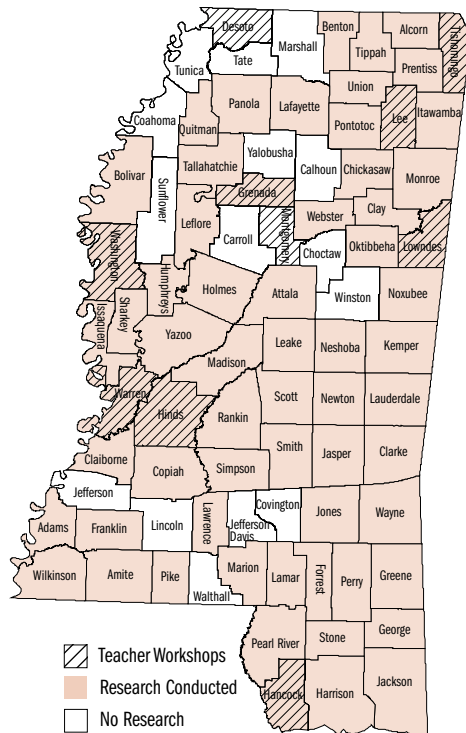


Aquatic Biologist, Bryan Fedrick, collecting snakes

GOING BY THE NUMBERS

COUNTY	VISITORS	OUTREACH
Adams	438	0
Alcorn	37	535
Amite	353	0
Attala	646	570
Benton	68	0
Bolivar	499	2,579
Calhoun	52	190
Carroll	104	0
Chickasaw	125	162
Choctaw	84	27
Claiborne	143	0
Clarke	170	816
Clay	193	694
Coahoma	122	1,879
Copiah	2,055	0
Covington	333	0
Desoto	166	824
Forrest	1,375	0
Franklin	394	0
George	204	695
Greene	95	395
Grenada	263	89
Hancock	224	1,406
Harrison	360	1,395
Hinds	39,112	50
Holmes	585	224
Humphreys	110	0
Issaquena	10	43
Itawamba	31	226
Jackson	161	2,994
Jasper	404	1,062
Jefferson	160	0
Jefferson Davis	333	0
Jones	1,327	913
Kemper	172	300
Lafayette	347	800
Lamar	550	75
Lauderdale	1,454	1,562
Lawrence	302	0
Leake	1,058	640
Lee	716	1,679
Leflore	828	146
Lincoln	1,048	0
Lowndes	486	1,767
Madison	11,418	250
Marion	470	0
Marshall	9	1,123
Monroe	249	722
Montgomery	168	0
Neshoba	807	692
Newton	1,017	537
Noxubee	94	895
Oktibbeha	489	1,429
Panola	46	465
Pearl River	285	2061

MAP OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES



Perry	277	554
Pike	904	0
Pontotoc	144	473
Prentiss	188	547
Quitman	12	194
Rankin	16,506	0
Scott	2,014	75
Sharkey	167	376
Simpson	1,484	0
Smith	321	400
Stone	235	230
Sunflower	405	1,025
Tallahatchie	59	107
Tate	35	411
Tippah	46	0
Tishomingo	91	402
Tunica	5	165
Union	76	588
Walthall	80	0
Warren	2,875	48
Washington	570	882
Wayne	263	395
Webster	331	200
Wilkinson	20	0
Winston	388	0
Yalobusha	110	0
Yazoo	1,051	423

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Paleontology Curator, George Phillips, identifying fossils for Museum guests

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