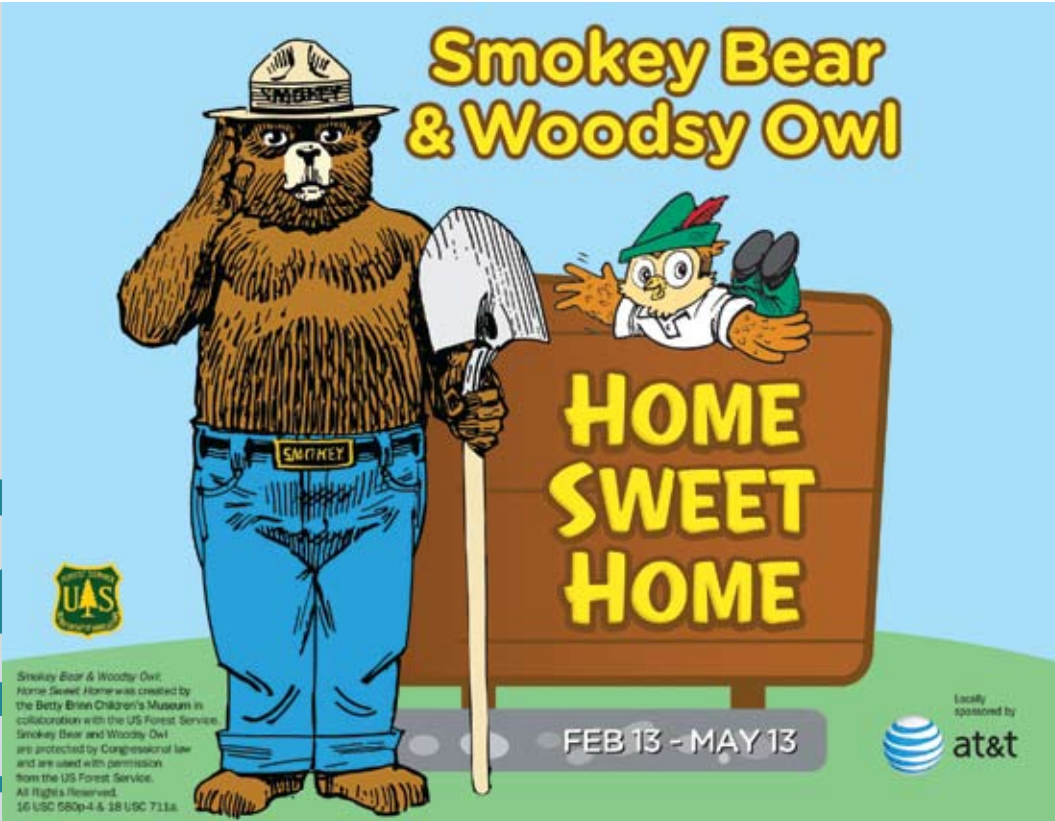


MISSISSIPPI
Museum of
Natural
Science

NATURAL NEWS

VOL. 28 • No. 1
WINTER/SPRING 2010



Two beloved American icons come to life in this educational, interactive exhibit for children.

The *Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl: Home Sweet Home* exhibit helps bring kids to nature and nature to kids. Families are encouraged to spend time together outdoors and children are inspired to discover and care for the natural resources that sustain our world – our home sweet home. Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl guide visitors through urban, woodland and stream settings featuring a variety of educational activities, props, costumes and puppets that underscore the importance of protecting ecosystems, as well as highlighting ways to reduce, reuse and recycle resources. Grand Opening activities take place from 11AM – 3PM on February 13th and include a press conference, appearances by Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl, free tree give-aways

(while supplies last), a book reading by Walt Grayson, hands-on activities and live bird demonstrations.

“This exhibit is a natural fit with new programs that our education staff is implementing. For instance, *Growing Up WILD* is an early childhood education and training program for educators and caregivers that builds on children’s sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them,” explains Angel Rohnke, Museum Education Coordinator.

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl: Home Sweet Home was created by the Betty Brinn Children’s Museum in collaboration with the US Forest Service. The exhibit is sponsored locally by AT&T, USDA Forest Service, Anonymous, Dick and Sally Molpus, Feild Cooperative Associates, Inc., Paul T. Benton, Plum Creek, Sanderson Farms, Inc., The Chisholm Foundation, Trustmark National Bank, Dr. & Mrs. Steve Zachow, Family of Catchings B. Smith, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation and other generous supporters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's Celebrate 10 in 2010

The Museum will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our new building in 2010. Visit our website and click on The Latest for details.

Jr. Duck Stamp Competition

Deadline is March 15, 2010
Call for more details.



Katelee Laird's color acrylic depiction of a pair of wood ducks won Mississippi Best of Show 2009

WILD about Summer Camp



Camp WILD is a place where kids explore nature and the outdoors while making new friends. For details, contact Nicole Smith. 601-354-7303
nicole.smith@mmns.state.ms.us
Foundation Member registration is now open. Download registration forms and FAQ's at www.ms-naturalscience.org.

