

MISSISSIPPI
Museum of
Natural
Science

ANIMALS



MMNS • Vol. 29 • No. 1



Discover the secret lives and hidden habitats of foxes and other forest animals.



Where does a chipmunk sleep? What does an eagle feed its young? How do mother bats find their babies in a cave? Between January 28 and May 6, visitors to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science will learn the answers to these questions and more in *Animal Secrets*, a new exhibit in which visitors discover the secret lives and hidden habitats of forest animals.

"*Animal Secrets* builds on children's natural curiosity about the world around them and helps foster a sense of wonder about nature," said Chris Zachow, president of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation board of directors.

"The exhibit is designed to encourage family learning and to help young children develop science skills through play and exploration. The exhibit also offers parents tips on how to encourage their children's interest in science."

Animal Secrets is especially designed for children ages 3 through 8, preschool to third grade school groups, and has English and Spanish text panels.

In *Animal Secrets*, visitors discover nature from an animal's point of view as they explore a stream, meadow, woodland, cave, and naturalists' tent.

Visitors see the world from an eagle's nest, pretend to be a chipmunk gathering food for the winter, and help a raccoon family escape from a hungry fox. Then, visitors can play the role of a naturalist by examining tracks, skulls, fur, bones and other specimens.

Animal Secrets was produced and is toured by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland, Oregon. The exhibit was made possible with funds provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Additional support provided by the Collins Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust. The exhibit is sponsored locally by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, an anonymous sponsor, Chisholm Foundation, Feild Cooperative Associates, Inc., Paul Benton, Plum Creek, Sanderson Farms, Trustmark Bank, Wheeler and Ashley Parker, and Chris and Steve Zachow.

January 28
through
May 6, 2012

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ASSOCIATION OF
SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY
CENTERS



Dear Members,

This has been another challenging year for all state agencies, including the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and the Museum of Natural Science. However, I am pleased to report that despite the tumultuous economy, the Museum is continuing to conduct cutting-edge scientific research, to offer high-quality educational programs and exhibits, and to steward the state's extensive biological collections which number more than a million specimens. In fact, thanks to a combination of Federal grants, private donations and State bonds, we will soon open a 19,000 square foot addition to the research wing, dedicated to scientific collections and laboratories. Planning is also underway for a new outdoor playspace designed to encourage young children to interact with the natural world.

The Museum of Natural Science is making important contributions to education and research, and to enhancing public comprehension and appreciation of science. As you read more about these efforts in this *Newsline*, I think you will be as proud as I am of what we are accomplishing. In the face of today's economic challenges, we have focused our energies on our most important mission, understanding and conserving our wildlife resources.

Your support through the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation has been crucial in the past, and will be even more so in the future. This legislative session will determine the level of service the Museum will be able to provide in the coming years so let your legislators know you appreciate their support for the Museum. Please take the time to read over the list of exhibit sponsors for past exhibits and our current exhibit and let them know how thankful you are for their commitment to conservation. As our state budget shrinks, private funding will be vital to keep the Museum vibrant and active in the future.

As always, I extend my thanks and appreciation.

Libby Hartfield

Libby Hartfield
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



Got Fish?

*Where to find 'em.
How to catch 'em.*

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned angler, don't miss "Got Fish?" for a panel of experts, hosted by Mississippi Outdoors TV show co-host Randy Newell, who will answer your questions on fish. Plus, don't miss our interactive fish feedings with divers!



Fossil Road Show

Pack up your fossils and hit the road!



Bring your favorite fossils and get expert opinions about their ages and identities from our team of scientists. See fossils from the Museum collection and enjoy interesting fossil presentations. Who knows what might turn up this year?

SPECIAL EVENTS

Got Fish?

SAT · FEB 4 · 9AM to 12NOON

Fossil Road Show

SAT · MAR 3 · 10AM to 3:30PM

NatureFEST!

SAT · APR 14 · 10AM to 5PM

International Migratory Bird Day

SAT · MAY 5 · 10AM to 3PM

Katfishin Kids

SAT · JUN 2

Snake Day

TUE · JUN 5 · 10AM to 3PM

NatureFEST! *Spend the day in the middle of nature.*



It's a festival, a nature outing, and a fascinating Museum trip, all wrapped into one exciting day. Wildlife expert Rob Mies is back to share the mysterious world of animal biodiversity. Come learn his animal secrets and meet a sloth, owl, and skunk. Enjoy fish feedings and live animal creature features. Interact with our biologists and researchers and tour behind the scenes. Get outside and tour the native plant garden, take a hike and participate in many other nature activities. (See page 10 for more details.)

