



Mississippi Native Plants and Environmental Education



Newsletter of The Mississippi Native Plant Society and the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance

Volume 29 Number 3

October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter - Nova Bair

Fall 2011

The **Mississippi Native Plant Society** promotes the preservation of native plants and their habitats through conservation, education, and utilization.

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President: Dr. Mac Alford
601-266-6531, mac.alford@usm.edu

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662-325-7895, tjs2@msstate.edu

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662-325-3482, cell 228-324-4233
jguyton@cfr.msstate.edu

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lgbarton@gmail.com
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drackett@ext.msstate.edu

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peggyguyton@gmail.com

MNP & EE Newsletter Editors:
John Guyton (see above),
Peggy Guyton 228-324-3136,
Brian Templeton 662-325-3190
btempleton@lalc.msstate.edu &
Lucas C. Majure, 352-273-1962
lmajure@ufl.edu

Climate Change or Cyclic Variations? That is the Question, or Is It? **by Dr. John Guyton**

MEEA is working with the Mississippi Geographic Alliance to create a Climate Change Educational Partnership (CCEP) with National Science Foundation funding within the Climate Literacy Partnership in the Southeast (CLiPSE). Our task is to participate in identifying strategically significant organizations and individuals from relevant stakeholder groups and organize a Networked Partnering Community (NPC) and produce an inventory of climate change education resources, organizations and practices. Further we will assist in developing a strategic plan to guide the CCEP that effectively integrates (1) technology and the geophysical, biological and social sciences, (2) multiple state, regional and national partners and (3) a range of political, economic and social institutions. Within MEEA this effort will be lead by Jennifer Buchanan, Terri Jacobson, John Stark and myself.

Now, back to the title questions that pulled you in. I don't know and I don't think so. Having spent the greater part of the last 10+ Junes outdoors, I want to say it is getting hotter. But that is pretty shortsighted, 10+ years. Paleoclimatologists have been studying ice cores, deposits of sediments, ancient fossils such as mollusks that inhabited the planet 3.5 million years ago, continental drift, bogs, a mummified forest on Ellesmere Island north of the Arctic Circle, monk's weather notes in their 17th-19th century diaries and even grave stones for recent evidence as to earth's climate's history. Stalagmites in caves record a wealth of information from rainwater that has trickled down recording annual rainfall and temperatures, ground cover, etc. Our history is clear - anthropogenic change is slow and often painful. Since man's first "observations" there have been skeptics and naysayers, and healthy debate is an important element in science. Is climate changing, the populace is undecided. The cycle or trend debate is amusing but a distraction and it is certainly refreshing that science is self correcting and eventually we will know.

So, is cycle or trend the most important question? I think not. The most beneficial discussion for most people is how do we live in a hotter world right now? The ancient Pueblo people from the Four Corners of the southwest built passive solar heated and air conditioned homes or pueblos under overhanging cliffs and their houses are as comfortable today as when they were built! Photovoltaic cells remain expensive but solar water heaters have long been a viable option for everyone. Close to a third of your utility bill goes to heat water and passing that expense on to the sun is a very good idea. Deciduous trees on the south side of your house for shade and evaporative cooling in summer and exposure during the winter, insulated windows, biking and walking, grocery shopping with a neighbor, heat pumps, etc. can all offset energy expenditures.

While the debate goes on there are important things we can to be doing. Just as there are great economic opportunities during the increasingly hot seasons there are a wealth of educational opportunities as well, and those are the ones we will be keying on over the next few years. If you, or your organization, would like to join the Networked Partnering Community of the Climate Change Educational Partnership please let me know. I will be using a spreadsheet to keep track of partners as well as climate education resources you may have. Soon we will have a form but until then feel free to email me ideas, educational materials lists and other resources, contacts, etc. Beginning with the evaporative cooling article in the last newsletter we will publish articles, resources and meetings in this newsletter each quarter.

In this issue: MNPS and MEEA conference information and an article with a number of color photographs of native grasses. They seem to reproduce okay in B&W but color versions are available on the MEEA and MNPS websites and a growing portion of our membership is now receiving their newsletters electronically.

MNP & EE Calendar, Field Trips, Native Plant Sales, et cetera

Native Plants for Sale at Any Time! Native plants are available throughout the year from Strawberry Plains Audubon Center's Nursery by appointment. Please contact Kristin Lamberson at 662-252-1155 for more information. Bring a wagon.

