

MISSISSIPPI  
Museum of  
Natural  
Science



# FESTNATUREFESTNAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007

## Back by popular demand: It's NatureFEST!

**C**elebrate spring with NatureFEST! On Saturday, April 14, the Museum will hold its 7th annual NatureFEST, an event that promises fun and fascination for the entire family. Special activities will take place throughout the Museum and on the grounds from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Come meet the "Snake Man," Terry Vandeventer, and see what slithering friends he brings. Enjoy an exciting birds of prey demonstration with Patt Lowrance. See divers feeding fish in the aquariums, and watch live animal presentations by the Museum's education staff.

Go behind the scenes with our scientists to learn about some of their unique research tools. Take a tour of the Museum Collections area and discover how valuable specimens are collected and maintained.



Then take a guided tour of our nature trails led by botanists who will point out native wildflowers and migrating birds. Look to the skies and try to identify the migrating birds overhead. Enjoy our Native Plant Garden in full bloom, then find just the right plant to take home at our plant sale.

For the adventurous, try paddling a kayak in Mayes Lake! Buffalo Peak Outfitters will be on hand to demonstrate the latest in outdoor equipment.

*Let's celebrate nature!*

Come spend the day at NatureFEST!



### SPECIAL EXHIBITS

#### **DON'T MISS** **Jewels of the Sea:** **Walter Anderson's Aquatica**

Artwork by Walter Inglis Anderson  
OCT 6, 2006 - MAY 13, 2007



Experience the sea life of the Gulf Coast and Mississippi Sound in the watercolors of Walter Anderson. Many of these works were damaged by Katrina and only recently restored. Several have never been publicly displayed before. The exhibit also includes aquariums with some of the same creatures Anderson depicted.

#### **Hunters of the Sky**

Explore the Realm of Raptors  
JUNE 23 - DEC. 30, 2007



## HUNTERS OF THE SKY

Birds of prey have always gripped our imaginations. Raptors—eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, and the rarely seen condor—have been revered as divine messengers, prized as hunting companions, celebrated as symbols of power, and reviled as scavengers and killers. Visitors will learn about these great birds whose continued survival largely depends on environmental ethics, public policy, and the human role in the natural world.

THE NATURAL NEWSLINE IS SPONSORED IN PART BY  
THE JACKSON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

# MISSISSIPPI Museum of Natural Science

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS  
 Sam Polles, Ph.D.  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 Al Tuck DEPUTY DIRECTOR Robert Cook EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
 COMMISSIONERS  
 William C. Deviney, Jr. CHAIRMAN John C. Stanley IV VICE CHAIRMAN  
 James Huff Bryan Jones  
**MUSEUM STAFF**  
 Libby Hartfield MUSEUM DIRECTOR

**ADMINISTRATION**  
 Mary Jenkins ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR  
 Connie Gore GIFT SHOP MANAGER  
 Mary Stevens LIBRARIAN  
 Harold Garner FACILITIES MAINTENANCE MANAGER  
 Brandy Jenkins ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
 Clarence White ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
 Shirley Hall CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR  
 Charles Jeffcoat CUSTODIAN  
**AQUARIUMS**  
 Terry Majure AQUARIUM COORDINATOR  
 Karen Dierolf AQUATIC BIOLOGIST  
 Stephanie Hawes Monistere AQUATIC BIOLOGIST  
 Mike Stegall AQUARIST  
**EDUCATION**  
 Georgia Spencer EDUCATION COORDINATOR  
 John DeFillippo OUTREACH NATURALIST  
 Joan Elder PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR  
 Megan Ellis OUTREACH NATURALIST  
 Rebecca Gruneberg SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR  
 Yolanda Hawkins EDUCATION ASSISTANT  
 Isabel Kelly PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR  
 Joseph M. McGee OUTREACH NATURALIST  
 Angel Rohnke NATURALIST  
 Nicole Smith NATURALIST  
 Sarah Wheelless OUTREACH NATURALIST  
 Corey Wright NATURALIST

**EXHIBIT MANAGEMENT**  
 Norton McKeigney EXHIBITS SUPERVISOR  
 Ray Terry EXHIBITS SUPERVISOR  
**RESEARCH**  
 Charles Knight RESEARCH COORDINATOR  
 Melanie Caudill BIOLOGICAL DATA MANAGER  
 Adrienne Clark DATABASE TECHNICIAN  
 Mark Dugo ICHTHYOLOGIST  
 Bryan Fedrick LABORATORY ASSISTANT  
 Matthew B. Hicks NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
 R.L. Jones, Ph.D. HERPETOLOGIST  
 Tom Mann BIOLOGIST  
 Meredith Montgomery LABORATORY TECHNICIAN  
 Scott Peyton COLLECTIONS MANAGER  
 George Phillips PALEONTOLOGY CURATOR  
 Richard Rummel WILDLIFE SPECIALIST  
 Alison Sherman FIELD BIOLOGIST / DATABASE SPECIALIST  
 Todd Slack, Ph.D. ICHTHYOLOGIST  
 Heather Sullivan BOTANIST  
 Ian Thompson RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
 LaToya Turner LABORATORY ASSISTANT  
 Andrew Whitehurst SCENIC STREAMS / NATURAL AREAS COORDINATOR  
 Nicholas Winstead ORNITHOLOGIST  
 Brad Young BLACK BEAR BIOLOGIST



The Museum is celebrating spring with several special events I hope you will attend. Keep these dates in mind so you won't miss out on the fun:  
 NaureFEST on April 14 is a great opportunity to enjoy lots of activities both inside the Museum and on the grounds. You can begin your springtime recreation by sampling activities like hiking and kayaking.  
 On April 21, we will partner with the Jackson Garden Club to offer guided tours of the native plant gardens and lectures on gardening for wildlife.  
 And don't miss "Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica," which runs through May 13. We thank the donors who made this exhibit possible and the family of Walter Anderson for partnering with us to bring this incredible exhibit to you.

See you at the Museum soon!