International Migratory Bird Day

Come on over to their stopover.



Migrate to the Museum's grounds and nature trails, favorite stopovers for birds that fly between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Central and South America. We'll gather for bird watching, nature hikes, and more.

Katfishin' Kids *Casting for smiles!*

Fun fishing at Turcotte Lab off Hwy 43 at Ross Barnett Reservoir, for ages 15 and under, accompanied by adults. Equipment, bait and lunch are FREE.

Bring the kids and join us for a fun-filled day where children can learn the basics of fishing. We'll teach them how to tie a knot, select the correct lure, bait hooks and cast. In addition, they will learn what a fish is and become familiar with its habitat. We'll stock the pond with catfish and let them try their hand at fishing. Each child participating will receive a FREE t-shirt and goodie bag while supplies last.

Snake Day *Don't let this one slither by.*

Herpetologist Bryan Fedrick will help you spot the differences between Mississippi's venomous and non-venomous snakes, separating myth from accurate information about native snakes' value in the ecosystem. Catch one of Fedrick's interactive discussions from 10AM-11AM and 12NOON-1PM. Live snakes will be exhibited from 10AM-3PM, with experts on-hand to answer your questions.



TRAIL DISCOVERIES

Announcements

Entries sought for “Fourth Annual Back to Nature Photography Contest”

The Museum is accepting entries from February 2, 2012 through February 1, 2013 for the *Fourth Annual Back to Nature* photography contest. The contest is designed to encourage Museum visitors to venture out and capture the natural beauty of the wildlife and habitats seen on the grounds of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and along the trails of LeFleur’s Bluff State Park. For details, visit www.msnaturalscience.org and click on The Latest or call 601-576-6000 for official guidelines and entry form.

Winners of the *Third Annual Back to Nature* photography contest will be announced in a future issue of the *Newsline* and on our website.

WILD about Summer Camp!

New friends, crafts, games, and outdoor investigations will make this summer fun and exciting! Camp WILD, our half-day camp for 5 year old Kindergarten through 5th grade, will focus on the ecosystems of Mississippi and Jr. Naturalist Camp, our ecology based camp for 6th-9th grade, will focus on the identification, collection, and conservation of our native species. Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation family member registration begins **February 1st** and non-member registration begins March 1st. Please check our website for registration forms and additional information on camp dates and fees, beginning February 1st. Go to www.msnaturalscience.org for more information.



2011 CAMP WILD

Museum Biologists Discover More Endangered Butterfly Populations

Three new butterfly populations found in Mississippi

Over the past two years, Museum biologists have identified three new Mississippi populations of the Federally Endangered Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly (*Neonympha mitchelli mitchelli*) in Itawamba and Tishomingo Counties. Mitchell's Satyrs are considered one of the most critically endangered butterflies in eastern North America. This work was performed to determine the estimated distribution of this butterfly species in northeast Mississippi and was funded through grants provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Sherry Surette, Heather Sullivan and Scott Peyton surveyed 112 wetland sites during June and August of 2010 and 2011 since these months are the known flight periods in which adult Mitchell's Satyrs are known to be present. Additionally, new populations of rare plants have been identified including White Turtlehead, Mouse-ear Coreopsis, Running Cedar, Crested Fringed Orchid, and Monkeyface Orchid (a candidate species for the Federal Endangered Species List).

In 2004, Mississippi State University entomologists identified the first two known Mitchell's Satyr populations in Tishomingo and Prentiss Counties, Mississippi. Until this time, this species was thought to only occur in Indiana, Michigan and Alabama.



MITCHELL'S SATYR BUTTERFLY

“Jurassic Pick”: The American Pickers™ pick a winner!

TV duo uncovers a prehistoric Mississippi fossil

Ever pick a bone with someone? In 2011, a famous TV dynamic duo ‘picked a bone’ for the Museum and revealed a noteworthy discovery about Mississippi’s ancient past. Most of our regular patrons know that dinosaurs once lived in Mississippi, but now so do millions of *American Pickers*™ viewers.

Season 4 began with dynamic hosts Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz picking collectibles shops in Henderson, Tennessee. Who knew they would unearth an important prehistoric fossil from Mississippi? The bone consists of most of the tibia of an ornithopod dinosaur, most likely a hadrosaur, or duck-billed dinosaur (the missing ankle end precludes certainty). The shop owner had purchased the bone at the First Monday Trade Day in Ripley, Mississippi.