For additional opportunities monitor: EEinMississippi, <http://bigcypressoutdoorclub.wikispaces.com>, www.clintonnaturecenter.org, <http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/>

Letter from Laura Beiser, President of the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance

“Nonpoint Source Pollution” and “Low Impact Development, as well as, “Climate Change” are focuses for the Fall 2011 Mississippi Environmental Education Conference to be held October 28 and 29, 2011 at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi. Envirothon highschool team teacher sponsors and regular classroom teachers may apply for teacher scholarships. Non-formal environmental educators are also encouraged to attend. The grounds of the Natural Science Museum feature low-impact development systems installed during the construction of the museum in 2001 that continue to filter parking-lot runoff today. They include swales between parking areas, a Vortec device to centrifuge pollutants, and a series of step-down-the-hill detention basins with wetland plants in them (similar to a rain garden) to continue the filtering of the parking lot runoff. The key-note speaker on Friday night will be Dr. Wayne Wilkerson of Mississippi State University’s Landscape Department; and, Mr. Paul Rodrigue will conduct a 2-hour training workshop on erosion and sediment control with pre and post-site development “best management practices (BMPs)” included in the training. I have worked in the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality for 21 years and I will teach surface water, ground water and land use segments of the conference trainings. Dr. David Rutherford of the Mississippi Geographic Alliance and Dr. John Guyton of MSU will teach climate change.

Registration is \$65.00 for 2 days and \$45 for one-day registration. The conference begins at 12:30 p.m. on Friday Oct. 28 and at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 29, 2011. You may use the registration form included in this newsletter or you may download complete registration and scholarship information and forms from the Mississippi Native Plant Society web site at:

<http://www.mississippinativeplantsociety.org/> or send your name, organization affiliation, address, phone numbers, email address with a check for registration to Ms. Peggy Guyton, MEEA, P.O. Box 43, Mayhew MS 39753. I hope to see you at the MEEA conference the end of October, 2011.

Letter from Dr. Mac Alford, the President of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

We are looking forward to an exciting annual meeting this year in Hattiesburg. Although it will certainly be hot. What else can we expect in late August? We have a great line-up of speakers and field trips arranged. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Lytton Musselman from Old Dominion University in Virginia. He is an expert on parasitic plants, the lycopod *Isoetes*, and plants of the Bible. He will present a talk on parasitic plants in the morning and a talk on plants of the Bible in the afternoon. We are expecting a big crowd of guests for the afternoon seminar, as Lytton is well-known for his book *Figs, Dates, Laurel, and Myrrh: Plants of the Bible and the Quran*. He has traveled extensively and has taught and done research in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Israel, and the Sudan. He has also done research on mushrooms, wetland plants, and environmental stewardship, so “well-rounded” aptly describes him.

Our other speakers will be Diana Flosenzier and Dr. Timothy Schauwecker. Diana will speak about plant remains in Native American mounds. She has been involved in excavations and identification of material from Native American mounds in the Delta and has found a number of interesting plant remains for which the use(s) is(are) unknown. Tim, an expert on prairies, will speak about development of Mississippi State’s arboretum with a prairie component and about a green roof study. Tim has served as vice-president of MNPS and initiated our website. In the afternoon, we’ll have a workshop on Asteraceae (Compositae, the sunflower or aster family). Although often considered a difficult family of plants, they are mostly difficult due to the specialized terminology associated with the grouped flowers (thus, their name, the “composites”). The workshop will cover the major forms in the family and will offer opportunities to identify some common fall composites. Many native species are suitable—and beautiful!—for cultivation.

In line with our focus on education this year, three of the field trips will accentuate teaching possibilities in gardens. On USM’s campus, there will be a tour to the Biological Sciences Teaching Garden led by Dr. Mike Davis and a tour to the Native American Medicine Wheel Garden led by Dr. Tammy Greer and Joe and Merrill Willis. These tours will highlight importance of plant selection, plant arrangement, and use of interpretive signs. Another tour will be to the newly opened Lake Thoreau Environmental Center. Located in west Hattiesburg, the Center includes observation decks, fishing, biking, and nature trails that pass through longleaf pine forest, spring-seeps, and swamps. We’ll have another field trip on early Sunday morning to the Ragland Hills. Located just north of Camp Shelby, the Ragland Hills are famous for their botanical diversity, including a number of rare plants and Appalachian disjuncts. The parcel that we will visit, now owned by the University of Southern Mississippi, is also famous (or infamous) for its part in the arguments over the expansion of U.S. Highway 98. Participants in this field trip should be prepared for a strenuous hike. There are steep hills, plenty of fallen logs (from Katrina), and small creeks.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