Creature Comforts

Join Libby Hartfield, Dr. Troy Majure, and Kevin Ferrell on Thursday mornings at 9AM on MPB.



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



Sam Polles, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert Cook
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Don Brazil
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

COMMISSIONERS

Bryan Jones
CHAIRMAN

Charles Rigdon
VICE-CHAIRMAN

William "Billy" Deviney
Jerry Munro
John C Stanley IV



Libby Hartfield
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Charles Knight
ASSISTANT MUSEUM DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION

Mary Jenkins
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Connie Gore
GIFT SHOP MANAGER

Mary Stevens
LIBRARIAN

Harold Garner
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Charles Jeffcoat
CUSTODIAN

AQUARIUMS

Karen Dierolf
AQUATIC BIOLOGIST

Bryan Fedrick
AQUATIC BIOLOGIST

Eric Gregory
AQUARIUM ASSISTANT

John Hardy
AQUARIUM ASSISTANT

Mike Stegall
AQUARIST

EDUCATION

Angel Rohnke
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Mary Alston
PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR

Joan Elder
PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR

Megan Ellis
OUTREACH NATURALIST

Jonathan Harris
EDUCATOR

Yolanda Hawkins
EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Rebecca Jones
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Isabel Kelly
PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR

Joseph M. McGee
OUTREACH NATURALIST

Fran Noone
RECEPTIONIST

Ann Peden
VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Nicole Phillips
NATURALIST

Andrea Schuhmann
OUTREACH NATURALIST

Corey Wright
NATURALIST

EXHIBIT MANAGEMENT

Norton McKeigney
EXHIBITS SUPERVISOR

Ray Terry
EXHIBITS SUPERVISOR

NATURAL HERITAGE

Shery Surrette, Ph.D.
NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Joelle Carney
DATABASE MANAGER

Adrienne Clark
DATABASE TECHNICIAN

Aaron Francois
DATABASE TECHNICIAN

Tom Mann
ZOOLOGIST

Andy Sanderson
ECOLOGIST

Matt Smith
DATABASE MANAGER

Heather Sullivan
BOTANIST

Andrew Whitehurst
SCENIC STREAMS / NATURAL AREAS COORDINATOR

RESEARCH & COLLECTIONS

Lisa Yager, Ph.D.
RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Jeremy Copley
COLLECTIONS/RESEARCH ASSISTANT

R.L. Jones, Ph.D.
HERPETOLOGIST

Sean McGregor
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATE BIOLOGIST

Susan Murray
CONSERVATION GENETICIST

Scott Peyton
COLLECTIONS MANAGER

George Phillips
PALEONTOLOGY CURATOR

Matt Roberts
ICHTHYOLOGIST

Kathy Shelton
BIOLOGIST

LaToya Turner
LABORATORY ASSISTANT

Nicholas Winstead
ORNITHOLOGIST



Dear Members,

The past year has been challenging for all state agencies, including 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.

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 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

NEW STAFF



Matt Roberts joined the MMNS staff as Ichthyologist in January, 2010. Matt earned his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University where he examined changes in fish species after construction of the Tombigbee waterway. He comes to us from Trent University where he worked on biotic impacts from river flow alteration.

AWARDS

Red Rose Award

Libby Hartfield, Director of the MMNS, has been awarded the Red Rose Award from the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (Pi Chapter). Delta Kappa Gamma promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.



The Red Rose Award is given to an individual who has benefited education. Libby Hartfield is an active member of the Mississippi Science Teachers' Association and has influenced the way that environment is taught within schools. She has sat on committees to develop curriculum and has introduced teachers of Mississippi to programs such as Project WET and Project WILD. As an informal educator she has touched the lives of students for many years.

Family Choice Award

We recently received the good news that **Growing Up WILD** has won a Family Choice Award!

The Family Choice Awards was founded by the Family Magazine Group, America's largest free parenting publication, and is recognized as the premier resource for the very best in children's and parenting products and services. The Awards recognize the best in children's and parenting resources.

QUICK CALENDAR

Fossil Road Show

SAT - MAR 6
10AM to 3PM

NatureFEST!

SAT - APR 10
10AM to 4PM

International Migratory Bird Day

SAT - MAY 1
10AM to 3PM

Snake Day: Mississippi Style

TUE - JUN 1
10AM to 3PM
Presentations at 10AM - 11AM and 12NOON - 1PM

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.



Snake Day: Mississippi Style

Don't let this one slip by.

Aquatic Biologist 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. (Snake exhibits provided by MMNS and Terry Vandeverter, Museum Associate).



Photo by James Patterson

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?



Photos by James Patterson

Nature-FEST! Come celebrate with us!

It's a family festival, a nature outing, and a fascinating trip to the Museum, all wrapped into one exciting day celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Museum's

new building. (the Museum has been operating for 78 years)

Step into the mysterious world of bats with bat expert Rob Mies. Meet the "Snake Man", Terry Vandeverter. Enjoy fish feedings, live animal presentations, Research and Collections tours, native plant garden tours, nature hikes and canoeing.