Recognizing its ancient appearance and heavy, mineralized condition, the shop owner learned from the seller only that the bone was found in “north Mississippi”. The bone lay ‘reburied’ among many more recent collectibles for ten years—until the *American Pickers* arrived.

The *Pickers* purchased the bone and consulted Museum paleontologist George Phillips for an opinion about its identity and age. During the televised consultation, George convinced Mike and Frank to donate it to the Museum for research and educational purposes, which they, and their parent company Cineflix Corporation, did gladly.

The exact origins of the fossil bone still remained a mystery so the bone was of limited scientific value. Both the *Pickers* crew and the Museum were hopeful that the collector(s) would see the show and come forward with details about the fossil’s true origins.

And they did ... within 24 hours! We now know the bone was found near Baldwin, Mississippi, in an approximately 82 million year old marine deposit called the Coffee Sand. Having hoped the mystery would be solved with the broadcast, George is reassured of his original, televised opinion—that such a discovery is absolutely “priceless.” Thank you Mike and Frank!



REGULAR MUSEUM PATRONS, REESE AND GRAYSON TISDALE, INSPECT (AND APPRECIATE!) ONE OF THE MUSEUM'S RECENT FOSSIL DONATIONS.

ONGOING



MPB RADIO SHOW

Listen to Museum director Libby Hartfield and local veterinarian Dr. Troy Majure every Thursday morning at 9AM as they take call-in questions from listeners about all of Mississippi's critters—big or small, furry or scaled, wild or domestic. Join the live fun with a call to the team at 877-672-7464.

FUN FRIDAYS

This summer, join the Museum's Education staff for Fun Fridays and experience interactive, hands-on programs coordinated with our current feature exhibit *Animal Secrets*.

These family-friendly programs, for accompanied children, are offered every Friday in June (except June 1) and July.

FISH FEEDING

Meet some of our most fascinating aquarium inhabitants, every Tuesday and Friday at 10AM, and Sunday at 2PM.

CREATURE FEATURES

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

LECTURE SERIES

On the first Tuesday of the month (except Dec. and Jan.), the Museum offers lectures addressing a variety of natural science subjects. Unless noted otherwise, the lectures take place from 12NOON to 1PM 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.

BIRD WALKS

On the first Saturday of the month (except Dec. and Jan.), join experienced birders and Jackson Audubon Society members for a walk on the wild side. Bird walks for family groups and beginners are from 8AM to 10AM at Lefleur's Bluff State Park Campground. Fee: \$3. For more information, call Mary Stevens at 601.956.7444.

JAN 19 · THU · 6-8PM

Family Fun Science Night

(PRIMARILY FOR FAMILIES OF ELEMENTARY STUDENTS)

Cost: \$2 per person / FREE for members with current membership

Join us for a night of hands-on science fun! Explore a touch tank, science fair projects, wildlife, fossils, and live animals. Watch a diver feed the fish at 7PM. Enjoy FREE refreshments, register for FREE door prizes, and receive FREE educational resource materials. Plus, receive a 10% discount in the Dragonfly Gift Shoppe.

JAN 28-MAY 6 · SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Animal Secrets

Discover the secret lives and hidden habitats of forest animals.

FEB 1 · WED

Summer Camp Registration Opens for Members

See page 4 for more details.

FEB 1 · WED

Photography Contest Deadline

3rd Annual *Back to Nature Photography Contest* deadline for submissions.

FEB 2, 2012-FEB 1, 2013 · CONTEST

4th Annual Back to Nature Photography Contest Opens

Designed to encourage visitors to venture out and capture the natural beauty of the wildlife and habitats seen on the Museum grounds, and along the trails of Lefleur's Bluff State Park. (See page 4 for more details.)

FEB 3 · FRI · 10AM-12NOON · EVENT

Fishy Friday!

Come Fishy Friday for fabulous fish facts and fun and fantastic fishy crafts.

FEB 4 · SAT · 9AM-12NOON · EVENT

Something Fishy Saturday

It's gonna be fishtastic!! Make crafts and learn fishy fun facts.

FEB 4 · SAT · 9AM-12NOON · EVENT

Got Fish?

A panel of experts will answer your questions on fish.