The lands are lit with all the autumn blaze of golden-rod, and everywhere the purple asters nod and bend and wave and flit. - Helen Hunt

Trip Report for MNPS Roosevelt State Park Field Trip Submitted by Gail Barton

On Saturday, March 19, 2011 a small group of MNPS members met to botanize at Roosevelt State Park near Forest, Mississippi. We were fortunate to have Heather Sullivan as our field trip leader. Also in attendance were Gail Barton, Deb Mann, Jennifer Heffner and Tom Pullen. Jennifer's dog friend Mr. Otis Williams tagged along as well.

We first went to explore the trails near the frisbee golf course. As we arrived at the site we were immediately treated to large vistas of May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)*. We found the interesting adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) along with three species of grape fern. We also encountered a blooming Southern twayblade orchid (*Listera australis*)* and a few lingering bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)* blossoms. I enjoyed walking beneath a very large sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and we all studied the curious Devil's goblet fungi (*Urnula craterium*). Other plants that we encountered in this area included:

Arisaema triphyllum – Jack in the pulpit*

Arnoglossum ovatum – Indian plantain

Bignonia capreolata – cross vine

Botrychium biternatum – Sparse lobed winter grape fern

Botrychium virginicum – Rattlesnake fern

Botrychium dissectum – Dissected leaf grape fern

Callicarpa americana – beautyberry

Carpinus caroliniana – ironwood

Epifagus virginiana – beech drops

Euonymus americanus – strawberry bush

Gelsemium sempervirens – Carolina Jessamine

Ilex decidua – Possumhaw holly

Ilex opaca – American holly

Lonicera sempervirens – coral honeysuckle

Luzula echinata – wood rush

Mitchella repens – partridge berry

Oxalis violacea – violet woodsorrel*

Phegopteris hexagonoptera – broad beech fern

Pinus glabra – Spruce pine

Pinus taeda – loblolly pine

Pleopeltis polypodioides – Resurrection fern

Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's seal

Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas fern

Pontederia cordata – pickerel weed*

Prunella vulgaris – selfheal

Salvia lyrata – lyre – leaf sage*

Senecio glabellus – buttertop*

Smilacina racemosa – False solomon's seal

Smilax pumila – sarsaparilla

Solidago bicolor – white goldenrod

Tipularia discolor – crane fly orchid

Trillium cuneatum – sweet little Betsy

Vaccinium elliotii – Mayberry

Viola cucullata – purple violet

Vitis rotundifolia – muscadine

We crossed the road to get back to our parking place and decided to walk up along the dam and explore some of the more weedy species in this disturbed area. The site was mown to about six inches. Still there were enough low blooming plants like bluets, clovers and chickweeds to attract several species of butterflies.

Our third stop was a low mesic woodland. At this site, the highlight for me were the native azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens*)* that were in bloom near a seep. Other plants that we saw here included:

Antennaria plantaginifolia – pussy toes

Athyrium filix-femina – Southern lady fern

Chamaelirium luteum – Devil's bit

Euonymus americanus – strawberry bush

Itea virginica – Virginia sweetpire

Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay magnolia

Nyssa sylvatica – black gum

Osmunda cinnamomea – Cinnamon fern

Oxydendrum arboretum – sourwood

Pinus echinata – shortleaf pine

Sphagnum spp. – sphagnum moss

Symplocos tinctoria – horse sugar

Toxicodendron vernix – poison sumac

Viola primulifolia – primrose-leaf violet*

We adjourned around lunch time after spending a wonderful morning in the woods. Special thanks to Heather Sullivan for leading this trip and for proofing the Latin names given here.

* These plants were in bloom.

Prairie Field Trip Report Submitted by Gail Barton

On June 4, MNPS members met in Forest, Mississippi. Our plan was to tour Harrell Prairie to see purple cone flower in bloom and then visit a few lesser known prairie remnants.

Unfortunately the gate to Harrell Prairie was locked and the Trips Chair (yours truly) had forgotten to call to ask that if be left open. As a result, we resorted to "Plan B" and followed our fearless leader, Tim Schauwecker, to a prairie remnant on National Forest land near Homewood, Mississippi.

When we arrived we were dazzled by masses of blooming butterfly weed, prairie clover, black eyed Susan and bee balm.

