

# Nature News



Notes, Announcements, Updates, & Events

## News from Clinton Community Nature Center, MS Native Plant Society, and the MS Environmental Education Alliance

### Damage from Hurricane Katrina at the Nature Center—President Cox reports

The Nature Center sustained more damage from Katrina than anything else in our history, but compared to the massive catastrophes elsewhere, this urban forest fared well. We lost about 25 large trees which damaged many younger trees as they fell. Some crashed into and over the fence into neighbors' properties. The fence was breached in 5 places, the amphitheatre stage was destroyed, and one section of boardwalk was broken by a tree.

**How can you help?** We need volunteers to help with the work, both clean-up and repair. We need donations for fence repair and for materials to repair the stage at the amphitheatre, boardwalk, and trails. And, if you have been considering the benefits of Life Membership in the Nature Center, this would be a good time to act. A Life membership would help now by providing needed funds for operation, maintenance and repair and, at the same time, would move you into this elite group of Nature



Center Supporters (Individual life membership is \$1000 and Family life membership is \$1500). If you have questions or want to volunteer call me at 601-924-5509. We are reopening trails as quickly as we can. With your help, restoration will be completed soon. —P. Cox

### Saturday, October 8: Pancakes & Plant Sales for the Nature Center

Bright and early, join Alice Gorman and her crew at **Applebee's** in Clinton for Pancake Breakfast. Tickets are on sale now for \$5 each at the Center or from any Board member. Restaurant breakfast and take out service: 6:30am to 9:30am.

From 8 until 11am, the **Fall Plant Sale** will be in full swing in the parking lot at the Center. We have selected a great group of plants for this sale, featuring native perennials for fall planting. **New this year!** A tent full of special, naturally fun

activities for children to do while you shop! Some plants are in short supply, so come early for best selection. Volunteers are always needed at these event; call the Center at 601-926-1104. See you on October 8!



## Nature News Partners: MS Environmental Education Alliance, MS Native Plant Society



Joining forces to reach our members with important news from each group, the Nature Center, MEEA, and MNPS have coordinated their reports in this newsletter. If everyone contributes, it can keep us all informed of activities, events, and issues of concern to us as individuals and organizations. This edition comes close on the heels of Katrina and reports of damage to the natural world of MS have been stunning. The city of Laurel alone is estimated to

have lost 1000 trees. Many of the salt damaged trees and other plants left standing on the Gulf Coast will recover, but the issue of restoring our barrier islands looms large, as does restoration and reforestation. Crosby Arboretum in Picayune sustained considerable damage to the visitors' center, but the pavillion lost only a few boards. The Lynn Meadows Discovery Center took a hard hit to the classroom annex. More questions remain about how municipalities will deal with debris, and if any of it will be used to enhance habitat. Still, many are reporting the abundance of

hummers at feeders this fall. Now word comes from Holly Springs that 2005 is, in every way, a banner year for ruby-throats. The 6th annual celebration of the hummingbird migration was held in September at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center with 4000 festivalgoers and countless hummingbirds - surely a sign of better days to come for all of us.



Send news for the January newsletter to [ccnc617@hotmail.com](mailto:ccnc617@hotmail.com) by Dec. 1.

## Nature Center welcomes MS Native Plant Society Conference set for October 8

MS Native Plant Society will hold its Annual Conference Saturday, October 8, at the Nature Center. Members old and new are invited to attend any or all activities.  
8am Fall Plant Sale at CCNC  
9:30am Pancake Breakfast delivered to Price Hall for MNPS members who register for it.  
10am Welcome to the Center  
10:15am Nature Center panel: native plants, pest plants, life on the trails  
11:15am Reports from members,

Election of Officers, Board Meeting open to all interested members  
12: 30pm Box lunch on the Trails  
1:45pm Depart for Field Trip on Natchez Trace.  
**IMPORTANT!** To register, please send an email to Debora Mann at [mannndl@millsaps.edu](mailto:mannndl@millsaps.edu). Include your name and contact information and indicate if you will join us for breakfast and/or lunch, and plan to pay \$5 for each meal on conference day. Registrations may also be sent via mail to CCNC, P.O. Box 93,

*To register, send an email to [mannndl@millsaps.edu](mailto:mannndl@millsaps.edu). Or mail to CCNC, P.O. Box 93, Clinton, MS 39060*

Clinton, MS 39060. Register by October 1 if at all possible, so we can have an accurate count for meals and seating. Thanks for your cooperation—see you on October 8!

## Nature Center Board's membership drives seek new members and greater support



**Life Membership Drive** In 1998, under the leadership of Grover McDonald, the Clinton Nature Center established the Century Club with a goal of 100 life members. We now have 65 names on the plaque in Price Hall honoring the individuals and families who have made this tremendous investment in the Center. Recently, Grover has renewed his

effort to reach this goal. If you would be interested in making a tax exempt contribution and joining this elite group, call him at 601-924-6858.  
**Corporate Membership** In 2005, Members of the Board of Trustees have renewed their efforts to enlist more corporate support for the Nature Center. Their efforts have resulted in several significant gifts and enabled us to reach a significant milestone in membership: the enrollment of our

first Corporate-Gold member. We are excited to offer a special thank you on behalf of our members to Central MS Medical Center for this honor. If your company has a program that allows organizations supported by its employees to apply for funding or other support, please send contacts or information to the Director or to a member of the Board. Together, we can keep the Center growing!

