

Newsletter devoted to Mississippi's true treasures — our volunteers

SPRING 2010

## Calendar of Events

**EWH** – Eudora Welty House, Jackson  
**GV** – Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Natchez  
**GM** – Governor's Mansion, Jackson  
**HJC** – Historic Jefferson College, Washington  
**MHM** – Manship House Museum, Jackson  
**OCM** – Old Capitol Museum, Jackson  
**WWB** – William F. Winter Building, Jackson  
**WM** – Winterville Mounds, Greenville

### April:

**4/14 History is Lunch**  
noon–1 p.m. *A Piano Teacher and an American Hero: The Carter Crumpton Families of Mississippi and Alabama.* Warren Calhoun, historian. (WWB)

**4/17 Gathering on the Green** 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Enjoy food, fun, and festivities on the historic Old Capitol Green. (OCM)

**4/23 If Walls Could Talk: Exploring Arts and Architecture of Victorian Homes.** 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Reservations Required. (MHM)

## To our Volunteers:

By visiting our museums and historic sites, the Archives and Library, and participating in our many programs, the public is able to partake of a variety of experiences. One can learn about the decorative arts, civics, literature, lifestyles, and can access information and collections from prehistoric and historic times. With our variety, we also have a commonality — we are the history people.

Our services consist of sites and offices that interpret or provide information about people and important events that happened in Mississippi. Our clients consist of tourists, researchers, scholars, and students. Our staff consists of volunteers and paid employees. The result is an economic boost to the state of Mississippi.

Your volunteer service is helping our economy. Never undervalue what you are doing in your role as part of our staff.

Sincerely,

Lucy Allen  
Museum Division director

## Historic Jefferson College Volunteer Proves that *Volunteerism Always Pays*

Ricky Byers, volunteer from Brookhaven, presents Kay McNeil at Historic Jefferson College with a check from Wal-Mart D.C. 6011. Byers volunteered 25 hours during the *Celebration of Christmas Trees and Pioneer Days* to earn these funds through Wal-Mart's VAP (*Volunteerism Always Pays*) Program.



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**4/28 History is Lunch**  
noon–1 p.m. *African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont*. W. J. Megginson, independent scholar. (WWB)

**May:**

**5/1 Music and May Flowers.** 1–4 p.m. Tour historic gardens of the Manship House Museum, Eudora Welty House, and the Oaks. Music and refreshments. Free.

**5/5 History is Lunch**  
noon–1 p.m. *Plantation Houses in Mississippi: More Than Just White Columns*. Todd Sanders, MDAH architectural historian. (OCM)

**5/8 Twining Gourd Workshop** 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Create a twined gourd with Native American artist Valerie Hanks-Goetz. Adults (18+) only. \$55.00 fee due by May 1. (WM)

**5/12 History is Lunch**  
noon–1 p.m. *Historic Natchez Landscapes and Gardens*. Ron Miller, MDAH architectural historian and Historic Natchez Foundation founder. (OCM)

**5/15 Big Yam Potatoes Old Time Music Concert and Fiddle Contest.** Concert and fiddle contest. (HJC)

**5/15 Gardening, Victorian Style** 10 a.m.–noon. Experts provide information about period flora and fauna. Free. (MHM)

## MDAH Hosts Summer Camps for Children

Rising fourth, fifth, and sixth graders can explore the state's most historic buildings and learn about famous Mississippians and visitors to Jackson by registering for the Museum Division's upcoming kids camp. The theme will be *Mississippi Faces and Places*. Participants will visit the historic Governor's Mansion, Manship House Museum, Eudora Welty House, Old Capitol Museum, and William F. Winter Building. There will be two sessions: June 14–18, 8:30 a.m.–noon and July 12–16, 8:30 a.m.–noon. To

register please call Museum Division education director Stacey Everett at 601-576-6800. The cost is \$40.00.

Other MDAH summer camps for children will be held at Winterville Mounds, Historic Jefferson College,

and Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. For details about these camps, refer to our newsletter *Calendar of Events* or visit [mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us).



Volunteer counselors and staff lead campers down Capitol Street to the Governor's Mansion for a tour as a part of the 2009 *Architectural Detectives Kids Camp*.

## Haltom and Welty Garden Volunteers Enhance Visitor Experience

Garden Restoration Consultant Susan Haltom interviewed Eudora Welty extensively to gather the information needed to restore the Welty garden to the period of 1925–1945—when the garden created by Eudora and her mother Chestina

was at the height of its glory. Welty told Haltom, “Don’t make the garden something that it is not,” referring to the fact that this was a typical southern family garden rather than a “show” garden.

Haltom has worked to restore the garden since

1994. In 2004, with the help of Welty garden volunteers, the garden was unveiled to the public as *A Garden Reborn*—with many of the plants mentioned in Welty’s fiction again thriving there. On an almost weekly basis since then, garden volunteers have faithfully maintained this beautiful garden so that visitors can experience it as the Welty’s did.