FEB 7 · TUE · 12NOON-1PM · LECTURE

The Secret Lives of Birds: Little-known and Seldom-seen Avian Wonders

SPEAKER: David J. Ringer; Communications Director, Gulf Coast and Mississippi Flyway, National Audubon Society, Baton Rouge

Birds have fascinated and delighted humans for millennia, but how much do

we really know about their daily lives? Join speaker and photographer David J. Ringer on a journey of discovery that will take you from the forests and waters of Mississippi to the islands of the South Pacific and the tropics of Africa. Along the way, you'll meet birds both familiar and unfamiliar and discover surprising secrets about each one.

FEB 10 · FRI · 10AM-12NOON

Arbor Day

WOOD you like to know more about trees? Make crafts and learn about the importance of trees.

FEB 18 · SAT · 10AM-4PM

Parents & Kids Camp/Education Connection

Get Your Camp On! Mississippi Style! For this one-stop shop for parents. Determine which camps and summer programs are best for your child.

MAR 1 · THU

Summer Camp Registration Opens for Non-members

See page 4 for more details.

MAR 3 · SAT · 10AM-3PM · EVENT

Fossil Road Show

Fossil experts will help visitors identify their fossils and determine more about their own fossil collections.



MAR 6 · TUE · 12NOON-1PM · LECTURE

Timberdoodle: The Secret Life of the American Woodcock

SPEAKER: Adam B. Butler; Wildlife Biologist, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

With its cryptic camouflage, nocturnal lifestyle, and tendency to live in the thickest of cover, the American Woodcock is a bird with which most Mississippians are unfamiliar. Yet, our state is a primary wintering area for the species, and its unusual habits are certain to interest all who take the time to learn more about its

enigmatic life. So whether you call them woodcock, timberdoodles, mudbats, or snipe, come join us to discover more about the natural history of this peculiar little bird.

MAR 12-16 · 9AM-3PM · WORKSHOP

Teacher Workshops

For details, contact Angel Rohnke.



APR 3 · TUE · 12NOON-1PM · LECTURE

Secret Lives of Winter Stoneflies

SPEAKER: Dr. Bill P. Stark; Sadler Professor of Biology, Mississippi College

Stoneflies are an obscure group of aquatic insects known to thrive in unpolluted streams. They are noted for an unusual sound communication method known as drumming, and an unusual adult winter emergence for species in a few families. They have ecological value in their role in the stream ecosystem and they are useful in bioassessment of water quality. In addition, they are sometimes used as live bait or as models for artificial flies by fly fishers.

APR 8 · SUN · HOLIDAY

Museum Closed

APR 14 · SAT · 10AM-5PM · EVENT

NatureFEST!

Features a sloth, snakes, fish, behind-the-scenes look at research, guided nature walks, and other outdoor activities.

MAY 1 · TUE · 12NOON-1PM · LECTURE

Nest, Shell, Burrow, Web: Animal Homes from Backyard to Ocean Floor

SPEAKER: Matt Smith; Author, Naturalist, and GIS Analyst, Jackson

This talk will plunge into the private lives of animals with an intimate look at some examples, both familiar and exotic, of the places they call home. From the barest scrape on the ground to the greatest spectacles of critter architecture—beaver lodges, spider webs, eagle nests, termite mounds, and others—all homes serve one or more of a few basic needs. How and why do animals accomplish these feats, and what can we humans learn from them?

MAY 5 · SAT · 10AM-3PM · EVENT

International Migratory Bird Day

Gather for bird watching, nature hikes, and lots of hands-on activities. Join in the fun and help support migratory bird conservation.

MAY 28 · MON · HOLIDAY

Museum Closed

JUN 8, 15, 22 & 29 · 10AM-12NOON

Fun Fridays

Interactive, hands-on programs—an adult must accompany children.

JUN 2 · SAT · EVENT

Katfishin' Kids at Turcotte Lab

Fun fishing at Turcotte Lab off Hwy 43 at Ross Barnett Reservoir, for ages 15 and under, accompanied by adults. Equipment and refreshments are FREE.

JUN 5 · TUE · 10AM-11AM & 12NOON-1PM · LECTURE

Snake Day

SPEAKER: Bryan Fedrick; Herpetologist

Learn the value of our native snakes and how to distinguish venomous species from non-venomous ones. Live snakes will be exhibited from 10AM to 3PM.

JUN 11-14 (ENTERING K-1) · **JUN 18-21** (ENTERING 2-3) ·

JUN 25-28 (ENTERING 4-5) · SUMMER CAMP

WILD about Summer Camp

Camp WILD (for the younger campers) is a place where kids explore the outdoors, make new friends, and delve into nature. For details, contact Nicole Smith.

