

Newsletter devoted to Mississippi's true treasures — our volunteers

WINTER 2011

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

January:

1/7 Scholastic Writing Awards competition deadline. Sponsored by Eudora Welty Foundation and Eudora Welty House Museum. 601.353.7762 www.artandwriting.org. (EWH)

1/12 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. Mississippi's Rosenwald schools and "equalization period" schools. Lecture by Jennifer Baughn, MDAH chief architectural historian. (WWB)

1/19 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. Dueling, including the most celebrated duel of Clinton. Lecture by Walter G. Howell, historian. (WWB)

To our Volunteers:

The Historic Properties Division administers several sites across the state, including the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Historic Jefferson College, Winterville Mounds, and Windsor Ruins. The division is headquartered in Natchez at the Grand Village. Between 1682 and 1729 the Grand Village was the main ceremonial center of the Natchez, according to historical and archaeological evidence. Every year Grand Village is the site of the *Natchez Powwow*, where traditional Native American dancing, foods, and crafts are found in abundance. This powwow is significant because of its location at an actual mound site. Natchez Indians lived here and danced here and that long history makes this event all the more special.

Historic Jefferson College, opened its doors in Washington on January 7, 1811, as a preparatory school. It was the first institution of higher learning in Mississippi. Popular annual events held at the site today include the *Copper Magnolia Festival*, a Civil War re-enactment, vintage baseball games, and the *Children's Victorian Christmas*.

Winterville Mounds (Greenville) is the site of a prehistoric ceremonial center built by a Native American civilization that thrived from about A.D. 1000 to 1450. The mounds, part of the Winterville society's religious system, were the site of sacred structures and ceremonies. Throughout the year, programming related to the site's history is conducted for the public, including mock excavation digs and *Native American Days* — an event that brings multiple tribes together and showcases traditional customs.

Volunteer engagement has made much of this wonderful programming possible. We are indeed grateful for our partnership with you. Please check out the MDAH *Calendar of Events* and visit our Historic Properties!

Sincerely,

Jim Barnett
Historic Properties Division director



Come in out of the winter winds.
Volunteer with warm folks at MDAH!
For more volunteer opportunities visit
<http://mdah.state.ms.us/volunteer/index.php>

continued

1/26 History is Lunch

noon-1 p.m. Mississippi in the movies. Lecture by Ward Emling, Mississippi Film Commission manager. (WWB)

1/29 Eleventh Moon Storytelling 2-4 p.m.

Tales of Native Americans and nature. Ages 9–adult. Free. (HJC)

1/31 Old Capitol Museum Docent School Session I. 9 a.m.-noon.

Learn to give guided tours of Mississippi's most historic building. Reservations required. (OCM)

February:

2/7 Old Capitol Museum Docent School Session II. 9 a.m.-noon.

Learn how to give guided tours of Mississippi's most historic building. Reservations required. (OCM)

2/9 History is Lunch

noon-1 p.m. *Memories of a Freedom Rider*. Lecture by Fred C. Clark, Sr., Freedom Rider. (WWB)

2/23 History is Lunch

noon-1 p.m. *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir and Mississippians*. Lecture by Neil White, author. (WWB)

March:

3/2 History is Lunch

noon-1 p.m. Responses of southern governors to civilians during the Civil War. Lecture by William Parrish, historian. (WWB)

Old Capitol Celebrates Sesquicentennial

Since 2011 is the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, the Old Capitol Museum has selected that event as its general theme to guide this year's programming. Not all programming will revolve around that topic, but since the Old Capitol played such an important role in the Civil War, the museum has planned several important programs to commemorate the occasion.

The Old Capitol kicked the year off by hosting *Secession Revisited* on January 7 with discussions about Mississippi becoming the second state to secede from the Union. Other upcoming programming includes *Rebellion and Relics: The Civil War in Mississippi* on March 12, a special school program explaining the Old Capitol's role in the conflict to

visiting school groups, and a program for children, tentatively entitled *Civil War Muster*. The museum will also feature a rotating exhibit to showcase Civil War-related artifacts from the Museum of Mississippi History's collection. Please check our calendar of events on our Web site at www.oldcapitolmuseum.com for the latest information.

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Borum and the Natchez Powwow

The *Natchez Powwow*—patterned after powwows in Oklahoma—has become a tradition in Southwest Mississippi, linking our modern society with the rich legacy of the Natchez Indians. Co-sponsored by MDAH and Natchez general practitioner Dr. Charles (Chuck) Borum, the event was founded in 1989 after Borum's previous participation in Oklahoma powwows. In 1990, the event moved to the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, a National Historic Landmark administered by MDAH.

The *Natchez Powwow* would not be possible without the volunteer efforts of Borum and his family, and the Grand Village is an appropriate location for this ceremonial and social dancing. The Grand Village served as a ceremonial center for the Natchez Indians from A.D. 1200 until 1729.