*MS Environmental Education Alliance  
An Open Letter to the Membership  
From Matthew Miller, MEEA President*



Dear MEEA Members,

I am excited about kicking off this new MEEA newsletter as a means to stay in touch with our membership and share Environmental Education (EE) news and happenings. A big thank you to Nellie Neal and the Clinton Community Nature Center for adding this MEEA section to their Nature Notes. Along with this printed version of the MEEA newsletter we will also be using the electronic updates section of the NAAEE EE-News to communicate with MEEA members. I encourage you to share news of upcoming events, EE activities you're using, Mississippi natural history or other articles of EE interest you would like to write or pass along to others. Send articles and information to John DeFillipo, MEEA Secretary, 4391 South Frontage Road, Columbus, MS, 39701 or lizardking700@yahoo.com.

MEEA has a history of bringing together EE professionals from across the state through its annual conference and workshops and providing a means for all of us to stay in touch with the latest EE happenings. This past year, under the leadership of President Barbara Dorr, MEEA had the singular honor of hosting the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual international NAAEE conference in Biloxi. This short space doesn't allow me to individually recognize every member who played a part in making the conference a success so I'm offering my sincere thanks to all our members who participated.

As MEEA moves forward, one of the issues facing us is how better to serve our membership. A key component of improving service is communication. Improving MEEA's ability to effectively communicate with members is one reason I'm excited about using these two new communications pieces. Another task we are in the process of undertaking toward the goal of improving communications is updating member contact information. You can help by sending your correct contact information including home and work addresses, phone and fax numbers and e-mail address to John, too. Attending the annual MEEA conference is another great way to stay in touch, meet other MEEA members, share information and learn the latest and greatest of what's happening in EE across the state. On the reverse of this page is conference information and registration form – feel free to duplicate it, pass it around, and be there in October.

MEEA is your organization, so whether you're a new member, an "ol'timer", or just now hearing about us I encourage you to become involved, share your EE knowledge and experience and utilize the MEEA network to strengthen EE programs at your school, nature center, camp, or business. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President and please feel free to contact me:

Matthew Miller, President, MEEA, P.O. Box 3477, Tupelo, MS 38803

Phone: 662.844.1885 Fax: 662.844.8149

Email: matthew\_miller@tnc.org

**RediscoverEE: MEEA and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker**  
**Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance 2005 Conference**  
**October 28 – 30, 2005 Twin Lakes Conference Center, Florence, MS**

*This fall rediscover environmental education through the eyes of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and educators from Arkansas, Indiana and Mississippi. If you are a first timer or have been with MEEA for years, join us at beautiful Twin Lakes Conference Center (20 miles south of Jackson, MS) for an unforgettable experience.*

**Conference Highlights**

- Keynote speaker from ARK on the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker
- Back by popular demand: Dan Massa on Team building and Challenge course
- Environmental Education Courses (C.E.U credits available)
- Field trips: High and low ropes, Rock climbing
- Canoeing, Hayless hay ride, Bonfire

**Registration Form**

**Full Conference \$100.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Includes: conference registration, presentations, Friday and Saturday night lodging, meals from Friday supper to Sunday breakfast

**Saturday Conference \$ 75.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Includes: conference registration, presentations, Saturday meals, breakfast, lunch and supper

**Special Workshops: (each workshop is 6 hours, please select one)**

- Project Learning Tree \$ 10.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Project Wild \$ 10.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Waste in Place \$ 10.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*C.E.U.'s available at extra cost, payable to granting institution\*

**Field Trips:**

- Low Ropes \$ 8.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Basic High Ropes \$ 8.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Rock Climbing \$10.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Advanced High Ropes \$12.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*Make checks payable to MEEA. If registering at the conference, add \$25.00.\***

**Registration Information: (please complete a separate form for each person)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: Dietary \_\_\_\_\_

Downstairs Accessibility \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed registration form with payment by September 15<sup>th</sup>:**

**MEEA 2005 Conference**

**4391 South Frontage Road, Columbus, MS 39701**

**For more information, contact John DeFillipo by phone: 662-241-6917**

## Saturday programs, Special Events in Community and Urban Forestry Challenge Grant

The Nature Center has received a Community and Urban Forestry Challenge Program grant (MFC). Environmental Education Outreach and Support will enable us to fill these positions:

**Student Interns**—2 positions with stipends for students (grades 11 and above, including college). Will be trained to plan and conduct environmental education workshops for children and families and will be responsible for hosting 4 workshops in conjunction with volunteer and professional groups. Experience such as camp counselor will be a plus, and ability to work

independently is essential. Saturday workshop hours for interns will be 8am until 1pm; training and planning hours to be arranged.