JUN 4-8 · SUMMER CAMP

Junior Naturalist Summer Camp

Jr. Naturalist Camp (for the older kids), gives kids a chance to participate in indoor/outdoor activities that focus on the ecosystems of Mississippi. Campers learn about identification, collection, and conservation of our indigenous species. For details, contact Megan Sewall.

JUL 6, 13, 20 & 27 · 10AM-12NOON

Fun Fridays

Interactive, hands-on programs—an adult must accompany children.

JUL 23-27 · 9AM-3PM · WORKSHOP

Teacher Workshops

For details, contact Angel Rohnke.

Note: Dates are subject to change.

FOR TEACHERS

WET AND WILD CEU CREDITS

The Museum offers two environmental education programs, Project WILD and Project WET, with CEU credits available.

WORKSHOPS

MAR 12-16; JUL 23-27

RESOURCES

To schedule a workshop or field trip, reserve a resource kit, download classroom materials, or learn more about how our Museum can help meet your classroom needs, call Angel Rohnke or Megan Sewall for details (601-576-6000).

FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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

(THE PRESCHOOL ROOM IS OPEN WHEN A STAFF MEMBER OR A VOLUNTEER IS AVAILABLE. THE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.)

VISITOR ACCESS

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

MON-FRI 1-4PM

SAT 9:30AM-12NOON & 1-4PM

SUN 1-4PM

TIME FOR TWOS (ages 2 & under)

2nd TUE 1-4PM

STORY TIME (ages 3 to 5)

WED 1:15, 2:15, & 3:15PM (AUG-MAY)

TUE & THU 10:15 & 11:15AM (JUN & JUL)

RESERVED GROUP ACCESS

FEBRUARY CLASS

"I Look Like a Dog!"

CHILDREN WILL DISCOVER THAT FOXES, COYOTES, AND WOLVES LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE DOGS, BUT ARE CONSIDERED WILD ANIMALS.

MARCH, APRIL, MAY CLASSES

"It's So Wet! Love it!"

CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY A VARIETY OF POND ANIMALS; THEY WILL NOTE THE ADAPTATIONS OF EACH AS WELL AS FAVORITE FOODS AND TIME SPENT IN THE WATER.

JUNE-AUGUST CLASSES

"Do I Look Good, or What?"

CHILDREN WILL DISCOVER THAT THE OUTSIDE COVERINGS OF ANIMALS CAN BE AS DIFFERENT AS THE ANIMALS THEMSELVES.

In August through May, class times are 9:00AM, 9:45AM, & 10:30AM, Monday through Friday.

In June & July, class times are the same, but classes are offered only on Wednesday and Friday. Call Joan Elder for reservations (601-576-6031).

PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS

Call Joan Elder for details (601-576-6031).



ATLANTIC STINGRAY

New and Improved: The Mississippi Sound Aquarium

Now featuring new species

Can you believe the Museum building is soon to be 12 years old? The aquarium staff can tell. Constantly running pumps, exposure to freshwater and saltwater and time in general are beginning to show their effects on the aquariums. As a result, this past summer the Mississippi Sound aquarium became the second aquarium to undergo a major renovation. The aquarium was completely drained and new filtration plumbing was designed and installed. The entire tank was disinfected and then refilled and restocked with newly quarantined fishes. The results speak for themselves!

The aquarium is like new again with pristine water and lots of different species of healthy fishes. There are even some new species we have not had in this aquarium before such as Atlantic Croaker, White Trout, Gaff-topsail Catfish, Northern Puffer, and Shrimp Eels. Of course a host of common Mississippi Sound fishes can also be seen such as Red Fish, Black Drum, Flounder, Sheepshead, Grey Snapper, Atlantic Spadefish, Hardhead Catfish, and Atlantic Stingray.

You may have noticed that a lot of the species in this aquarium are delicious to eat. The Mississippi Sound provides a nursery environment for fishes and invertebrates in the Sound and the Gulf of Mexico. Up to 90 percent of the seafood that people like to eat spend at least part of their lives in the Mississippi Sound, especially when they are young. So come see the new fishes in the Mississippi Sound aquarium before they are all grown up!