Butterflies abounded at the site. Within just a few minutes after our arrival, our resident butterfly expert, Diane Lafferty of Hattiesburg, found several species of butterflies that she had never seen before.

A partial plant list follows. Those marked with an * were in bloom.

Butterfly milkweed – *Asclepias tuberosa**

Green milkweed – *Asclepias viridiflora*

Antelope horn – *Asclepias viridis*

Mead's sedge – *Carex meadii*

Yellow puff – *Neptunia lutea**

Whiteflower beardtongue – *Penstemon tenuiflorus*

Narrowleaf obedient plant – *Physostegia angustifolia*

Whiteleaf mountain mint – *Pycnanthemum albescens**

Prairie tea – *Croton monanthogynus*
 White prairie clover – *Dalea candida**
 Prairie clover – *Dalea purpurea**
 Illinois bundleflower – *Desmanthus illinoensis*
 Common sneezeweed – *Helenium autumnale*
 Bee balm – *Monarda fistulosa**

Narrow leaf mountain mint – *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium**
 Gray headed coneflower – *Ratibida pinnata**
 Black eyed Susan – *Rudbeckia hirta**
 Azure blue sage – *Salvia azurea*
 Wholeleaf rosinweed – *Silphium integrifolium*
 Narrowleaf vervain – *Verbena simplex**

This was a very interesting site. Apparently it was clearcut rather recently and Forest Service personnel noticed that prairie indicator plants were present. It has been burned for about three years and appeared to have been burned during 2011. There were a good many woody plants in residence including a fair amount of Rusty blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*) and Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

An unknown unblooming gayfeather was present in large numbers. Heather Sullivan believes it is either *Liatris squarrosa* or *L. squarrosula*. The site was rich in forbs but there were surprisingly few grasses. We did see big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and little blue stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*).

We then proceeded to Pinkston Hill where we paused briefly to enjoy a wonderful view. We convoyed on to a private remnant near Lake where we admired the button snakeroot (*Eryngium yuccifolium**) that had oddly been absent from our first stop.

A small group then drove on to Meridian to look at my native plant garden and nature trails.

We had a wonderful day. Our group included three members of Pine Woods Audubon Society in Hattiesburg. Other attendees hailed from Starkville, Vicksburg, Brandon, Meridian, Covington, Louisiana and Amite, Louisiana.

MEEA Secretary and Mississippi WILD Coordinator Angel Rohnke Wins Award

When asked about the award, Angel replied "It has been an honor to be selected as the recipient of the 2010 MSTA (Mississippi Science Teachers Association) Informal Science Educator Award. The education profession will recurrently be one of the most important and effective ways to help ensure successful future conservation efforts. My experiences here in Mississippi continually nourish my interests and inspirations for Mississippi's science education."

Below is an excerpt from Libby Hartfield, Director for the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, that was sent to the MSTA Award Nominations Committee.

"Angel Rohnke is an excellent science educator and does a wonderful job of modeling experiential learning and hands-on teaching for informal educators and classroom teachers. She has fun as she learns and is always excited about learning and teaching, and she continues to grow and try new techniques to better reach her audience. Conservation education should be enjoyable but informal education in particular must be fun to be effective. Angel works hard to hold an audience long enough to get her message across clearly, working well with audiences of all ages. She is particularly interested in providing good services for teachers and conducts many teacher workshops each year. This past year she and her staff reached more than 900 teachers through professional development workshops. The reviews of her workshops and training sessions are excellent and her creativity is often noted.

Angel Rohnke has been working with MMNS for six years. She is a well-respected leader in Mississippi's conservation community and is the go-to person when anyone in the natural resources arena needs help with a special project or event.

As a supervisor for thirteen full time education staff members, Angel is able to inspire her team to work hard in meeting goals. Her education team looks to her for guidance and are very loyal supporters of her efforts.

The museum depends heavily on Angel to insure that all of our more than 150,000 annual visitors receive quality programming from the museum. She is such a capable leader, I know I can rely on her judgment.

She is always willing to go the extra mile to make any project she is involved in the best possible. She is a great team player and serves on many local, state, and national committees with various educational partners."

Congratulations Angel! From the MNP&EE Editorial Staff



Photo of Libby Hartfield, Director of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and Angel Rohnke

October gave a party; The leaves by hundreds came - The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples, And leaves of every name. The Sunshine spread a carpet, And everything was grand, Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band. – George Cooper

Identification Tips on 8 Native Grasses in Mississippi By: Edward Entsminger

There are innumerable grass species throughout the entire United States and more are being identified every year. However, the following eight native species, with quick identification tips should be known to all. The eight species are Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Giant Plumegrass (*Saccharum giganteum*), Eastern Gammagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), Switchcane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), and Silver Beardgrass (*Bothriochloa laguroides* / *Andropogon saccharoides*).