*Libby Hartfield*  
 Libby Hartfield  
 MUSEUM DIRECTOR

## One-Millionth Visitor Welcomed to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science



The Museum celebrated its one-millionth visitor on October 28, 2006, when the Pirruccio family of Lafayette, Louisiana walked through our doors. The unsuspecting Pirruccios — parents Salvatore and Deborah, sons Riccardo, Christian, and Alessio, and friend Tiger Bech — received a family membership, a behind-the-scenes Museum tour, and a travel package featuring a visit to the "Horn Island: World of Space and Form" exhibit at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs.  
 Recently relocated from Italy, the Pirruccios have toured museums worldwide, and now have a special bond with ours. As young Riccardo exclaimed, "Now, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is OUR museum!"  
 "We thank the Pirruccios and all our visitors for making the Museum so successful," said Museum Director Libby Hartfield. "All of you are one-in-a-million!"

## AWARDS

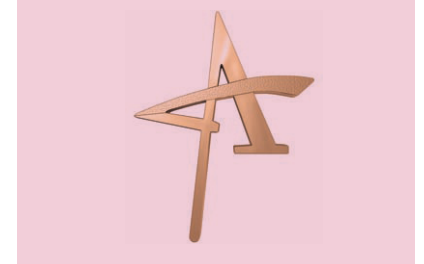
The Museum was recognized as "AAA Southern Travel Treasure" and "Best Museum" by the Jackson Free Press "Best of Jackson" readers poll for the seventh year in a row!



"The World of Giant Insects" promotional package and the "Natural Newline" spring/summer 2006 issue both received gold awards from the Southeastern Museums Conference.



The Museum has also received preliminary notification that we will be honored at this year's ADDY® Awards by the American Advertising Federation.



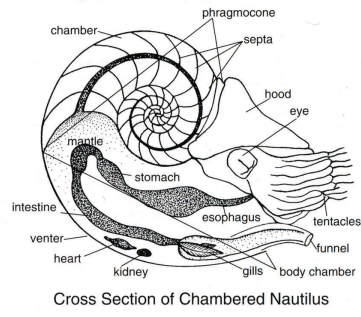
## Fossil Road Show Pack Up Your Fossils and Hit the Road!

Don't miss our next Fossil Road Show at the Museum, taking place from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, March 3. Bring your favorite fossils and get expert opinions about their ages and identities from our team of scientists. Fossils from the Museum collection will be on display, and presentations on interesting fossil subjects will be offered throughout the day.

Pictured below are Harvey Huffstater and his grandson Dalton Dear, both of Jackson, with an incredible fossil Harvey found near Bluff Springs in Union County. The fossil is a "steinkern," or internal cast, of a nautiloid, a marine mollusk from



the genus *Eutrephoceras*. This creature was the ancestor of the chambered nautilus that exists today.



Printed with permission; illustration by D. S. Norton in *Ammonites and other Cephalopods of the Pierre Seaway*, copyright by Neal Larson & Geoscience Press, Inc.

Nautiloids like Harvey's were common in the Upper Cretaceous Period, about 65-85 million years ago. Many smaller nautiloids (like those pictured alongside the new find) have been unearthed in the northeastern and east-central parts of the state, but Harvey's fossil may be the largest nautiloid of this genus ever found!

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**QUICK CALENDAR**

**Fossil Road Show**  
 SAT · MARCH 3  
 10AM to 4PM

**NatureFEST**  
 SAT · APRIL 14  
 10AM to 4PM

**Native Plant Garden Tours and Lectures**  
 SAT · APRIL 21  
 10AM to 4PM  
 \$10.00 INCLUDES MUSEUM ADMISSION

**International Migratory Bird Day**  
 SAT · MAY 12  
 10AM to 3PM

**TWO MONTHS LEFT**

**Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica**  
 RUNS THROUGH MAY 13

## International Migratory Bird Day Here They Come!

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 12 from 10am to 3pm.  
 Did you know the Museum's grounds and nature trails are stopover spots for migratory birds as they fly between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Central and South America? Mark your calendar for May 12, when we'll gather for bird watching, nature hikes, and lots of hands-on activities. Join in the fun and help support migratory bird conservation.



## Native Plant Garden Tours and Lectures Bring Your Green Thumb!

Come join us for tours of our lush native plant garden. See Mississippi natives like swamp azalea, bell flower, smooth phlox, mountain laurel, and sweet shrub. Stay for informative gardening lectures where experts help you learn how to attract butterflies and other wildlife and how to use native plants. You can see displays of indigenous plants near the Museum's

entrance; visit our Liberty Garden where victims of 9/11 are remembered; stroll through the Millennium Grove—dedicated to perpetuating America's Famous & Historic Trees; and explore our nature trails. You'll take home plenty of useful tips and tricks from these experts:

- 10:00 A.M.  
**Butterfly Gardening**  
 SPEAKER: Halle Jo Ellis
- 11:00 A.M.  
**Using Native Plants**  
 SPEAKER: Jack Herring
- 12:30 P.M.  
**Growing Fruit for Yourself and the Critters (If You So Choose!)**  
 SPEAKER: Tom Mann
- 2:00 P.M.  
**Antique Roses**  
 SPEAKER: Miriam Etheridge
- 3:00 P.M.  
**Backyard Wildlife Management**  
 SPEAKER: Bill Maily

## Saving the Mississippi Sandhill Crane



The Mississippi Sandhill Crane diorama features magnificent, endangered creatures.

The diorama featuring the Mississippi Sandhill Crane may be one of the smallest habitat exhibits in the Museum, but its importance should not be underestimated. The diorama represents the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, located in the Lower Gulf Coastal Plain in Jackson County, the only place on earth where this subspecies exists.

Living in the wet pine savannas, the tall, slender Mississippi Sandhill Crane is instantly recognizable even from a distance. The birds are about 4 ft. tall with a wingspan of 5.5 ft. They fly with both the neck and legs outstretched. The voice of the Mississippi Sandhill Crane has been described as a loud, rattling “kar-r-ro-o-o”.