Black Drum



MISSISSIPPI SOUND AQUARIUM

Volunteers Take Part in Museum Events Across the State

Teen and adult volunteers do field work and explore historic sites

Congratulations to Museum teen volunteer Malika Shettar, who has been awarded Youth Conservationist of the Year by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. Malika will receive her award in February at the MWF Conservation Achievement Awards ceremony. A senior at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Malika is passionate about conservation and effectively inspires and educates others. Currently an intern with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through its Youth Ambassador program, she involves herself deeply with conservation work locally, nationally, and internationally. Malika's academic record in science is stellar, as is her involvement in extracurricular research and activism. In her four years of service as a Museum volunteer, Malika has faithfully worked to educate our visitors and to increase her own understanding of natural science. Thank you, Malika, and congratulations!

Active teen volunteers with 20 or more hours of service by November 2011 joined Museum paleontologist George Phillips for a full day in the field collecting and observing fossils, aided by members of the North MS Gem Mineral Society. We explored the "Demopolis Chalk," as it is known to geologists, at an old lime quarry in Clay County. Fish, shark, sea turtle and mosasaur remains are often found in this chalk, which was deposited during the Cretaceous period, about 75 million years ago. Teen volunteers Brenna Hart, Catoria Mozee, Beth Farrar, Kenyader Dixon, Ashley Williams, Brooke Nash, Brennan Harvey, Jonathan Smith, and Dakota Wilson, along with adult paleontology volunteer Joy Rushing and teen volunteer parents Misty Wilson and Lady Margaret Harvey, all worked alongside George, further exploring the site.

Adult volunteers took a heritage-themed tour of Natchez, Mississippi, visiting Natural Heritage Program—registered site Laurel Hill Plantation, the Grand Village of the Natchez, and Historic Jefferson College. We especially enjoyed touring Jefferson College with its director, Robyn Persons, who is also a Museum volunteer! Spring 2012 field trips are in the works for our dedicated volunteers, who love to explore and learn.

Want to share some "Animal Secrets"? Our incoming exhibit highlights the importance of habitat; come find a home in our volunteer community as we prepare to guide our visitors in discovering more about natural science. To get started, contact Ann Peden at 601-576-6000 or ann.peden@mmns.state.ms.us.



MUSEUM TEEN VOLUNTEER, MALIKA SHETTAR, WAS AWARDED YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR



TEEN VOLUNTEERS WORKED ON UNCOVERING FOSSILIZED SEA TURTLE REMAINS



OAK ON THE GROUNDS OF JEFFERSON COLLEGE



CHAPEL AT LAUREL HILL PLANTATION

NatureFEST! 2012

Featuring *BioDiversity Live!* with Rob Mies

At this year's NatureFEST!, *Biodiversity Live!* embarks on a journey to the ends of Earth, led by animal expert Rob Mies, who will lead the way to discovery of the unique and strange life that calls our planet home. Mies introduces amazing wildlife from exotic locales and local backyards, including a two-toed sloth from South America, a striped skunk, a southern flying squirrel, and a barred owl from North America.

Mies will show how the audience can take action both locally and across the globe to safeguard Earth's natural world. He'll talk about risks to biodiversity from human activities and tell conservation success stories, while helping the audience understand what they can do to protect wildlife from extinction.

Visitors have the chance to participate in many other NatureFEST! activities as well, from live birds of prey demonstrations to watching divers feed the fish in the giant Museum aquariums. They will also have the opportunity to meet scientists and researchers, learning about their unique research tools while discovering how Museum specimens are acquired and maintained.

Visitors can explore the new *Animal Secrets* exhibit, or inhale the sweet aromas of spring as they take guided tours of the Museum's nature trails, or browse the native plant sale and take a piece of the natural world back home. They'll also be able to canoe on the Pearl River with John Rusky of the Quapaw Canoe Company.

NatureFEST! takes place Saturday, April 14, from 10AM to 5PM.



CHECK OUT ROB MIES *BIODIVERSITY LIVE!* SEMINAR FEATURING A SLOTH



EXPERIENCE LIVE ANIMAL PRESENTATIONS BY MUSEUM STAFF



TAKE A NATURE HIKE ON THE 2.5 MILES OF NATURE TRAILS



WATCH DIVERS FEED THE FISH IN THE GIANT AQUARIUMS



TRY YOUR HAND CANOEING ON THE PEARL RIVER



BRING HOME A PLANT FROM OUR MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANT SALE

Steadfast Supporters

\$100,000-\$200,000

Abe Rotwein Family
The Chisholm Foundation
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Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
Foundation
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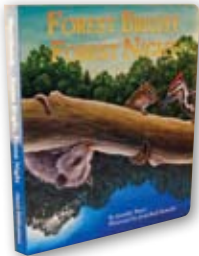


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