Big Bluestem is a warm season, perennial bunchgrass with blue-green stems 4-8 feet tall. It is very leafy at the base, with some leaves carried up on the stem. The seed head is usually branched into three parts and resembles a “turkey’s foot” while the fall color is maroonish-tan. Big Bluestem is the star component of the Big Four native grass species that characterize the tallgrass prairies of central North America which the other three are Indiangrass, Switchgrass, and Little Bluestem. The Big Bluestem tends to be taller than the other species and was at one time very abundant.

Indiangrass is a bunching grass growing 3-8 feet tall, with broad blue-green blades and a large, “Indian-like feather” for the golden-brown seed head. This showy perennial’s fall color is deep orange to purple. This grass has a metallic golden sheen to its flowering parts.

Switchgrass grows in a clumping form with an open purple seedhead during the late summer to fall growing to 3-6 feet tall. The brightly green leaves with many persistent, curly leaves occur up and down the stem, turning bright yellow gold in the fall. Switchgrass dominates in prairies but also grows along roadsides where moisture is present. The rich, yellow-colored clumps persist throughout the winter.

Little Bluestem is a bunchgrass with fine-textured foliage that forms very dense clumps 18-24 inches tall. It gets its name from the bluish color of the stem bases in the spring, but most striking is the plants mahogany-reddish-tan color in fall, persisting through winter. In winter the fuzzy white seeds along the stem are of particular value to small birds. The native bunchgrass, Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) is often confused with Little Bluestem as they both resemble similar shape, color, and height.

Giant Plumegrass is a very tall grass growing 6-10 feet high with a large white fluffy Indian-like feather seed head. The seed head, blooming in early fall in full sun, is very showy and dramatically a tall grass of moist areas. Looks similar to Indiangrass yet larger fluffier head.

The Eastern Gammagrass is a warm-season species native to most of the eastern half of the United States and grows 4-8 feet in height. The seed heads are 6 to 10 inches long and are made up of one to several spikes. The leaves can be 3/8 to 3/4 inch wide and 12 to 24 inches long while having a well defined midrib.

Switchcane, also called Rivercane, is a native bamboo species. It has robust rhizomes roots which bind the soil and protect it from erosion. The stem is round, hollow, and woody. It grows between 4-10 feet tall and its leaf blade is lance-shaped while the underside is usually hairy. It grows in pure stands on most sites and grows best in swampy woods and flood plains.

Silver Beardgrass, also called Silver Bluestem, is a native bunch grass with dull green leaves and a silvery white seed head. This native blooms in the early summer to late fall seasons along roadsides and open fields. It is often mistaken for the introduced grass species called Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) due to the similar growth sites, height of ~2 feet (0.5 meters) tall and whitish seed head. However, Cogongrass blooms in the spring season and Silver Beardgrass blooms in the summer to fall seasons. This native plant provides food for bees, butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

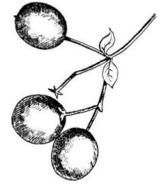
References: http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SAGI
<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

Editors Note: We are interested in locations where we can collect seed from silver beardgrass and it should be blooming about now. Please send me an email or call if you have recently noted its presence. jguyton@cfr.msstate.edu or 662-325-3482. Thank you, John



Mississippi Native Plant Society 2011 Annual Meeting

*A gathering of gardeners and plant professionals
who share an interest in wildflowers and native plants.*



Saturday August 27, 2011 at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg

Room 218 of the Thad Cochran Center

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. \$10 for non-members; free to MNPS members, students, and USM faculty & staff. Join or renew at the meeting or by sending \$10 to Mississippi Native Plant Society c/o Debora Mann, 114 Auburn Drive, Clinton, MS 39056

The Agenda will include:

Morning Tours

- ☼ Teaching Garden with Dr. Mike Davis
- ☼ Native American Medicine Wheel Garden with Dr. Tammy Greer and Joe and Merrill Willis

Presentations

- ☼ Dr. Lytton Musselman, Old Dominion University, expert on parasitic plants, Isoetes, and plants of the Bible
- ☼ Diana Flosenzier, researcher of plant remains in Indian mounds
- ☼ Dr. Timothy J. Schauwecker, Mississippi State University, prairie expert, speaking on MSU's arboretum with a prairie component and green roof study
- ☼ Afternoon workshop on composite (Asteraceae) identification
- ☼ Tours of the Lake Thoreau Environmental Center.
- ☼ Field Trip to explore the Ragland Hills on Sunday morning.