**Event Coordinator** – Seeking experienced fundraiser to plan and conduct a major event for the Nature Center as an independent contractor. Event Coordinator will initiate, plan, and train Board members and volunteers to conduct a successful annual event. The ideal



candidate will have experience with coordinating similar events using volunteers and will work closely with the Coordinator of Volunteers. Small stipend & budget provided. In addition to these paid positions, we seek a volunteer intern to develop a public relations plan for the Center, to include its regular and special mailings, brochures, press releases, and other media. Contact Center Director Nellie Neal to apply for any of these positions, or to schedule your group or office to participate in a Saturday program introducing children and families to science and nature.

## Teacher Connectivity Project Report: EE Workshops, Class Field Trips, and Buddy Kits



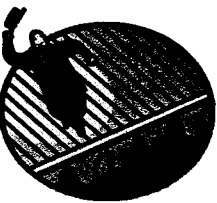
In July, the Nature Center welcomed dozens of teachers to a full week of exciting environmental education workshops. Since the Teacher Connectivity Project began in 2002, more

than 200 teachers have attended similar workshops, but this was the Center's biggest single week. Again we were able to host the teachers at

no cost to them. Registration, materials, mileage, and CEU fees were provided by our partners for Teacher Connectivity: MS Forestry Commission, MS Natural Science Museum, Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District, US EPA, and Community Foundation for Greater Jackson. Jr. Civic League of Clinton enabled us to provide the entire week's lunches. Kudos to our Educator, Johnny Broussard, who is now certified to facilitate these

workshops: Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, Project Archaeology, and Food, Land, & People. We look forward to welcoming these teachers and their students to the Center for field trips this year. Feel free to share the enclosed brochure with teachers you know, and ask your business or PTA to help us sponsor Teacher Connectivity Project workshops and field trips for school classes during 2006. Contact Johnny Broussard for more information.

## Entergy Mississippi: Environmental Stewardship Grant, Amphitheatre lighting project



Since the Nature Center was founded, Entergy Mississippi has contributed to its development with grant funds for projects such as the Discovery Table in Price Hall and environmental control systems for the greenhouse. Through Entergy's Environmental Stewardship program and with inkind and supplemental funding, we continue this

important partnership in Center development. In July, 'Moonlight & Mosquitoes' was the first time a program was held at night outdoors in the woods, but it won't be the last, thanks to Entergy Mississippi. The evening was a big success with Chairman Nancy Anderson, a host of volunteers and temporary lighting. We will be able to install permanent outdoor lighting at the same time we repair the storm damage to the stage. In addition,

trail and exhibit improvements will be part of Urban Forest Habitat Enhancement. The project was awarded Entergy Environmental Stewardship Grant in July. Special thanks to the Center's strong cadre of friends among current and retired Entergy employees for their devotion to the Center's continuing development.



Clinton Community Nature Center  
P.O. Box 93  
Clinton, MS 39060

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Clinton, MS  
PERMIT NO. 3

DEBORA AND TOM MANN  
114 AUBURN DRIVE  
CLINTON, MS 39056-6002

Come Walk Your Trails in 33 acres of  
Urban Forest and Gardens at  
617 Dunton Road  
Clinton, MS 39056

Contact us:  
[www.clintonnaturecenter.org](http://www.clintonnaturecenter.org)  
Phone: 601-926-1104  
Fax: same, call first please  
Email: [ccnc617@hotmail.com](mailto:ccnc617@hotmail.com)

### Upcoming Events: Calendar for Clinton Community Nature Center, MS Environmental Alliance, and the MS Native Plant Society



#### **Monthly Programs**

Gardeners enjoy Brown Bag luncheons at noon each 3rd Wed. Smart speakers, good friends,

drinks & dessert provided.

#### **Nature Lecture Series**

3rd Thursday nights 7pm

**Saturday, October 1** Monarch Rescue with Dr. Bill Stark

**Saturday, October 8**

\*6:30am-9:30am Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's in Clinton

\*8am-11am Fall Plant Sale features native perennials and more

\*8am-1:30 pm MS Native Plant Society Conference

**Sunday, October 9** Jackson Audubon Soc. Bird Walk 4pm-6pm

#### **Friday, Saturday October 14-15**

Fall Flower & Garden Fest at the Experiment Station in Crystal Springs.

**October 28-30** MEEA Conference at Twin

Lakes Center in Florence

**Thursday, November 10** Board of Trustees meeting 7pm

**Friday, November 18** Project Learning Tree 8:30am-2pm

**Wednesday, December 7**

Volunteer Honors Coffee 9:30 am

**Saturday, April 1, 2006**

Nature Day 9am-3pm

Send calendar items to [ccnc617@hotmail.com](mailto:ccnc617@hotmail.com).



*Community Groups* continue to meet at the Center. This fall's calendar includes Clinton Public Schools, Clinton Genealogical & History Society, & the Jackson Audubon Society. Garden clubs and school classes can schedule field trips weekdays. Fees are modest, so, why not bring your group?

*Special Note to members & visitors:* Please observe our recycling practices. We provide separate receptacles for aluminum cans, paper, and all other trash. If you can't find them, please ask, or take all your trash away. Thanks!