Haltom led two enrichment sessions on March 29th, reading letters written by Welty during the 1940s that reference the garden. Haltom is in the process of co-authoring a book about the garden to be released in the fall of 2011. She is always looking for volunteers—no gardening experience required. Call 601-353-7762 for more information.



Garden restoration consultant Susan Haltom and Welty garden volunteer Darian Gibson deadhead the camellias in the garden.



Welty garden volunteer Lee Threadgill weeds flower bed in the Upper Garden.

# Archives and Records Services Volunteers Help Preserve Important Collection

Since 2004, Tougaloo College and the Archives and Records Services Division (A&RS) of MDAH have collaborated to preserve and provide access to forty-one discrete collections known as the Tougaloo College Civil Rights Collection. Housed at the Winter

Building, these collections comprise approximately 610 cubic feet and include material from activist organizations and individuals from throughout the state.

Judy Hocking has been working with the Tougaloo Collection for two years. In recent months, her work has

focused on the collections of sociologists Ernst Borinski and Joyce Ladner. Hocking performs basic preservation tasks, such as arranging the materials and sleeving fragile items. She also creates box lists that are added to the collection descriptions.

Melanie Cook also works with Hocking on the Tougaloo Collection. She has been volunteering with A&RS for five months. Among Cook's current projects are assisting Hocking with creating and editing the box list for the Borinski Collection and sleeving photographic negatives from the Lawrence Durgin Collection. Cook also volunteers with the Reference Services Section, where she indexes death records and serves as a receptionist.



Tougaloo Collection curator Clarence Hunter works with Archives and Records Services volunteers Judy Hocking and Melanie Cook.

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**5/16 Music of the Delta**  
2–4 p.m. Learn about music from prehistoric times to present. Winterville Mounds director, Dr. Mark Howell (WM)

**5/19 History is Lunch**  
noon–1 p.m. *Restoration Amidst Yazoo Clay.* Architect Robert Parker Adams, geologist David Dockery, and engineer Jeff Laird. (OCM)

**5/25–8/31 Summer Dress Experience** Victorian practice of preparing the home for heat, insects, and dirt of summer months. Free. (MHM)

**5/26 History is Lunch**  
noon–1 p.m. *Mississippi's Ten Most Endangered Places.* David Preziosi, Mississippi Heritage Trust (OCM)

**June:**

**6/1–4 Pioneer Camp I** children's day camp (ages 7–9) \$20 fee (HJC)

## Volunteerism Connects Us All

Mississippi DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) held its March meeting at the William F. Winter Building. The group is a network of professionals who meet monthly to discuss volunteerism and provide volunteer managers with quality training, educational tools, and networking opportunities. DOVIA was approached by the U. S. State Department to share information with visitors from Cote d'Ivoire, Gaza, Hong Kong, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia for this meeting.

Longtime volunteerism expert Doris Bridgeman (Tougaloo College director of alumni affairs) was the speaker for the event. "Doris led a dynamic discussion

and exchange of ideas that confirmed that volunteerism truly connects us all," said

DOVIA president Elizabeth Coleman.

*Left to right:* Dr. Margarette C. Butler, Tougaloo College; Rasti Jameel, Iraq; Bogni Odoue Jean Aristide, Cote d'Ivoire; Wing Kan Kin Chow, Hong Kong; Doris Bridgeman, Tougaloo College; Lubna K. M. Alnajjar, Gaza; Brittany Robinson, Tougaloo College; Enas Ghazi F. Hashani, Saudi Arabia; Jessica Jenkins, Tougaloo College; C. G. Varno, U.S. Dept. of State



# Spring is “in the air” at the Old Capitol Museum!

After an unusually cold winter, spring is in the air at the Old Capitol Museum. On Saturday, April 17, the Old Capitol Museum will host the first *Gathering on the Green*, and in May, the Old Capitol will celebrate Preservation Month by hosting MDAH’s popular *History is Lunch* program in the historic House of Representatives Chamber. Each Wednesday at noon, *History is Lunch* will feature a different preservation-related topic, such as historic Natchez, plantation houses, the 2009 ten most endangered places, and one of the more powerful enemies of preservation, Yazoo clay.

We continue to be thankful for our great volunteers. Please call Maura Johnson at 601-576-6923 if you are interested in helping with these events.



Celebrate Jackson with a day of food, fun, live music, and children’s crafts and activities. Local artists, restaurants, civic organizations, and museums gather on the historic Old Capitol green to support our community.