The diet of the Mississippi Sandhill Crane includes adult and larval insects, earthworms, crayfish, frogs, rodents, seeds, roots, nuts, fruits, and leafy material. During summer, most feeding occurs on the nesting grounds. In fall, winter, and early spring, cranes feed in adjacent areas and many roost in marshy areas along the Pascagoula River. These magnificent creatures are endangered in the United States, where only about 130 are believed to exist today.

Established in 1975 for the Sandhill Crane’s protection, the Refuge is located in a savanna. This broad, grassy area with scattered pine trees is the perfect habitat for Sandhill Cranes to build their nests and find food. The habitat must be managed by using controlled burning since it is too dangerous to let fires from lightning strikes burn naturally.

Wildlife managers are working hard to increase the bird’s numbers, which have dropped drastically since the early 1900s. Eggs from the wild Mississippi Sandhill Cranes are collected, then sent to a research center to be hatched. This reduces the chance of mortality due to coyotes and other nest-raiding predators. Once hatched, the chicks are released into the wild. A captive flock also provides young for restocking in the wild. Most Mississippi Sandhill Cranes are offspring from this captive flock.

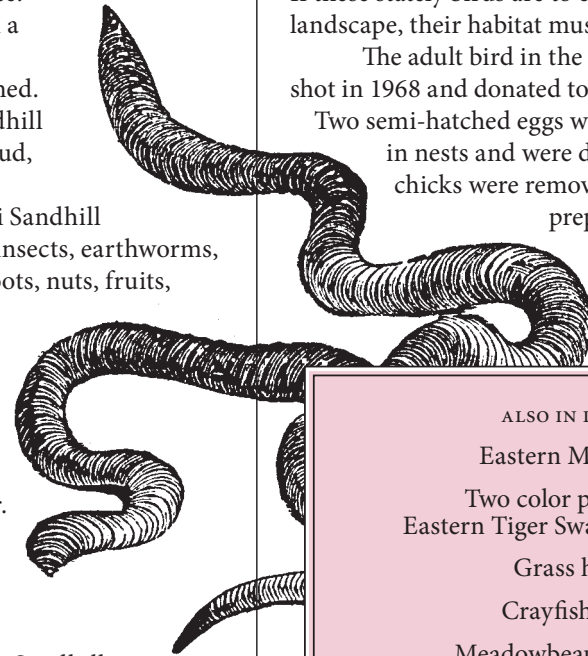


Despite these efforts, the loss of rich pine savannas continues to threaten the Sandhill Crane population. Dense pine plantations have been planted where savannas once flourished, creating unsuitable conditions for cranes.

If these stately birds are to continue as part of the landscape, their habitat must be protected.

The adult bird in the diorama was illegally shot in 1968 and donated to the Museum for display.

Two semi-hatched eggs were found abandoned in nests and were donated in 1975. The chicks were removed from the shells and prepared for exhibition by Tommy Shropshire.



- ALSO IN DIORAMA:
- Eastern Meadowlark
  - Two color phases of the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly
  - Grass hoppers
  - Crayfish tunnels
  - Meadowbeauty *Rhexia* L.
  - Yellow Trumpets *Sarracenia alata* Wood
  - Parrot Pitcherplant *Sarracenia psittacina* Michx.
  - Sweetbay Magnolia *virginiana* L.
  - Cinnamon Fern *Osmunda cinnamomea* L.
  - Saw Palmetto *Serenoa repens* (Bartr.) Small
  - Yellow Stargrass *Hypoxis* L.
  - Pale Grasspink *Calopogon pallidus* Chapman
  - Ten-angle Pipewort *Eriocaulon decangulare* L.
  - Golden Colicroot *Aletris aurea* Walt.
  - Rose Pogonia *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (L.) Ker-Gawl.
  - Beyrich’s Threeawn Grass *Aristida beyrichiana* Trin. & Rupr.

## The Museum’s Herpetology Collection: An Overview



Though unseen by most visitors to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the biological research collections provide the foundation upon which much of our knowledge of animals, plants, and fossils is based. This is the fourth in a series of articles highlighting these collections.

Begun in the 1930s, the Museum’s herpetology collection consists primarily of amphibian and reptile specimens in 70 percent ethyl alcohol, along with a few dried turtle shells. Substantial additions were made in 1973 when the Museum acquired part of the University of Southern Mississippi’s herpetology collection, and again in 1993 when the remainder of USM’s collection was acquired.

We currently have 13,534 catalogued specimens consisting of 7,088 amphibians (3,263 frogs; 3,825 salamanders) and 6,446 reptiles (290 lizards; 3,437 snakes; 2,684 turtles; 34 alligators; 1 amphisbaenian). These specimens represent 194 species and subspecies from 27 states.

The Mississippi specimens represent 91 percent of the total collection. These animals were collected from all 82 counties, with the majority coming from the southern part of the state—not surprising since so many were collected in the 1950s and 1960s at USM. Approximately 13 percent of the collection is composed of specimens collected prior to 1950, 30 percent from the 1950s, 34 percent from the 1960s, and 15 percent since the 1970s.

Specimens are added to the collection in a variety of ways. Bryan Fedrick, our Herpetology Collection Assistant, recently completed a study of the food habits of watersnakes at catfish ponds. All of the specimens he collected during that study are

Dr. Edmund Keiser, recently retired from the University of Mississippi, has deposited voucher specimens from reptile and amphibian surveys that he conducted in the Vicksburg National Military Park and on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service properties in north Mississippi.

We also acquire specimens that have been hit by vehicles while crossing roads in Mississippi. These animals, if not damaged too extensively, are often brought to the Museum by staff or by the general public. Still others are added by targeting geographic areas that have had little collecting in the past. These surveys are needed to add to our knowledge base about the distributions of certain species or groups of species.

All specimens, whether they are collected as part of a survey or are found dead on the road, are first fixed in a 10 percent formalin solution. This hardens the tissue and makes the specimen easier to store and to handle in the future. After this hardening and fixing process, each specimen

now catalogued and in the herpetology collection. is tagged with a permanent label that has a unique



catalog number. All information about a specimen, including its catalog number, where and when it

was found, the collector, and any other pertinent information, is entered into both a physical catalog and a computer database. Specimens are then placed in 70 percent alcohol for permanent storage.