Directions to the Thad Cochran Center (see map at http://www.usm.edu/campus_map.php)

Traveling from Jackson on Hwy 49 S:

- Less than a mile after traveling under I-59, look for a sign on the right showing exit to the Coliseum and 4th St.
- On Hwy 49 take the West 4th St. exit. (Green sign on right says Coliseum.) Turn left on service road.
- On West 4th St. take left at first traffic light onto Golden Eagle Ave.
- Take third left into the Visitor Parking Lot

Traveling on Hwy 49 N:

- At the Hwy 49/Hardy St. intersection turn left onto Hardy St.
- Take immediate RIGHT onto service road.
- Follow Service Drive to traffic light.
- Take left onto West 4th St.
- On West 4th St. take left at first traffic light onto Golden Eagle Ave.
- Take third left into the Visitor Parking Lot

Attention Members: Elections will take place at the meeting. Please send nominations for President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer to Robert F. Brzuszek RBrzuszek@lalc.msstate.edu, Department of Landscape Architecture, Mississippi State University, Box 9725, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-7896

For more information contact Dr. Mac Alford 601-266-6531, Mac.Alford@usm.edu

Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance 2011 Annual Conference Registration Information

President: Laura Cook Beiser

www.eeinmississippi.org

Theme 1: **“Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development”**

Theme 2: **“Climate Change - Is Climate Changing or is it a Natural Fluctuation?”**

Sponsored by MEEA, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Central Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Council, and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

When: Friday, October 28 & 29, 2011

Friday, 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson, Mississippi

Special Topics, 2011: Nonpoint Source Pollution (polluted runoff from land uses and how it affects water quality in rivers, lakes, oceans, estuaries and ground water) and low-impact development (a better way to develop communities, subdivisions, and industry). Special Topic for Envirothon 2012.

Cost: There is a registration fee of **\$65 for the entire two day conference or \$45 for one day**. Registration includes supper on Friday and lunch on Saturday at the Museum Facility. One year's membership is a benefit of participating in the conference. Lodging is not included in conference costs.

Attention Teachers!

Scholarships (1st come basis) are available for Envirothon teacher sponsors and Envirothon team sponsors and regular Mississippi classroom teachers.

Scholarship...\$200 Metro-Jackson MS Counties (2 days) \$240 Non Metro-Jackson MS Counties (2 days)

Scholarship...\$100 Metro-Jackson MS Counties (one day for either Friday or Saturday)

\$140 Non Metro-Jackson MS Counties (one day for either Friday or Saturday)

Earn CEUs! 0.5 CEUs for attending on Friday & 0.7 CEUs for attending on Saturday. 1.2 CEUs for both days

All Conference Participants, including speakers, members, educators, all teachers, etc. will be required to pay a registration fee to attend the conference. Please fill out registration form, available on <EE in Mississippi> or the <Mississippi Native Plant Society> websites attached to the electronic version of this newsletter. Mail your registration form and fee to: Ms. Peggy Guyton, MEEA, P.O. Box 43, Mayhew MS 39753.

Lodging: (not included in registration fee) Block of 15 rooms reserved at the Cabot Lodge, Jackson-Millsaps. Reservations: Check rates & availability and instantly book online! Phone: 601-948-8650 or 800-874-4737.
MEEA Conference rate \$82.00 per night (41.00 per person if teachers split the room).

Directions: From I-55 in Jackson, Mississippi Take exit 98-B onto Lakeland Drive East (which is north of I-20 and the stack). Go east at the end of the exit ramp (opposite direction from St. Dominic's Hospital). The next turn to the right (south) will be Riverside Drive. It is across Lakeland Drive from the Agriculture Museum. (You will see "brown signs" for MS Natural Science Museum)

Take a right onto Riverside Drive (headed south on the frontage road) and travel about ¼ mile to the entrance gate for the Natural Science Museum which is on your left just after the MS Children's Museum.

Take a left into the entrance for the Natural Science Museum and let the gate-keeper know that you are attending the MEEA Conference. There will be no charge for an entrance fee for conference participants. If you get lost, contact the Natural Science Museum at 601-354-7303.