Step into the mysterious world of bats with bat expert Rob Mies. Meet the "Snake Man", Terry Vandeverter. Enjoy fish feedings, live animal presentations, Research and Collections tours, native plant garden tours, nature hikes and canoeing.



Bringing Out Our Best for Tenth NatureFEST!

Saturday, April 10, 2010; 10AM – 4PM



Spend the day in the middle of nature—inside and outside the Museum.

Now in its tenth year, NatureFEST! will get you in the swing of spring Saturday, April 10, from 10AM to 4PM. It's a family festival, a nature outing, and a fascinating trip to the Museum, all wrapped into one exciting day celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Museum's new building!! (the Museum has been operating for 78 years)

NatureFEST 2010 is sponsored in part by Merrill Lynch.

Step into the mysterious world of bats and explore their benefits, habitats, and nocturnal strategies with bat expert Rob Mies. Come meet a local bat from North America and hear its high-pitched sound with a "bat detector." You will also meet a Straw-colored fruit bat from Africa, and an Asian dog-faced bat. The finale is the largest bat in the world, the Gigantic Flying Fox Bat from Malaysia. This beautiful bat has nearly a 6-foot wingspan!

Come meet the "Snake Man," Terry Vandeventer. Enjoy birds of prey demonstrations. Watch divers feed the fish in the giant Museum aquariums, and experience other live animal presentations by the Museum education staff. Go behind the scenes with our scientists and researchers to learn about some of

their unique research tools. Discover how valuable specimens in the Museum Collections are acquired and maintained.



Photo by James Patterson

Visit with Smokey Bear and Woody Owl and explore the *Smokey Bear & Woody Owl: Home Sweet Home* exhibit.



Inhale spring's sweet aromas and take guided tours of our nature trails and Native Plant Garden. Catch the native plant sale and take home something green.

Check out the latest outdoor equipment, demonstrated by Buffalo Peak Outfitters, and try your hand paddling around Mayes Lake! Canoe on the Pearl River with John Rusky of the Quapaw Canoe Company.

Mississippi Amphibian Monitoring Program

by Kathy Shelton, MMNS South Mississippi Conservation Program biologist; Statewide MAMP Coordinator

The Mississippi Amphibian Monitoring Program (MAMP) is a chapter of the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP).

The goal of this program is to monitor frog populations in Mississippi using a statewide network of volunteers. Each volunteer spends three nights a year running a permanent roadside route with ten stops located at various wetland habitats like ponds, lakes, creeks or swamps. The routes are run at least one night during each sampling period – in the late winter (late January through February), early spring (mid-April to mid-May) and early summer (June).



Green treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*) photo by Randy Browning

Volunteers start surveys 30 minutes after sunset and record all species of frogs heard during a 5-minute period at each stop, using a calling index. A route typically takes about two hours to complete. Data is then entered online into the nationwide database.

All volunteers must take and pass a frog quiz to participate. The quiz consists of sound files of all frogs that could potentially occur along the route. This quiz can be found at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz and may be taken as many times as needed to pass. The public quiz found on the website is a fun way to learn and test yourself on your knowledge of Mississippi frog calls. Training sessions can be scheduled throughout the state to help volunteers learn the frogs and protocols for the routes.

For more information about MAMP or volunteering, contact Kathy Shelton at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks District 6 office in Wiggins at 601-928-3720.

Florida Harvester Ant Surveys: June 2007-present

by Tom Mann, MMNS Zoologist

Until 2006, when botanist Lucas Majure found Florida Harvester Ants (*Pogonomyrmex badius*) in a Smith County cactus patch, the species hadn't been documented on the mainland of Mississippi since the 1930s, and was thought to have been eliminated by fire ants and/or the statewide spraying of mirex intended to control them.

These relatively large, reddish ants have two distinctive features facilitating identification: some workers have spectacularly enlarged heads (used for cracking seeds); and their low, broad beds (up to 65 inches across) are almost always decorated with a ring of charcoal fragments.

In June 2007, I found a few harvester beds while surveying for tortoises on a Lamar County sandhill, and hypothesized that they may persist on excessively well-drained soils less readily invaded by fire ants. Scott Peyton, the Museum's Collections Manager, and I have since surveyed over 200 sandhills, primarily in southeastern Mississippi, but



Florida Harvester Ant Beds (*Pogonomyrmex badius*)



as far north as Lowndes County, and have mapped an additional 28 populations in ten counties. Most sites are badly degraded (overgrown, underburned). Harvester Ants' habitat requirements (open, unshaded areas in deep sand with a good herbaceous layer) and threats (dense pine plantings, fire suppression, fire ants, cogon grass invasion, and development) are the same as those of gopher tortoises.