Researchers wishing to learn more about Mississippi’s reptiles and amphibians often use both the catalogs and specimens when conducting taxonomic or other studies which require specific data on individual specimens.



ONGOING

**Come On Outside!**

Visit the Museum's Native Plant Garden and nature trails to experience the wonders of winter and spring in Mississippi. You'll find trail markers and signs identifying plants and habitats. So come on outside and discover the rich variety of Mississippi flora!

**Fish Feeding**

Come meet some of our most fascinating aquarium inhabitants, every Tuesday and Friday at 10:00 AM, and Sunday at 2:00 PM.

**Creature Features**

These informal programs—scheduled or spontaneous—feature live or mounted animals. Scheduled every Saturday at 10 AM and 2 PM, Creature Features make learning fun!

**First Tuesdays**

*Naturalist Lecture Series*  
On the first Tuesday of the month, the Museum offers lectures addressing a variety of natural science subjects. Unless noted otherwise, the lectures take place from noon to 1 PM in the Museum's Rotwein Theater.

Lectures are free to Museum Foundation members or regular admission visitors. Please show your membership card at the gate. Regular Museum fee: \$5.00 for adults; \$4.00 for senior citizens; \$3.00 for children; \$2.00 for students with teachers. Members also receive a ten percent discount at The Dragonfly Shoppe.

**MARCH 1** · ANNOUNCEMENT  
**Camp Wild Registration**  
Registration for the June camp opens to the general public.



**MARCH 3** · SAT · 10AM-4PM · EVENT  
**Fossil Road Show**  
Bring your favorite fossils and get expert opinions about their age and identity. Presentations on interesting fossil subjects will be offered throughout the day. Fossils from the Museum collection will also be on display.



**MARCH 6** · TUE · NOON-1PM · LECTURE  
**The Mysterious World of Drifting Sargassum Habitat: Oasis of Life in the Gulf of Mexico**

**SPEAKER:** Jim Franks  
Senior Research Scientist and Fisheries Biologist, University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL), Ocean Springs, MS

The Sargasso Sea is one of the most productive and diverse ecosystems on earth, a real "floating jungle." Learn about discoveries made by the GCRL's Sargassum Research Team during recent study expeditions into the large fields of floating Sargassum scattered across the northern Gulf of Mexico. Then visit

the "Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica" exhibit to see live creatures from this habitat as well as Anderson's depiction of them in his art.



**APRIL 3** · TUE · NOON-1PM · LECTURE  
**Coastal Birds and Wildlife After Katrina (What Would Walter Anderson Have Thought?)**

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Mark LaSalle  
Director, Pascagoula River Audubon Center, Moss Point, MS

Studies are underway to assess the impact of Hurricane Katrina on coastal birds and wildlife. Results are still preliminary, but early indications suggest that many

species are more resilient than previously thought. Mark LaSalle will discuss these and other topics about the state of nature on the coast, including the status of the newly designated Pascagoula River Audubon Center.



**APRIL 14** · SAT · 10AM-4PM · EVENT  
**NatureFEST**

Bring the family for a fun celebration of nature! Activities include programs about snakes and birds of prey, fish feedings, a behind-the-scenes look at Museum research, guided nature walks, and many other outdoor activities. Get ready to have fun!

**APRIL 21** · SAT · 10AM-4PM · \$10  
**Native Plant Garden Tours**  
Enjoy the Museum's beautiful gardens and get fun and informative gardening advice from local experts. (For more information, see page 2.)

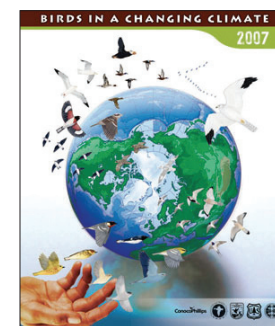
**APRIL 30** · MON · 5:30PM  
**Membership Meeting and Volunteer Recognition**  
John Anderson, son of Walter Anderson will speak about his father's work and the "Jewels of the Sea" exhibit.



**May 1** · TUE · NOON-1PM · LECTURE  
**Cumulative Impacts on Walter Anderson's Beloved Coastal Environment: The Relation of the Organism to the Landscape**

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Mark Peterson  
Professor of Coastal Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi, Ocean Springs, MS  
Dr. Peterson will discuss Walter Anderson's view of nature in coastal Mississippi and how

this view inspired his work. Dr. Peterson will then show how Anderson's beloved coast has been changed in the name of "progress." He will contrast the function of natural marsh banks with those altered by the installation of sheet-piling bulkheads along canals and shores. Dr. Peterson will also discuss sustainable alternatives to the hardening and alteration of natural banks—the best hope for protecting and restoring the coast as Anderson knew it.



**MAY 12** · SAT · 10AM-3PM · EVENT  
**International Migratory Bird Day**  
Join in activities to support conservation and increase our awareness of migratory birds.



**MAY 13** · ANNOUNCEMENT  
**Closing of Jewels of the Sea**  
The last day to experience our "Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica" exhibit.

**JUNE 5** · TUE · 10AM-3PM · EVENT  
**Snake Day**  
Learn how to tell the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes.



10AM-11AM & NOON-1PM · LECTURES  
**SPEAKER:** Terry Majure  
Aquarium Coordinator, Museum of Natural Science, Jackson  
Biologist Terry Majure will demystify our much maligned native reptiles – SNAKES! You will learn the characteristics that will help you

recognize the differences between the 6 venomous and 55 non-venomous snakes found in Mississippi. Majure will discuss accurate natural history information on our native snakes and their valuable place in the ecosystem. Live Mississippi snakes will be on exhibit with experts on-hand to answer your questions.



**JUNE 23** · SAT · EXHIBIT PREMIER  
**Hunters of the Sky**  
Visitors will explore the world of raptors such as eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, and the rarely seen condor, and will learn more about what we can do to ensure their survival. This exhibit will be on display until December 30, 2007.

