

*Newsletter devoted to Mississippi's true treasures — our volunteers*

Summer 2009

## Calendar of Events

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

### July:

**7/01** *History is Lunch*  
noon – 1 p.m. (Winter Bldg.)  
Reagan Grimsley

**7/01 – 7/03** *Stars, Stripes,  
Scissors, and Glue* children's  
crafts 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Old  
Capitol)

**7/08** *History is Lunch*  
noon – 1 p.m. (Winter Bldg.)  
Meg Cooper

**7/8 – 7/10** *Civil War Adventure  
Camp* for children  
(Historic Jefferson College)

**7/13** *Model Manship* children's  
workshop 10 – 11 a.m. (Manship  
House)

**7/13 – 7/17** *Winterville Adventure*  
for children 10 a.m. – noon  
(Winterville Mounds)

**7/15** *History is Lunch*  
noon – 1 p.m. (Winter Bldg.)  
Dr. Woody Sistrunk

**7/20** *Parlors Petit* children's  
workshop 10 – 11 a.m.  
(Manship House)

**7/21 – 7/24** *Naturalist Camp*  
for children (Historic Jefferson  
College)

**7/22** *History is Lunch*  
noon – 1 p.m. (Winter Bldg.)  
Dr. Patricia Galloway

**7/27** *Victorian Ornamental*  
children's workshop 10 – 11 a.m.

## To our Volunteers:

Welcome to the new Museum Division volunteer newsletter! In each issue, we plan to include an abbreviated MDAH calendar of events, volunteer stories and opportunities, and other information that will be helpful to you — our ambassadors. This will be a good way for all stakeholders involved in preserving and sharing Mississippi's history to be able to unite and share. This first issue will be mailed to your home and the following issues will be delivered via email. At a later date, we will archive these issues when the volunteer link is reestablished on our Web site.

Please know that your volunteer service at the department's museum sites has a large impact on all aspects of our operations — whether it is expanding the services that we are able to provide to the public, enhancing the work of department employees, or, more importantly, providing a warm and friendly welcome to our state's visitors. If you work behind-the-scenes or in more public roles, we hope that the information that you receive in this newsletter will keep you better informed of our museum activities and reignite your desire to be a part of our team!

As you volunteer, remember that your service does make a difference to the community and that you are a role model for the next generation.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Coleman  
Volunteer Services Coordinator  
Museum Division

**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 the newsletter.



Michael Busbin, education historian and volunteer coordinator with the Manship House Museum.

# Manship House Museum's Programs and Workshops Cultivate New Audiences

The Manship House Museum has increased their visitation by more than double over the last few years by offering multiple programs and workshops. Thousands of people have turned out to enjoy programs such as *Into the Victorian Garden* with horticulturist Felder Rushing, *Saturday with Shakespeare* with the Mississippi College Tribal Players, the *Manships at Dusk* event, *Art of Faux* with master grainer Malcolm Robson, and multiple children's workshops.

Visitation is so brisk that volunteers have been engaged as receptionists in the Visitors Center during the week. Volunteers have also been very helpful to staff during their special events.

Congratulations go to Michael Busbin, education historian and volunteer coordinator at the Manship House Museum. He has been selected as a *Hometown Hero* by the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau for his successful and creative programming at the Manship House Museum.

## Calendar of Events

*Continued*

### August – September

*Top 10 Most Endangered Places Exhibit* (Old Capitol)