Voucher specimens are collected at each site for the Museum. Duplicate vouchers are deposited at the Mississippi State University Entomological Museum. Samples from three sites were sent to Dr. Robert Johnson at Arizona State University for inclusion in an updated range map for this species. If you have seen these ants, please contact the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science at 601-354-7303.

ONGOING

Come On Outside!

Visit the Museum's Native Plant Garden and nature trails to experience the wonders of the season 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

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!

First Tuesdays

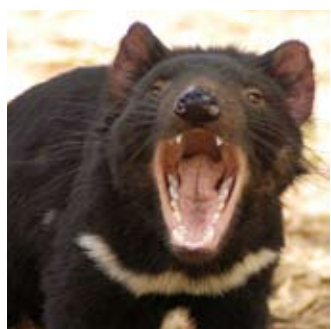
Naturalist Lecture Series
On the first Tuesday of the month (except Dec. and Jan.), the Museum offers lectures addressing a variety of natural science subjects. Unless noted otherwise, the lectures take place from 12NOON to 1PM in the Museum's Rotwein Theater.

Lectures are free to Museum Foundation members or regular admission visitors. Please show your membership card at the gate. Regular Museum fee: \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens; \$3 for children; \$2 for students with teachers. Members also receive a 10% discount at The Dragonfly Shoppe.



FEB 13 - MAY 13, 2010 • SPECIAL EXHIBIT
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl: Home Sweet Home
Two beloved American icons come to life in this educational, interactive exhibit for children.

FEB 20 • SAT
Growing UP WILD at MMNS
For details, contact Angel Rohnke. 601-354-7303
angel.rohnke@mmns.state.ms.us



MAR 2 • TUE • 12NOON-1PM • LECTURE
Wildlife Conservation in Australia: a 30 Year Perspective
SPEAKER: Dr. James ("Skip") Lazell
President, The Conservation Agency

Dr. Lazell will discuss his findings related to his thirty year study of the distributions of unique, endemic species in Australia and their population status and densities. Despite declines and population losses, much of Australia's unique fauna remains abundant and awareness of it and efforts to conserve it are popular and strong.

MAR 6 • SAT • 10AM-3PM • EVENT
Fossil Road Show
Fossil experts will help visitors identify their fossils and determine more about their own fossil collections.

MAR 15 • MON
Jr. Duck Stamp Competition
Deadline for entries. Call for more details.

MAR 16-19 • TUE-FRI • WORKSHOP
Teacher Workshops
For details, contact Angel Rohnke or Rebecca Jones. 601-354-7303
angel.rohnke@mmns.state.ms.us
rebecca.jones@mmns.state.ms.us

APR 4 • SUN • EASTER
Museum Closed



APR 6 • TUE • 12NOON-1PM • LECTURE
Singing about Longleaf
SPEAKERS: "The Blues Rangers": Tate Thriffley, Ecologist; Dave Allen, Wildlife Biologist; Jimmy Mordica, Silviculturalist, USDA Forest Service, De Soto National Forest, Brooklyn

The Blues Rangers are a team of biologists from Mississippi's De Soto National Forest, who sing their original blues songs highlighting forest management issues. In 2005, they performed at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and in 2008, were named Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Conservation Educators of the Year.



APR 10 • SAT • 10AM-4PM • EVENT
NatureFEST!
Bring the family to celebrate the Museum's 10th Anniversary - starring bats, snakes, birds of prey, and fish - and a

behind-the-scenes look at research, guided nature walks, and other outdoor activities. (See page 4 for details.)

APR 22 • THU • 5PM-7PM
MMNS Foundation Spring Member Night
RSVP to Rebecca Jones. 601-354-7303
rebecca.jones@mmns.state.ms.us

MAY 1 • 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 4 • TUE • 12NOON-1PM • LECTURE
On the Brink in Mississippi
SPEAKER: Scott G. Hereford
Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, Gautier
Our endangered Mississippi Sandhill Cranes are one of

the rarest bird populations in North America. Scott Hereford will discuss efforts to save this fascinating part of our state's wildlife heritage. This Refuge was the first one established under the Endangered Species Act and protects the unique, species-rich wet pine savanna which is home to our Mississippi Sandhill Crane population.

MAY 31 • MON • MEMORIAL DAY
Museum Closed

JUN 1 • TUE • 10AM-3AM • EVENT
Snake Day: Mississippi Style
See live Mississippi snakes on exhibit, and learn from the experts who will be on hand to answer your questions.



JUN 1 • 10AM-11AM & 12NOON-1PM • LECTURES
Snake Day Lectures: De-mystifying MS Snakes
SPEAKER: Bryan Fedrick
MMNS Aquatic Biologist

Learn the value of our native snakes and how to distinguish six venomous species from fifty-five non-venomous ones found here.



JUN 5, 2010-JAN 9, 2011 • SPECIAL EXHIBIT
Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived
The 60-foot, 2-million-year-old Megalodon looms life-size in this mega-exhibit of modern and fossil sharks.

JUN 5 • 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 12 • SAT • WORKSHOP
Project WET Workshop
For details, contact Rebecca Jones. 601-354-7303
rebecca.jones@mmns.state.ms.us.