TEACHERS

**Time To Book Your Class Field Trip**

Spring is fast approaching and field trip dates are booking up fast. Please schedule your class for an exciting program that also helps you meet the curriculum objectives of the State Department of Education. The Museum Education staff will offer these inquiry-based, hands-on programs by appointment until March 16. From March 17 until the end of the school year, you are welcome to schedule your class for a tour of the Museum.



**Object Kits**

Object kits and videos are available to enrich your classroom lessons anytime! You may choose from kits such as skulls, tracks, plants, fossils, birds, and others.



In order to schedule a workshop or field trip, reserve a resource kit, or learn more about how our Museum can help meet your classroom needs, call

601.354.7303

Call  
**601.354.7303**  
for information, reservations & resources

**PRESCHOOL:** The Museum's hands-on Preschool Discovery Room is designed specifically for pre-kindergartners, ages 3-5.

For reserved group or summer camp reservations and general information, call Joan Elder at 601-354-7303 ext.136.

**Visitor Access**

**ALL AGES**  
MON-FRI 1:00-4:00PM  
SAT 9:30AM-NOON & 1:00-4:00PM  
SUN 1:00-4:00PM  
**TIME FOR TWOS (AGES 2 & UNDER)**  
2nd TUE 1:00-4:00PM  
**STORY TIME (AGES 3 TO 5)**  
WED 1:15, 2:15, & 3:15PM (AUG-MAY)  
TUE AND THU 10:15 & 11:15AM (JUNE-JULY)

The Discovery Room may be opened at other times if a staff member or volunteer is available. Please inquire.

**Reserved Group Access (MON-FRI 9:00, 9:45 & 10:30AM)**

**MARCH - MAY CLASSES**  
**"Look, Don't Touch!"**

Children will learn about the dangers of approaching or touching any wild animal. They will better understand that wild animals are afraid of human beings and, if threatened, might harm them.

**JUNE - AUGUST CLASSES**  
**"Who Needs Wings? I Have Eight Legs!"**

Children will learn that spiders should be respected and not feared. They will appreciate the diversity and uniqueness of spiders and their webs, as well as their usefulness in controlling insects.



**Summer Camps**

**JUNE - JULY CAMPS**  
**"Spiders, Squirrels, & Salamanders"**  
*Fun with natural science using the letter "S"*  
9:30AM-10:30AM (Age 2)  
11:00AM-NOON (Ages 3 to 5)

Children will learn about the amazing variety of animals whose names all begin with that squiggly letter "S."

Preschool Camp is offered this year in two duplicate sessions. Each Camp will run for three consecutive Mondays and will offer one-on-one, hands-on natural science experiences for children and their caregivers. Each camp is designed for 16 participants – eight children, each with one adult.

**Camp Session I**  
June 4 (spiders), June 11 (squirrels), June 18 (salamanders)  
**Camp Session II (repeat)**  
June 25 (spiders), July 2 (squirrels), July 9 (salamanders)



## Art Mirrors Nature in the Works of Walter Anderson

**O**ur current exhibit—"Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica" offers visitors a unique opportunity to appreciate not only the watercolors, block prints, and drawings of marine life created by Walter Anderson (1903-1965), but also living examples of the creatures these artworks depict.

Along with more than 80 works by the renowned Mississippi Gulf Coast artist, the exhibit features two aquariums. One aquarium contains fish commonly found among floating sargassum weeds. The most prominent of these is the sargassum trigger fish, a lively fish that seems to be always begging visitors for food. (But don't worry: they are fed daily!) Anderson frequently observed these floating habitats during his lengthy stays on the Mississippi Sound's barrier islands.



The other aquarium houses more typical Mississippi Sound creatures such as kingfish, hardhead catfish, grey snapper, spotfin mojarra, blue crab, and hermit crab. Anderson spent decades observing these animals, interpreting their shapes, colors, and movements in his distinctive style.

Anderson's daughter, Mary Anderson Pickard, says that, "Despite the suffering, the loneliness and hardships of my father's life, his work is a joyful affirmation of and tribute to the creatures with whom we share this planet and who gave him so much."

While the paintings, prints, and drawings express Anderson's very personal vision of the natural world, they are also remarkably accurate biologically. If you take your time, you can probably match the fish and crabs in the aquariums to those depicted in Anderson's art.

*So go ahead. See how many you can find!*

## Symbolizing Mississippi, Naturally



**D**id you know that the State wildflower is Coreopsis? The Museum has a published list of our state symbols, all chosen from the natural world to reflect the natural character of our state. Amazingly, all of these state symbols are present along our nature trails and in our exhibits, with the single exception of the bottle-nosed dolphin, our state water mammal.

The coreopsis can be seen in late spring and summer in the park. Mississippi has many different types of native coreopsis, all of which are considered the state wildflower. In our park, you may see lance-leaf coreopsis and hairy coreopsis along the ecotone of the golf course and the nature trails, as well as whorled-leaf coreopsis scattered throughout the bluffs. The northern mockingbird, our state bird, usually can be seen in the mown grassy areas of the park and along the ecotone with forests.

Less frequently encountered, our state land mammal—the white-tailed deer—may only be represented by tracks, scat, and scraps. The park is host to a small number of deer, but these shy creatures are not commonly seen. The winter and spring highwater events of the Pearl River will occasionally drive the deer up onto the bluffs where visitors sometimes see them near trail point 6.

Likewise, unless you are fishing, you will probably not interact with the large-mouth bass, the state fish, which is found in Mayes Lakes. The lakes and sloughs also host the wood duck—our state waterfowl. From trail point 13 you might sneak a peak at the elegant drake and his hen, or flush them from their feeding.

Our state flower and tree, the southern magnolia, is only seen in the plantings around the Museum. The habitats along the trails actually do not support natural populations of magnolias, the soils being too basic for this plant.

Like the magnolia, petrified wood (our state stone) is not natural to the site, but has been brought in for interest. Large pieces of this fossil can be seen at trail point 5, the Callaway marker and "bench."