### September

**9/12** *Copper Magnolia Fine Arts and Crafts Festival and Flea Market* (Historic Jefferson College)

**9/19** *Bark in the Park*  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
(Grand Village)

**9/23** *History is Lunch*  
noon – 1 p.m. (Winter Bldg.)  
Tracy Sugg, Sculptor

**9/24** *Friends of the Jackson Library Membership Garden Party* noon – 1 p.m.  
(Welty Library)

**9/26 – 12/6** *Premiere: Eudora Welty's State Fair Mural*  
(MS Museum of Art)

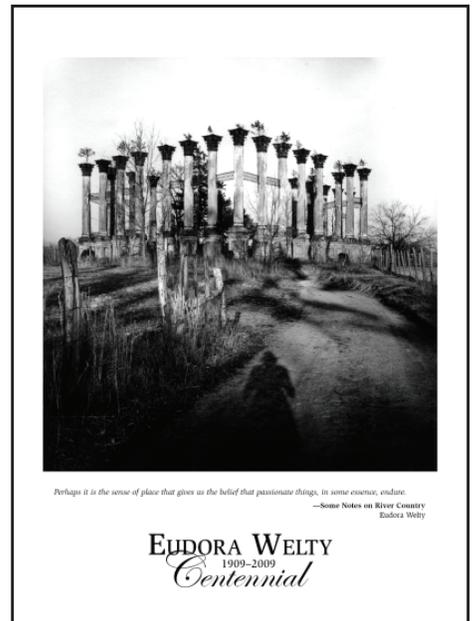
## The Mississippi History Store

A special thank you goes to Buena Lee Huff, Leo Niewald, and Margarita Niewald for volunteering as sales clerks on Wednesday mornings in the Store for many, many years. Also, we are appreciative that Doris Gibson has returned to volunteer on Monday afternoons, and that Carol Busbee has graciously agreed to volunteer on Wednesday afternoons. Volunteers do make a difference!

Remember that active Museum Division volunteers receive a 15% discount on most items in the Mississippi History Store. The store is located in the William F. Winter Building at 200 North Street, Jackson. Secondary locations stocked with site-specific items are found at the Old Capitol Museum and the Eudora Welty House.

Hours:

Monday – Friday  
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



*New! Centennial Welty Poster. Come by the store to purchase your poster today. (Retail \$25.00, Volunteer price \$21.25 plus tax.)*

## *Make Reservations for Monday, July 20th, at 1 p.m.*



Diana O'Toole with the Mississippi Development Authority will conduct a frontline hospitality training/workshop (one hour in length) for our Museum Division volunteers and staff. This is very beneficial training for those who work with the public. Reservations are required for this workshop, and the deadline is Monday, July 13. Contact

Elizabeth at 601.576.6985 or email: [ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us) to make reservations.

Remember to mark your calendars for Monday, July 20, 2009 at 1 p.m. at the Old Capitol Museum. Ms. O'Toole's presentation is very informative and VERY entertaining!

## **Permanent Exhibits Coming to Eudora Welty House**

With 2009 marking the 100th anniversary of Eudora Welty's birth, the Eudora Welty House has been bustling with activity—from hosting and participating in centennial celebration events, to opening the house to the public an additional day during the week (Tuesdays), to preparing the Education and Visitors Center for the installation of much-awaited permanent exhibits. None of this would have been possible without the continued support and efforts of the Welty House's many dedicated volunteers. The Welty House volunteers have assisted staff with museum operations by conducting guided tours of the house and garden, maintaining the gardens under the direction of a historic garden consultant, and welcoming the many visitors who have come to celebrate the Welty Centennial.

“Not only is Eudora Welty famous as a great writer, but she also was well known for her graciousness and hospitality. Our volunteers embody that same spirit and I think that is something that makes our site special for visitors. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for what they do,” said Meemie Jackson, Eudora Welty House special projects coordinator.

The Eudora Welty House will be closed from June 22 through June 30 for the installation of the permanent exhibits in the new Education and Visitors Center. The exhibits were designed by Alchemy of Design of Portland, Oregon and fabricated by 1220 of Nashville, Tennessee. The Eudora Welty House staff and volunteers are excited to have these exhibits that will help to further interpret Welty's life and work.

With so much activity happening, the Eudora Welty House needs additional volunteer help. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Meemie at 601.354.5218.

*Rick Tate, 1220 production manager, left, and Keith Gay, 1220 builder, right, install one of the panels of the permanent exhibits at the Eudora Welty House Education and Visitors Center.*



# Museum Division Collections Section Prepares for New Museum

Many of you have asked questions concerning the Museum Division collections since hurricanes Katrina and Rita forced the closure of the Old Capitol Museum. Some of these questions include, “Where are all of the artifacts?” or “Where is the Mummy?” or “Where is the 500-year-old canoe?” Not to worry...the artifacts are in safe keeping and are being prepared for exhibit and the move to the new museum. director of collections Cindy Gardner, and assistant director of collections Nan Prince, are very happy to have the capable assistance of volunteers with collections experience to assist them in readying these rare items for the new Museum of Mississippi History.