JUN & JUL
Fun Fridays
Fun Fridays are interactive, hands-on programs offered

every Friday in June and July from 10AM to 12NOON. Program topics coordinate with the *Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived* exhibit opening at the Museum on June 5, 2010. An adult must accompany children.



JUN & JUL
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. 601-354-7303
nicole.smith@mmns.state.ms.us

JUN & JUL
Jr. Naturalist/Advanced Summer Camp
Jr. Naturalist Camp and Advanced 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, collec-

tion, and conservation of our indigenous species. For details, contact Nicole Smith. 601-354-7303
nicole.smith@mmns.state.ms.us

JUL 4 • SUN • INDEPENDENCE DAY
Museum Closed

JUL 6 • TUE • 12NOON-1PM • LECTURE
Modern & Fossil Sharks—Was Megalodon in Mississippi?
SPEAKER: George Phillips
Museum Paleontology Curator, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson
You may have seen the movie "Jaws" - but you've never seen jaws like these. They belonged to a behemoth 60 feet long, whose giant mouth bristled with 276 teeth. It was the Megalodon, the biggest prehistoric shark of all times that ruled the seas more than two million years ago. Phillips will introduce us to the exhibit and talk about the oldest shark remains from Mississippi.

JUL 27-30 • TUE-FRI • WORKSHOP
Teacher Workshops
For details, contact Angel Rohnke or Rebecca Jones. 601-354-7303
angel.rohnke@mmns.state.ms.us
rebecca.jones@mmns.state.ms.us

Note: Dates subject to change.

ONGOING

First Saturdays

Audubon 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.

TEACHERS

WET and WILD CEU Credits

The Museum offers two environmental education programs, Project WILD and Project WET, with CEU credits available. Contact Angel Rohnke or Rebecca Jones at 601-354-7303.

Teacher Workshops

MAR 16 - WILD about Art
MAR 17 - Aquatic WILD
MAR 18 - Project WET
MAR 19 - Flying WILD
JUN 12 - Project WET
JUL 27 - WILD about Reptiles
JUL 28 - Aquatic WILD
JUL 29 - Flying WILD
JUL 30 - Project WET

Teacher 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 601-354-7303 or visit www.msnaturalscience.org.

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



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 AND THU 10:15 & 11:15AM (JUN-JUL)

The Preschool Room is open when a staff member or a volunteer is available. Schedule subject to change.

Reserved Group Access

FEBRUARY CLASSES
"What's Not to Like!"
(fun study of reptiles)

Children will discover that there are many kinds of reptiles - turtles, alligators, lizards, crocodiles, snakes, dinosaurs, etc.—and will note their unique characteristics and behaviors.

Call
601.354.7303

for information, reservations & resources.

The Preschool Room is open when a staff member or volunteer is available. The schedule is subject to change. Please inquire.

MARCH, APRIL & MAY CLASSES
"Live in the Ocean? I Don't Think So!"
(a close look at Megalodon, the largest shark to have ever lived.)
Children will discover that many of their favorite animals live in a special habitat called a "forest".

JUNE CLASSES
"Was I Big or What?"
(a close look at Megalodon, the largest shark to have ever lived.)
Children will discover that many animals are "extinct" - no longer exist.



Call Joan Elder for reservations (601-354-7303 ext. 136).

Basking in the Terrarium's New Light

by Karen Dierolf, MMNS Aquatic Biologist

The start of 2010 is also the start of a completely renovated terrarium at the Museum!

In November 2009, the terrarium was drained and all the animals were moved to holding tanks behind the scenes. All of the gravel and filter plates at the bottom of the terrarium were removed to allow workers from Adam Evans Waterproofing to grind off the old liner and reapply liner to stop leaks which had developed along the windows of the terrarium. All the old planting pots were also removed to allow a frosted film to be applied to the lower windows to help with appearances and to lessen the amount of light coming into the terrarium.



A large ultra violet sterilizer will be added behind the scenes to improve water quality, prevent diseases and hopefully reduce the amount of algae growing in the terrarium. New lighting fixtures with special light bulbs were also hung from the roof directly over large logs. These special lights will help improve basking areas and help the overall health of the turtles and alligators.

Visitors have been delighted with how close they can get to the turtles and alligators. If you move slowly enough you can be eyeball to eyeball with one of these reptiles. More changes are happening as well. An irrigation system is being installed to help water the plants. In the spring, more native plants will be added to the terrarium both in the water and on the land. Be sure to check out this old, but new, exhibit and all its improvements during your next visit to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

Museum Trail Swamp Vegetation Improving

by Andrew Whitehurst, MMNS Scenic Streams/Natural Areas Coordinator

Our swamp vegetation is recovering a year after the construction of a section of Jackson's new water line. The installation last year of new pipe on an existing right of way in the lower swamp cleared a 200 foot wide swath across the park from Lakeland Drive to our boundary with Jackson's water works. At completion of the project in April, the contractors provided us with a service road on top of the buried pipeline, a footbridge for the red trail, straw mulch on the bare soils, and a new fence at the waterworks boundary.