Our state insect, the honeybee, may be observed pollinating flowers in the gardens and along the trails. In addition, there are populations of bees in the park that make their hives in hollow trees. The modern oyster shell, the state shell, is only seen in the Museum's exhibits, but Fossil Gulch (trail point #8) does have fossilized oyster shells which you can see from the bridge over the gulch. These fossils have washed out of the Moody's Branch soil formation. Our state fossil, an ancient whale of the species *Zygorhiza kochii*, was excavated from this formation in Yazoo County. "Ziggy" is on display in the Museum's exhibits, but could another one be buried in the park's section of the formation?



Our state butterfly, the spicebush swallowtail, is a common sight in the park. Easily recognizable, the green caterpillar with large "eye-spots" feeds primarily on spicebush, which grows along the foot of the bluffs. The adult butterflies frequent the bluffs as well. Look for this dark butterfly with prominent white dots along its wing margins nectaring on flowers.



And rounding out our state symbols, the American alligator, newly named as our state reptile, is occasionally seen in the Pearl River.



## Hit TV Show Shoots at the Museum

**D**ragonfly TV, a science program for kids seen nationwide on PBS, recently taped a segment at the Museum for an episode that will begin airing in April. After a casting call and extensive auditions, two local children, Katelyn Lee, a youth volunteer for the Museum, and her school friend



Blake Harthcock, were chosen to star in the episode. According to the show's producers, Dragonfly TV, now in its sixth season, is the only all-science TV show designed specifically for middle-school kids. The popular program

is seen by approximately one million viewers each week during its regular season, and by hundreds of thousands of viewers watching repeat broadcasts or downloading the program's free podcasts.

The program does not run locally, but can be viewed over several different satellite channels or downloaded as a podcast at <http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/>. Be sure to check out our star investigators Katelyn and Blake as they explore the types of habitat American alligators prefer.

*What an excellent opportunity to showcase our Museum to the entire country!*



## Steadfast Supporters

### \$100,000–\$200,000

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

### \$50,000–\$100,000

BellSouth  
Magalen O. Bryant & Tara Wildlife  
Management  
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  
and Wildlife Foundation/  
Shell Marine Habitat Program  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Zachow

Without loyal patrons and sponsors, our work would be impossible.

Special thanks go to the following for their support of the current exhibit:

*"Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica"*  
Stuart C. Irby Company  
Paul Benton  
Howard Industries  
Dudley Hughes  
Wade & Betsy Creekmore  
Feild Cooperative Assoc., Inc.  
Buffalo Peak Outfitters/  
Patagonia, Inc.  
Jack & Marianne Dempsey  
Avery & Jackie Rollins  
Olye B. Shirley, Ph.D.  
Scott and Joy Steele  
Catchings & Lottie Smith

### \$25,000–\$50,000

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

### \$10,000–\$25,000

The Armstrong Foundation  
BancorpSouth Foundation  
Feild Cooperative Association  
Howard Industries, Inc.  
Jackson Convention  
& Visitor's Bureau  
Mississippi Arts Commission  
Mississippi Forestry Association  
Mississippi Forestry Foundation  
National Geographic Society  
Education Foundation  
Soterra LLC  
Sprint PCS/US Unwired  
The Straddlefork Foundation  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Foundation  
Wild Turkey Federation

## Diving into Volunteer Action

On Sunday afternoons around 2:00, visitors enjoy watching our volunteer divers in action. After entering the Museum volunteer program, these certified divers learned to feed fish in the large Salt Water and Pearl River tanks. The divers also educate, entertain, and interact with visitors during live presentations.

Behind-the-scenes, these volunteers prepare the fish feedings, a task that includes cutting fish, peeling shrimp, and cleaning and blending worms. Volunteers also spend long hours keeping



the tanks sparkling clean, especially the terrarium. In the summer, when algae grows so quickly that the glass needs to be scrubbed at least twice each week, divers put on their masks and wetsuits and spend an hour in the chilly water, scrubbing the glass from the inside. From the slimy task of preparing feedings to the hard work of cleaning tanks, this is some very serious volunteerism!

Carolee Kuchirka has logged hundreds of volunteer hours cleaning the tanks, diving and feeding the fish, and diving for special events. We salute Carolee, Bryce Lemmons, Rob Blaine, Carla Flaherty, Randy Jones, Mike Lucius, and Amanda Lucius for sharing their time and talents with the Museum and our many visitors!



Volunteer diver, Mike Lucius, in action during a fish feeding in the Mississippi Sound aquarium.

## New Members/Donors

**Sustaining**  
Magalen O. Bryant  
MIDDLEBURG, VA  
Melissa & David  
Patterson  
CANTON, MS  
Margie L. Smith  
TERRY, MS

**Patron**  
Chris Hall  
BRANDON, MS  
Dick Hall  
JACKSON, MS  
Karen & Neil  
Whitworth  
BRANDON, MS

**Donor**  
Ernest & Beth Taylor  
CLINTON, MS

**Family**  
Jennifer Allen  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Rachel C. Allen  
STARKVILLE, MS  
Cristy Anderson  
RICHLAND, MS  
Sophia Azordegan  
MADISON, MS  
Scott & Sandy  
Brownlee  
FLORA, MS  
Tawanna Chapman  
JACKSON, MS  
Kami Collins  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Bob & Connie Crosswell  
MADISON, MS  
David & Terri Cruise  
CLINTON, MS  
Amy M. George  
CARY, MS  
W. Alexander George  
JACKSON, MS  
Peter D. Halverson  
JACKSON, MS  
Cindy & Chris Hart  
RICHLAND, MS  
Kirk & Rita Hill  
MENDENHALL, MS  
Dr. Robert E.  
Hoagland  
GREENVILLE, MS  
Lee & Lisa Howell  
JACKSON, MS  
Tommy W. Joyner  
MADISON, MS

**Individual**  
Ibrahim Abbassi  
JACKSON, MS  
Kathryn Brannan  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Catherine S. Edwards  
JACKSON, MS  
Peter D. Halverson  
JACKSON, MS  
Arthur Finkelberg  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Eileen Giudice  
BRANDON, MS  
John E. Milner  
JACKSON, MS  
Sue McLemore  
JACKSON, MS  
Harriet Whitehouse  
BRANDON, MS