In 2009, the Mississippi Legislature established a construction fund and authorized the issuance of \$2 million for deposit in the fund. The Foundation for Mississippi History, a nonprofit organization, has set as its goal raising

\$10 million to meet exhibit costs such as exhibit fabrication and installation. The \$50 million project is waiting on additional funding to break ground.

*Artist rendering of the new Museum of Mississippi History.*



## Volunteers Begin a New Era at the Old Capitol

Volunteers are gradually being interlaced into the Old Capitol Museum's daily operations. Several volunteers have already started serving

as hosts and many more will be called upon to help in this role. Five volunteers have been tapped to conduct research that will be used for future

programming. Additionally, we have had the good fortune of having the volunteers organize the many, many restoration photographs and hundreds of law books in the State Library. Old Capitol Museum education historian and volunteer coordinator Maura Carraway stated that she plans to engage volunteer guides for the Old Capitol in the fall and thanks everyone for their assistance and patience as they get on their feet. Maura said, “We appreciate all of the help that the many volunteers have contributed to our daily operations. We could not have managed through these first few months without their help.”



*Volunteer Jean Clarkson training at the Old Capitol's reception desk with hostess Ruth Cole.*

# Architectural Kids Camp Showcases Museums

The pilot program of the *Architectural Detectives Kids Camp* was held June 15 – 19 for children in grades 4, 5, and 6. Campers investigated the various types of architecture of our Museum Division sites — the Old Capitol Museum, the Governor’s Mansion, the Manship House Museum, and the Eudora Welty House – and historic downtown Jackson. Camp groups named the Greeks, the Gothics, and the Tudors learned about the architecture at each site and the history behind them. The activities planned by the education historians at each site included guided tours of the sites, a walking tour of downtown Jackson conducted by the Historic Preservation Division’s architectural historian Todd Sanders,

scavenger hunts, and hands-on crafts and activities.

“We had some great volunteers and we really couldn’t have made the camp half as fun for the kids without them. Though it was very hot and the kids were very excited, they did a great job and the kids had a great time. A big thank you goes out to all those who helped out!” Stacey Everett, director of education for the Museum Division.

*Volunteer Fred Miles supervises games at the Eudora Welty House during the Architectural Detectives Kids Camp in June.*



## Bring your Summer Guests to MDAH Sites

For your convenience, we have listed the opening hours of our sites. Remember to include a visit to our wonderful museums when you have visitors or are looking for a fun activity for your children or grandchildren.

### Old Capitol Museum

Tuesday – Saturday  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday  
1 – 5 p.m.

Group Tours are offered  
Monday – Friday.

To schedule a tour, call  
601.576.6920 (admission is free).

### Governor’s Mansion

Public Tours:

Tuesday – Friday  
9:30 a.m. / 10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. / 11 a.m.

To schedule a tour, call  
601.359.6421 (admission is free).  
May be closed for official state  
functions. Reservations are  
required for groups of ten or more.

### Manship House Museum

Public Tours:

Tuesday – Friday  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Saturday  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

To schedule a tour, please call  
601.961.4724 (admission is free).

### Eudora Welty House

Public Tours:

Tuesday – Friday  
9 a.m. / 11 a.m.  
1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

Reservations are required for  
tours.

To schedule a tour and for  
admission fees, call 601.353.7762  
or email  
[weltytours@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:weltytours@mdah.state.ms.us) .

Sometimes we receive requests for  
tour information concerning the  
Mississippi State Capitol. Its hours of  
operation are Monday – Friday from  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. To schedule a tour,  
please call 601.359.3114 (admission  
is free).

# MDAH Museum Division Volunteer Opportunities

**Volunteer Receptionist** at the Manship House Museum needed on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a continuous service assignment. For more information about this volunteer position, please call Michael Busbin at 601.961.4724.

**Volunteer Sales Clerk** for the Mississippi History Store needed on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a continuous service assignment. For more information about this volunteer position, please call Elizabeth Coleman at 601.576.6985.

**Volunteer Guides** needed at the Eudora Welty House. Guide shifts are four hours in length Tuesdays – Fridays. For more information about this volunteer position, please call Meemie Jackson at 354-5218.

**Visit us!**

***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.