Things look much better after one season of growth. Last winter, Museum volunteers and staff planted 600 willow oak, water oak, green ash, bald cypress and cherrybark oak trees. We also planted several hundred acorns picked up under nearby trees along the bluff. Foresters advise that seedlings won't be seen for about three years after planting, when they grow tall enough to rise above the annual weedy vegetation.

Mother Nature also planted the right of way with seeds blown in from cottonwood trees, winged elm, willow and maple, among others. These tree species have light seeds that either float on the wind (cottonwood, sycamore, willow), or helicopter to the ground while being pushed by the wind (ash, maple). These methods of seed dispersal are perfect for river floodplains like ours where these trees are found. Rivers annually send high water over their banks, shift their sandbars, and leave lots of newly deposited bare silt and sand behind receding waters. This is the perfect place for light, wind-borne seeds to disperse, settle and start new growth quickly. It makes no difference to the blowing seeds whether the bare soil is created by river flows or, in our case, by a bulldozer.

Along the right of way, a dense growth of composite herbs (sunflower family) flowered spectacularly in autumn, supporting high populations of wild bees and butterflies. It is extremely productive of seeds that attracted seed-eating birds and, in turn, the hawks which hunt them. There will be much plant and wildlife activity to observe in this recovering area for some time to come.



April 2008



December 2009



Museum Staff and Volunteers plant a variety of trees and acorns along the bluff at the water pipeline work site.

Rare Fossil Donation

by George Phillips, MMNS Paleontology Curator



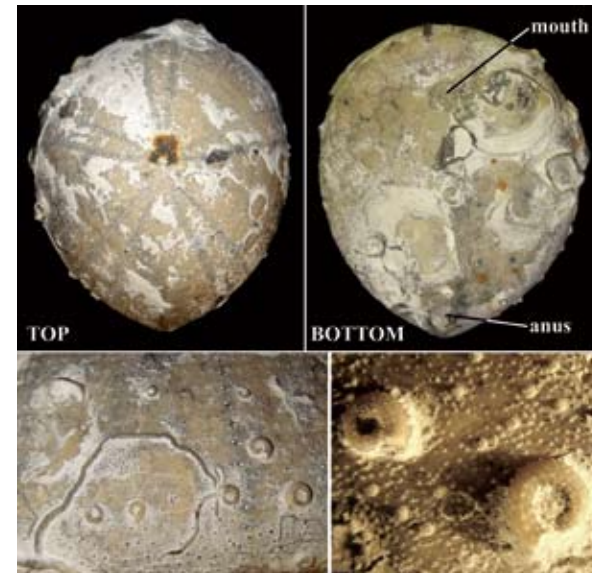
Fossil donor Zachary Acker (center) of DeQueen, Arkansas, and his parents, Charles and Teresa, pose with Museum Director Libby Hartfield (far right).

Zachary Acker of DeQueen, Arkansas, recently donated a rare fossil sea urchin [*Echinocorys*] to the Museum from a 74 million-year-old chalk quarry near Foreman, Arkansas.

Museum paleontologist, George Phillips, welcomed the donation as it comes from a geologic formation and locality on which he has been doing research, comparing fossils and chalk beds in southwestern Arkansas with those in northeastern Mississippi.

After the echinoid died, the surface was colonized by a half dozen different types of encrusting organisms, including oysters, bryozoans, and polychaetes (bristle worms).

The polychaetes are of two types, the first forming long, narrow, sinuous tubes [*Glomerula*] and the second forming short, stout coiled, and tuberculated (pimply) tubes [*Neomicrorbis*].



\$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

\$50,000-\$100,000

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

**Steadfast
Supporters**

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

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

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl: Home Sweet Home

MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
MMNS Foundation
AT&T
USDA Forest Service
Anonymous
Feild Cooperative Associates, Inc.
Molpus Woodlands Group
Paul T. Benton
Plum Creek
Sanderson Farms, Inc.
The Chisholm Foundation
Trustmark National Bank
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Zachow
Family of Catchings B. Smith

\$25,000-\$50,000

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi
Bureau of Land Management
Delta and Pine Land Company
Feild Cooperative Association, Inc.
Foundation for the Mid South
Georgia-Pacific Corporation
International Paper Foundation
Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau
Merrill Lynch
MS Department of Environmental Quality
Mississippi Power Company
Mississippi Valley Gas Company
Molpus Woodlands Group
Paul T. Benton
Plum Creek Foundation
Pruet Companies
Sanderson Farms
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
Delta Levee Board

\$10,000-\$25,000

The Armstrong Foundation
AT&T
BancorpSouth Foundation
Betsy & Wade Creekmore
Cellular South Foundation
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 PCS/US Unwired
St. Dominic Health Services
The Straddlefork Foundation
Wild Turkey Federation

New Members/Donors

Life

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
James E. Stary
Carol Taff
Elizabeth Barber
Craig & April Blackwell
David Bowen
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Sustaining

(\$1,000 OR MORE)
Amanda & Chris Bodnar
Ms. Magalen Bryant
Betsy & Wade Creekmore
Hiram & Elizabeth Creekmore
Deborah Dawkins
Robert Fairbank, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs.
Christopher Gedemer
John Gwaltney
Renee Lichtenhan
Melissa & David Patterson
Lottie Smith
Scott & Joye Steele
Lance & Beth Stevens

Patron

(\$500 OR MORE)
Sidney & Holt Crews
Charlotte Icardi
Hap & Hilda Owen

Dr. & Mrs.