Beth Lane  
STARKVILLE, MS  
Lisa & Danny Lewis  
HARRISVILLE, MS  
Renee Lichtenhan  
PETAL, MS  
Mr. & Mrs. Jason  
Loden  
JACKSON, MS  
John Pope  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Cynthia McCraw  
JACKSON, MS  
Michele Monk-Kyzar  
YAZOO CITY, MS  
Timothy J. Riggs  
JACKSON, MS  
Frank Spell  
CLINTON, MS  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian  
Stallings  
JACKSON, MS  
Tammy Stamps  
JACKSON, MS  
Jessica Strom  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Julie Thomas  
FLOWOOD, MS  
Todd Vanlandingham  
BRANDON, MS  
Maggie Waddell  
JACKSON, MS  
Catina Watson  
JACKSON, MS  
Jamie Werne  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Greg & Penny Williams  
FLORENCE, MS  
Lea Womack  
MADISON, MS

**Memorials**  
In memory of  
Ms. Betsy Wages  
Jimmy & Jennifer  
Anderson,  
BRANDON, MS  
Tim & Paige  
Anderson  
WESSON, MS  
M. M. Flechas III  
PASCAGOULA, MS  
Mr. & Mrs. Boggs  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
Sarah Benton  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
Carolyn Thompson  
BRANDON, MS  
Richard & Amy Lynn  
BRANDON, MS  
John & Lori Oxley  
BRANDON, MS  
David & Gerri  
Hammons  
JACKSON, MS  
Lou F. Moore  
JACKSON, MS  
Mississippi Museum  
of Natural Science  
Staff  
In memory of  
Ms. Georgie Fisher  
Robbie Fisher  
JACKSON, MS  
In memory of  
Mrs. Kathryn G. Jones  
Walter & Lelia  
Wildler  
JACKSON, MS  
Dick Hall  
JACKSON, MS  
Alice Harper  
GREENWOOD, MS  
C.A. Hatchell Jr.  
JACKSON, MS  
William A. & Betty  
Anne Hays  
JACKSON, MS  
Thomas & Courtney  
Hewitt  
JACKSON, MS  
Brenda F. Hyde  
JACKSON, MS  
Daniel & Pamela  
Johnson  
VICKSBURG, MS  
Joan Marie Kaye  
JACKSON, MS  
Ms. Christine Liberto  
JACKSON, MS

**Family**  
Jennifer Allen  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Rachel C. Allen  
STARKVILLE, MS  
Cristy Anderson  
RICHLAND, MS  
Sophia Azordegan  
MADISON, MS  
Scott & Sandy  
Brownlee  
FLORA, MS  
Tawanna Chapman  
JACKSON, MS  
Kami Collins  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Bob & Connie Crosswell  
MADISON, MS  
David & Terri Cruise  
CLINTON, MS  
Amy M. George  
CARY, MS  
W. Alexander George  
JACKSON, MS  
Peter D. Halverson  
JACKSON, MS  
Arthur Finkelberg  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Eileen Giudice  
BRANDON, MS  
John E. Milner  
JACKSON, MS  
Sue McLemore  
JACKSON, MS  
Harriet Whitehouse  
BRANDON, MS

**Memorials**  
In memory of  
Ms. Betsy Wages  
Jimmy & Jennifer  
Anderson,  
BRANDON, MS  
Tim & Paige  
Anderson  
WESSON, MS  
M. M. Flechas III  
PASCAGOULA, MS  
Mr. & Mrs. Boggs  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
Sarah Benton  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
Carolyn Thompson  
BRANDON, MS  
Richard & Amy Lynn  
BRANDON, MS  
John & Lori Oxley  
BRANDON, MS  
David & Gerri  
Hammons  
JACKSON, MS  
Lou F. Moore  
JACKSON, MS  
Mississippi Museum  
of Natural Science  
Staff  
In memory of  
Ms. Georgie Fisher  
Robbie Fisher  
JACKSON, MS  
In memory of  
Mrs. Kathryn G. Jones  
Walter & Lelia  
Wildler  
JACKSON, MS  
Dick Hall  
JACKSON, MS  
Alice Harper  
GREENWOOD, MS  
C.A. Hatchell Jr.  
JACKSON, MS  
William A. & Betty  
Anne Hays  
JACKSON, MS  
Thomas & Courtney  
Hewitt  
JACKSON, MS  
Brenda F. Hyde  
JACKSON, MS  
Daniel & Pamela  
Johnson  
VICKSBURG, MS  
Joan Marie Kaye  
JACKSON, MS  
Ms. Christine Liberto  
JACKSON, MS

**Fern Garden Exhibit Sponsors**  
Robbie Fisher  
JACKSON, MS  
Lagniappe Foundation  
JACKSON, MS

**Hunters of the Sky Exhibit Donors**  
John & Jodi Nabors  
VANCOUVER, WA  
Hap & Hilda Owen  
JACKSON, MS  
Avery & Jackie Rollins  
MADISON, MS  
Billy Simmons  
CLINTON, MS  
Emily & Tim Smith  
JACKSON, MS  
Robby & Martha  
Toombs  
BRANDON, MS  
Charles & Sandra  
West  
JACKSON, MS  
Mr. & Mrs. Don West  
JACKSON, MS  
Neil & Karen  
Whitworth  
BRANDON, MS  
Dr. & Mrs. Frank M.  
Wiygul Jr.  
JACKSON, MS  
Dr. John Wofford  
JACKSON, MS  
Chris & Steve Zachow  
JACKSON, MS

**Jewels of the Sea: Walter Anderson's Aquatica Exhibit Sponsors**  
Stuart C. Irby  
Company  
JACKSON, MS  
Paul Benton  
BILOXI, MS  
Howard Industries  
JACKSON, MS  
Dudley Hughes  
JACKSON, MS  
Wade & Betsy  
Creekmore  
JACKSON, MS