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## GATHERING ON THE GREEN

**Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

On Saturday, April 17, the Old Capitol will host its first *Gathering on the Green*, an outdoor event held on one of Jackson’s remaining green spaces. Participating community organizations include the Mississippi Heritage Trust, Mississippi Mainstreet, the Secretary of State’s office (which will promote voter registration), and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (which will promote recycling). The event will feature live music, delicious food from Jackson vendors, and artisans from the Mississippi Craftsmen’s Guild. The free event takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and we hope to see everyone there.



## Come on in!

### Spring Events at the Manship House Museum

**Saturday, April 10, 1 p.m.**  
*Saturday with Shakespeare*  
The Mississippi College Tribal Players perform scenes and monologues from some of William Shakespeare’s most famous works on the museum grounds.

**Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m.**  
*Gardening, Victorian Style* Learn about the plants and gardens of the Victorian era. Bring a plant to swap following the discussion.

**May 25–August 21**  
*Summer Dress*  
Experience the Victorian practice of preparing the home for the heat, insects, and dirt of the summer months.

All programs are free of charge.  
For more information call  
601-961-4724



email [info@manshiphouse.com](mailto:info@manshiphouse.com).

**Manship House Museum – 420 East Fortification Street – Jackson**

A museum of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History

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**6/2 History is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives.* Elizabeth Ann Payne and Martha Swain, historians (WWB)

**6/9 History is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *Charles Hamilton Houston and the Coming of Civil Rights to Mississippi.* Clarence Hunter, MDAH historian (WWB)

**6/14–18 Mississippi Faces and Places Kids Camp** 8:30 a.m.–noon. children’s day camp (rising 4th, 5th, and 6th graders). \$40 fee (OCM)

**6/14–18 Natchez Discovery Week.** 9 a.m.–noon. children’s day camp (ages 8–11). \$40 fee (GV)

**6/14–18 Mommy and Me Workshop** 9–10 a.m. Children ages 4–5 must be accompanied by guardian. \$15 fee (WM)

**6/14–18 Walk a Mile in My Moccasins. Session 1** (10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) **Session 2** (1:30–3:30 p.m.) children’s day camp (ages 6–12) \$45 fee (WM)

**6/16 History is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *Mississippi Artists.* Roy Wilkinson, art collector and historian (WWB)

**6/22–25 Pioneer Camp II** children’s day camp (ages 8–12). \$20 fee (HJC)

**For more information visit**  
[mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us)

# Winterville Mounds Receives “Facelift” Thanks to AmeriCorps

When Winterville Mounds Park and Museum (WM) was awarded an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps team to help with a mound-clearing project at the site, director Mark Howell and staff called on local supporters to help. The Winterville Mounds Association, volunteers Larry Parker, Bob Boyd, Clint Mixon, Jr., the Winterville Fire Department, and the community of Greenville (and surrounding area) worked to make the AmeriCorps team feel at home.

As a result of the team’s service, the mounds were cleared, native grass and wildflowers were replanted, a site DVD was produced, the laboratory was organized, artifacts were labeled, and the museum legend was reworked.

On their “off time” team members worked with Habitat for Humanity building houses, taught children at a local after-school program, removed litter, and cleared an African American cemetery.



*Top:* Volunteer Foreman Larry Parker (pictured above) and WM employees trained and worked side-by-side with the AmeriCorps members.

*Right:* AmeriCorps NCCC team members (left to right) Tyler Dubois, Katelyn DeMayo, Jamison Czarnecki, WM director Mark Howell, WM staff member Nathan Bailey, Justin Mohr, Paula Dorfman, Alan Johnson, Stephanie Taylor, Volunteer Foreman Larry Parker, Gary Hansen, Patrick Edwards, and Jordan Mohr.



## Boy Scout Bridge Project at Winterville Mounds

The bridge over the lagoon at Winterville Mounds was recently renovated by the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts replaced an underwater structural post, dismantled old planking, handrails, and handrail posts. New handrail posts were installed, and the planking and handrails

were replaced. “The wood used is beautiful — water and bug resistant cedar — a favored and sacred wood of Mississippians like the builders of Winterville. No preservatives or chemicals harmful to the environment were used,” said site director Mark Howell.



Boy Scouts of America (left to right): Will Collum, Collin Sally, John Valco, Ethan Russel, Doug Caulfield, Dillon Smith, Austin Li, and David Sally. Valco is earning Eagle Scout status.

**Note:** Please email or call Elizabeth Coleman (email: [ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us) or phone: 601.576.6985) if you want to confirm that we have your correct email address or if you do not wish to receive this electronic newsletter.

# Governor's Mansion Docents Interpret Mansion for School Children and Adults



Docent Billie Henry and Lake Elementary fourth graders in the Green Bedroom.



Docent Buena Lee Huff and McWillie Elementary fifth graders in the Upstairs Sitting Hall.



Docent Tom Bowen and Pearl Upper Elementary fourth graders in the Gold Parlor.



Docent Ruth Tant and visitors from Washington state in the Gold Parlor.