T. W. Lewis III
Mr. & Mrs.
Charles O. Martin
Verneda Mason
John Maxey

Donor

(\$250 OR MORE)
Frederick & Marian Anklam
Steven & Erin Chevalier
Louisa Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hall
Dick Hall
Katherine Klipple
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Lange
Mary G. Lockhart
Sidney & Gloria Montgomery
Don & Becky Potts
Dan & Kristi Smith
William B. Stripling, Jr.
Charlotte Icardi
Sue Allen Tate
Ernest & Beth Taylor
Mr. & Mrs.
Robert H. Weaver
Kathryn Wiener

Friend

(\$500 OR MORE)
Murphy & Ruth Adkins
George A. Allen
Gerald & Elizabeth Barber
Craig & April Blackwell
David Bowen
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Family

(\$850 OR MORE)
Bailey Adams
Jennifer Adkins
Laurie Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs.
Bret Barrett
Kristan Beatty
Brad Benton
Karen Berch
Mrs. and Mr.
Catherine Bishop
Dr. and Mrs.
Christopher Boston
Mr. and Mrs.
James Bowley
Jeannette Boyd
Forrest Bratley
Julietta Brookins
Trinette Brown
Barbara Brunini
Naomi Campbell
Mr. and Mrs.
Garrett Cannon

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.

Dr. & Mrs.

Timothy McCowan
Don & Mary Mitchell
Jeanette Morgan
Maurice Murray
Bill Osborne
Ashley & Wheeler Parker
Michelle Petro Pharr
Chat H. Phillips II
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Aaron Trubman
Don & Patsy West
Dr. & Mrs.
Christopher Wiggs
Beth & Fred Wilson
Dr. & Mrs.
John D. Wofford
Steve Zary

Mr. and Mrs.

Scott Lewis
Mr. and Mrs.
Jayson Lipsey
Sara Lofton
Mr. and Mrs.
Will Longwitz
Janelle Lorenzen
Harriet Lowe
Jennifer Lowe
Allison Lunsford
John Marsh
Hazel McCaughan
Kay Y. McChesney
Mr. and Mrs.
Rick Deaton
Mr. and Mrs.
Mike Doherty
Julie Douglas
Angie Dowdy
Susan Duke
Mr. and Mrs.
Chris Duncan
Mr. and Mrs.
Nat Duncan
Allen Edgar
Ike Eriator
Claire Farmer
Dickens Fournet
Beverly Fulcher
Sandra Funchess
Mellony Gama
Toby Gammill
Mr. and Mrs.
Michael Gentry
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom Gerrets
Mr. and Mrs.
Stephen L. Thomas
Bryant Graham
Marilyn Graves
Anthony Griffin
Mr. and Mrs.
John Griffin
Mr. Vernon T. Griffin
Eugenia H. Haley
Jifeng Han
Amanda Hansen
Meg Harris
Mr. and Mrs.
G. Burke Hayes
Nell Hearn
Homa Hill
Brian Hull
Mr. and Mrs.
Warren Husband
Lisa L. Jackson
Denise Johnson
Stephanie Johnston
Mr. and Mrs.
Nolan Jones
Mr. and Mrs.
Michael Jung
Tasho Katsabouhs
Emmie King
Missy Kinkade
Mr. and Mrs.
Amy Kirby
Wilma Kynerd
Erin Lane
Mary P. Lewis

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.
Scott Corlew
Amy Cox
Leslie Cunningham
Laurie D'Arcy
Xuemei Dai
Thea Davis
Kay De Ville
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Timothy McCowan
Don & Mary Mitchell
Jeanette Morgan
Maurice Murray
Bill Osborne
Ashley & Wheeler Parker
Michelle Petro Pharr
Chat H. Phillips II
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.
Scott Corlew
Amy Cox
Leslie Cunningham
Laurie D'Arcy
Xuemei Dai
Thea Davis
Kay De Ville
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.
Scott Corlew
Amy Cox
Leslie Cunningham
Laurie D'Arcy
Xuemei Dai
Thea Davis
Kay De Ville
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Timothy McCowan
Don & Mary Mitchell
Jeanette Morgan
Maurice Murray
Bill Osborne
Ashley & Wheeler Parker
Michelle Petro Pharr
Chat H. Phillips II
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.
Scott Corlew
Amy Cox
Leslie Cunningham
Laurie D'Arcy
Xuemei Dai
Thea Davis
Kay De Ville
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.
Scott Corlew
Amy Cox
Leslie Cunningham
Laurie D'Arcy
Xuemei Dai
Thea Davis
Kay De Ville
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Timothy McCowan
Don & Mary Mitchell
Jeanette Morgan
Maurice Murray
Bill Osborne
Ashley & Wheeler Parker
Michelle Petro Pharr
Chat H. Phillips II
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.
Scott Corlew
Amy Cox
Leslie Cunningham
Laurie D'Arcy
Xuemei Dai
Thea Davis
Kay De Ville
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs.