Mark & Sharon  
McCreery  
JACKSON, MS  
Jennie McIntosh  
BRANDON, MS  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike  
McNames  
JACKSON, MS  
Brooks Mosley  
JACKSON, MS  
John & Jodi Nabors  
VANCOUVER, WA  
Hap & Hilda Owen  
JACKSON, MS  
Avery & Jackie Rollins  
MADISON, MS  
Billy Simmons  
CLINTON, MS  
Emily & Tim Smith  
JACKSON, MS  
Robby & Martha  
Toombs  
BRANDON, MS  
Charles & Sandra  
West  
JACKSON, MS  
Mr. & Mrs. Don West  
JACKSON, MS  
Neil & Karen  
Whitworth  
BRANDON, MS  
Dr. & Mrs. Frank M.  
Wiygul Jr.  
JACKSON, MS  
Dr. John Wofford  
JACKSON, MS  
Chris & Steve Zachow  
JACKSON, MS

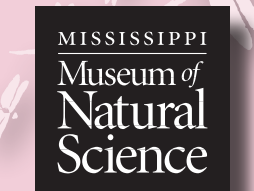
**Education Outreach Sponsors**  
Paul Benton  
BILOXI, MS  
Entergy Charitable  
Foundation  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Janet and Luther Ott  
Charitable Fund  
of the Community  
Foundation of  
Greater Jackson  
JACKSON, MS  
The King's Daughters  
and Sons Circle  
Number Two  
GREENVILLE, MS  
Walker Foundation  
JACKSON, MS

**Other Contributors**  
Frederick & Marian  
Anklam  
ARLINGTON, VA  
Mississippi Council  
for Agriculture and  
Natural Resources  
BRANDON, MS

Feild Cooperative  
Association, Inc.  
JACKSON, MS  
Buffalo Peak  
Outfitters/  
Patagonia, Inc.  
JACKSON, MS/VENTURA, CA  
Jack & Marianne  
Dempsey  
JACKSON, MS  
Avery & Jackie Rollins  
JACKSON, MS  
Olye B. Shirley, Ph.D.  
JACKSON, MS  
Scott and Joy Steele  
RIDGELAND, MS  
Catchings & Lottie  
Smith  
JACKSON, MS

**Education Outreach Sponsors**  
Paul Benton  
BILOXI, MS  
Entergy Charitable  
Foundation  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Janet and Luther Ott  
Charitable Fund  
of the Community  
Foundation of  
Greater Jackson  
JACKSON, MS  
The King's Daughters  
and Sons Circle  
Number Two  
GREENVILLE, MS  
Walker Foundation  
JACKSON, MS

**Other Contributors**  
Frederick & Marian  
Anklam  
ARLINGTON, VA  
Mississippi Council  
for Agriculture and  
Natural Resources  
BRANDON, MS



FOUNDATION

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation is the lifeblood of our Museum, providing man-power, financial assistance and moral support. The Foundation Board of Directors invites you to join today!

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
George Allen Libby Hartfield  
Alex Alston, Jr. Matt Holleman III  
Kevin Caldwell Janice Larson  
Betsy Creekmore Jennie McIntosh  
Opal Dakin John Rings  
Marianne Dempsey Avery Rollins  
Theo Dinkins III Rosalie Rotwein  
Halla Jo Ellis Olye Brown Shirley  
Sean Wesley Ellis Catchings B. Smith  
Frank Gallina Sheila Smith  
Dick Hall Scott Steele  
Dick Harding Chris Zachow

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**  
All members enjoy free admission to the Museum, invitations to members-only events, a subscription to our newsletter, and discounts at the Dragonfly Shoppe. Higher levels of membership receive additional benefits, such as public recognition of their contributions, additional admission passes, and even the private use of Museum facilities. And all memberships entitle you to free admission to more than 200 other museums nationwide through a reciprocal membership program.

Call 601.354.7303 for more information.

## DRAGONFLY SHOPPE

Each month the Museum store offers a thoughtful selection of gift items that coordinate with current exhibitions and educational programming.

From books to fossils, jewelry to puppets, and science kits to t-shirts—make your shopping choice a natural one!



WOODPECKER FAMILY PUPPET \$18.00



BUTTERFLY SHAPED NET \$4.99

Foundation members receive a 10% discount.

**SHOPPE HOURS**  
MON-SAT 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
SUN 1:00 - 4:00PM

The Dragonfly Shoppe is a Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation sponsor.



THE ART OF WALTER ANDERSON Edited by Patricia Pinson \$40.00

Join MMNS Today! The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation was established to support the mission of the Museum through fundraising and volunteer efforts. We invite you to join us in preserving the best of Mississippi's natural world. Individual memberships start at \$35.

MISSISSIPPI  
Museum of  
Natural  
Science

2148 RIVERSIDE DRIVE  
JACKSON, MS 39202-1353

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

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.

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

JACKSON, MISS.

PERMIT NO. 932

## Give a Natural Gift—Send a Gift Membership

From (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories  Friend (\$100)  Benefactor (\$750)  
 Individual (\$35)  Donor (\$250)  Sustaining (\$1,000 or more)  
 Family (\$60)  Patron (\$500)  Corporate (\$5,000 or more)

To (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If children are to be included in this membership, please check one of the following (not valid for Individual Memberships)

This membership is for:

- Parents and their children under age 18  
 Grandparents and up to four grandchildren under age 18  
 Other adult family members and up to four children under age 18  
Relationship to children:  Aunt/Uncle  Guardian

If you checked one of the above, please list name and date of birth of each child:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



CALL 601.354.7303 OR VISIT  
WWW.MSNATURALSCIENCE.ORG

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is located on I-55 at Lakeland Drive—within Lefleur's Bluff State Park—



From Interstate-55, take Exit 98B heading east on Lakeland. Turn south onto Highland Drive and left at the Park entrance. Pay admission at the gatehouse.

**MUSEUM HOURS**

MON-FRI 8:00AM to 5:00PM

SAT 9:00AM to 5:00PM

SUN 1:00 to 5:00PM

**ADMISSION**

Adults: \$5

Children Under 3: FREE

Children 3-18: \$3  
School Groups of 10 or more: \$2/person

Senior Citizens 60 and over: \$4  
Members: FREE