Docent Babs Sevier and visitors from Germany in the Green Bedroom.



Docent Ruth Byars and visitors from Austin, Texas, in the State Dining Room.

# News from Gulf Coast Volunteer Project Leader

## Lolly Barnes: *Students Help Save Coast History*

Volunteers with the *United Way Alternative Spring Break* program helped restore two historic houses in Ocean Springs March 29-April 2 as part of the Mississippi Heritage Trust's "Good Neighbor" House Painting Project.

Students started the week at Twelve Oaks—named for the large live oaks surrounding the house. Twelve Oaks, built circa 1900 as an African Methodist Episcopal Church, is now owned by the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain. After finishing Twelve Oaks, the team painted the Steamboat House in downtown Ocean Springs. Both properties received damage during Hurricane Katrina and have undergone restoration work funded by the MDAH Katrina Relief Program.

The Mississippi Heritage Trust is a statewide



organization dedicated to the preservation of the pre-historic and historic cultural resources of Mississippi. Utilizing private donations for Hurricane Katrina relief and 165 gallons of paint donated by Valspar and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, as well as the hard work of hundreds of volunteers, the "Good Neighbor" House Painting Project has helped to restore nine historic buildings in Gulfport, Bay Saint Louis, Pascagoula, and Ocean Springs.

**Top:** United Way Alternative Spring Break volunteers take a brief break for the camera while helping to restore Gulf Coast historic properties. **Left:** United Way volunteer Kristen Baldiga of Boston, Mass., takes part in Mississippi Heritage Trust's "Good Neighbor" House Painting Project.

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## Millsaps Senior Finds Manship House Museum Internship Rewarding



"Being an intern at the Manship House Museum has been very rewarding," said Millsaps senior Taylor Cheeseman. "I have had the opportunity to work in a museum setting and have gained some valuable experience that I know will help me in my future career plans."

Millsaps senior Taylor Cheeseman is serving as an intern at the Manship House Museum this spring. Cheeseman is conducting research and updating databases at the Museum library. "Taylor has been a great asset to the Manship House Museum," said education coordinator Michael Busbin. "We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Millsaps College and with such

a great student intern as Taylor. We know that Taylor will be a success in whatever future career goals he pursues." A native of Tarpon Springs, Florida, Cheeseman is a Public Management major, a member of the football team, and the philanthropy chair for the Student Council on College Advancement. Upon graduation from Millsaps College, Cheeseman plans to attend law school.

# Connaway and Shady Grove Volunteer Archaeologists Uncover Clues to Our History

MDAH archaeologist John Connaway and University of Southern Mississippi (USM) graduate student Stacy Scott, along with other volunteers from USM, Mississippi State University, Auburn University, the University of Mississippi, the University of Memphis, and the local community, resumed a 1975 recovery project of burial remains at the Shady Grove site. The goal of this recent excavation (December 2009 through February 2010) was to find the ossuary and remove the remainder of the burials.

Volunteers began by shovel-skimming the approximate area. Unfortunately, the original 1975 reference, a light pole, was no longer present and sur-

face-scraping by volunteers did not yield outlines of the original units. A new pit feature, named "burial 43" for the first burial recorded within the ossuary, was uncovered and revealed 73 skulls and postcranial elements, indicating the number of bundle burials, and several intermingled infants. Several artifacts were found within the ossuary, including ten pottery vessels, shell pendants, a shell bead, bone awls, flakes, Baytown ceramics, and one copper ornament.

"This project would not have been possible without the invaluable help of volunteers because of time constraints and a lack of funds," said Stacy Scott.



Group photo is top row from left to right: Kelly Ervin, Adam Gullatte, Ronald Wise, Jr., Rebecca Verner, Howard Dick, Nicole Musselwhite. Bottom row left to right: Amanda Harvey, Hamilton Bryant, Stacy Scott, John Connaway, and Dr. Marie Danforth

## Celebrate Music and May Flowers



Celebrate spring with garden tours, refreshments, and music at three of Jackson's most historic homes,

**the Manship House,  
the Eudora Welty House,  
and the Oaks**

**Saturday, May 1, 1-4 p.m.**



Manship House Museum - 420 East Fortification Street  
Eudora Welty House - 1119 Pinehurst Street  
The Oaks - 823 North Jefferson Street  
Jackson

For more information • 601-961-4724 • info@manshiphouse.com

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To see our volunteer opportunities, please follow this link:

<http://volunteer.mdah.state.ms.us>

## Coming Soon!

Archives and Records Services  
volunteer job opportunities posted at  
[volunteer.mdah.state.ms.us](http://volunteer.mdah.state.ms.us).



The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902. It is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. A comprehensive historical agency, the department collects, preserves, and provides access to the archival resources of the state, administers museums and historic sites, and oversees statewide programs for historic preservation, government records management, and publications.