Clarence Carter
Candace Caugills
Craig Church
Cindy Cochran
Kami Collins
Mr. and Mrs.
Scott Corlew
Amy Cox
Leslie Cunningham
Laurie D'Arcy
Xuemei Dai
Thea Davis
Kay De Ville
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom & Ruth Pullen
Joy Rhoads
John L. Rings
Dr. & Mrs. E. Barney Robinson III
Dr. Lewis F. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs.
Tony Roughton
Mike Schmidt
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Dr. & Mrs.
J. George Smith
Margie L. Smith
Kristie & Steven Speights
Ray & Dardanelle Shenefelt
Bill & Joanna Storey
Ed Swiatlo
Carol Taff
Granville & Sue Allen Tate
Stephen L. Thomas
Liz Brandon
Charles & Becky Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Callahan
C. B. Carroll & Jeanne Luckett
Mr. & Mrs.

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 \$40.

GIFT SHOP

DRAGONFLY SHOPPE

Gift items featured this season:

12.5" Smokey Bear Hand Puppet
\$22.00 plus 7% sales tax



MISSISSIPPI FROG SONGS CD
(by William H. Turcotte)
\$15.00 plus 7% sales tax



Add \$2.00 shipping and handling for mail orders. Don't forget, Foundation Members receive a 10% discount!

GIFT SHOP HOURS
MON-SAT 9AM-4PM SUN 1-4PM

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

Volunteers Making Milestones

by Ann Peden, Volunteer Services

Several volunteers have reached big milestones of service in the fall of 2009, and the reach of their gifts of talent and time is extensive.

Volunteers John Davis and Joy Rushing have each given over 3,000 hours of service to date at the Museum alone, contributing to our scientific collections, assisting in our research library, participating in on-going research work, and excelling in public education. As former classroom teachers, John and Joy are able to generate a lasting inspiration in others that delights staff and visitors alike.

They are not just helping Mississippians discover and protect the wonders of our state through their Museum work. John has worked extensively with the Jackson Audubon Society promoting backyard bird awareness and conservation, and Joy has served in countless leadership roles for the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society and the Clinton Nature Center. Martha Bercaw and Clyde Hare have given over 500 hours sharing the wonders of natural science with visitors in our exhibit hall and supporting our public events. Bill Hays has given over 500 hours faithfully and warmly greeting visitors as they enter our doors.

In just one year and about 400 hours of



Jim Leonard

volunteer service, Jim Leonard has contributed to the Museum collections. Jim has created approximately 4,000 herbarium specimens - eliminating a backlog of plant specimens acquired over time, and also is working on the Fanny Cooke archival collection. This is a collection of only Museum founder Fanny Cooke's specimens, dating from 1925-1927. Because of the age of the specimens and the need to preserve her hand-written annotations, this is tedious, careful work in transfer to acid-free paper for preservation.

Mary Wolfe has contributed over 300 hours assisting with our gift shop, public events and a multitude of other tasks.

To talk about how you can join in supporting the Museum's mission through our volunteer program, contact Ann Peden. 601-354-7303 ann.peden@mmns.state.ms

**MISSISSIPPI
Museum of
Natural
Science**

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
Paul Benton Janice Larson
Betsy Creekmore Jennie McIntosh
Opal Dakin Ashley Parker
Marianne Dempsey Avery Rollins
Halla Jo Ellis Olye Brown Shirley
Sean Wesley Ellis Sheila Smith
Dick Hall Phillip Street
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.

MISSISSIPPI
Museum of
Natural
Science

2148 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
JACKSON, MS 39202-1353
WWW.MSNATURALSCIENCE.ORG

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



MEGALODON

Largest Shark that Ever Lived
JUNE 5, 2010-JANUARY 9, 2011

Enter this exhibit through a full-size sculpture of Megalodon's massive jaws. Discover this shark's history and the world it inhabited, including its size, structure, diet, lifespan, relatives, neighbors, evolution, and extinction.



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	8AM to 5PM
SAT	9AM to 5PM
SUN	1PM to 5PM

ADMISSION

Adults: \$5	Children Under 3: FREE
Children ages 3-18: \$3	Members: FREE
Senior Citizens 60 & over: \$4	School Teachers with classes: call for group information

CALL 601.354.7303
VISIT WWW.MSNATURALSCIENCE.ORG