In 2010 more than 3,400 people attended this unique event to celebrate the American Indian heritage of the Natchez area. Over the years, *Natchez Powwow* participants have represented many American Indian tribes, including Natchez, Ponca, Comanche, Creek, Cherokee, Shawnee-Quapaw, Delaware, Oto, Osage, Mississippi Choc-

taw, Coushatta, Cheyenne, Potawatomi, Navajo, and Sac Fox. The event features gourd dancing, intertribal dancing, and craft and food booths.

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Borum (left) receiving a key to the City of Natchez from former mayor Phillip West. Borum also received a framed commendation in 2010 from Governor Haley Barbour commemorating the twentieth annual Natchez Powwow.



continued

3/9 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. MDAH Museum Division staff show and talk about their favorite MDAH museum artifacts. (WWB)

3/11 American Daffodil Society Tour of Eudora Welty House. Registration required. (EWH)

3/16 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. *The Civil War in Mississippi: Major Campaigns and Battles.* Lecture by Michael Ballard, professor and coordinator of the Congressional Collection for Mississippi State University Libraries. (WWB)

3/23 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. Restored buildings of the lumber camp at Bonhomie and adaptive reuse of historic buildings in Jackson. Lecture by Dick Molpus, former secretary of state. (WWB)

3/26-27 Natchez Powwow 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Native American dancing, music, food, crafts, and jewelry. Members from tribes from all over will be present. \$5 Adults; \$3 children 12 and under (GV)

For more information visit mdah.state.ms.us

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

Archaeology in the North Delta: Volunteers Welcome at Excavation Site

MDAH archaeologist John Connaway has been supervising two excavations recently in the north Delta area. At the Beaverdam Mound, a trench was excavated in an attempt to cross-section a large circle that appeared on remote sensing imagery, as well as a house corner and pit.

More work is required since no features were encountered in the excavation. Some of the volunteers who worked on this project include Jessica Howe, from the Arkansas Archeological Survey; Benny & Gena Roberts, amateurs from Byram; and Brandy Dacus, graduate student at the University of Memphis.

The Carson Mounds excavation is an ongoing year-long project and volunteers are always welcome. Volunteers have helped to expose stockade posts, to facilitate the cross-sectioning of Pit 178, and to expose and record House 14. Excavation of pits, houses, and three



Volunteers Jessica Howe, Benny & Gena Roberts, and Brandy Dacus work on the Beaverdam Mound site.

stockades continues almost every week, weather permitting.

To schedule visits, excavation times, or to vol-

unteer, please contact John Connaway at connaway@gmi.net.

Jessica Howe exposing stockade posts at the Carson Mounds site.



Benny and Gena Roberts cross-sectioning Pit 178 at the Carson Mounds site.



Winterville Mounds Park and Museum

Native American Days

Native American Days at the Winterville Mounds Park and Museum was held November 3-6, 2010. To help make this event run as smoothly as possible, volunteers served as greeters, demonstrators, and coordinators for the children's activities.



Boy Scout Troop 44 did face painting and distributed handouts to the children (back row L to R) Barbara Harps, Jerel Walker, and Joseph Walker; (front row L to R) Keion Harps and Joseph Davis.



Greenville Garden Club in the children's activities tent, (L to R) Hebe Splane, Sissy Schuster, Pattye Wilson, Bland Currie, Beverly Bell, Carolyn Weathers, and Becky Wineman.



Pat Fleming, a greeter and museum volunteer.

Christmas Open House

Winterville Mounds hosted its fifth annual *Christmas Open House* on December 5, 2010. A holiday tradition, this event invites the community to a day of refreshments, singing, music, and holiday cheer.

Special Guests and Volunteer Participants



Greenville Christian Community Choir (first row L to R) Autumn Watts, Summer Watts, Kaitlyn Long, Trissten Dobbins, Chloe McGrew, and Skylar Gentry; (second row L to R) Susanne McLendon, Edneisha Cooper, Allie Powers, Ray J. Coleman, Austin Colburn, and Zoey Grammar; (back row L to R) Lolita Gladney, Ebony Jefferson, Deanna Powers, Jorja Long, Jared Collins, Sandra Britton, Joan Scott, and Donna Manor.



The Myrtle Grove and Macedonia M. B. Church choirs of Winterville have performed at this event every year since it started. (L to R) Alice Booker, Nancy Jackson, Vera Boston, Mary Curtis, Shantell Curtis, Barbara Rogers, and Mary Clay.

Governor's Mansion Docents Celebrate with a Holiday Luncheon

*Governor's Mansion
Docent Luncheon
December 6, 2010,
hosted by First Lady
Marsha Barbour*



Docent Freda Spell and Wingfield High School students gather on the Mansion portico after their tour.



Docents recognized for working fourteen times or more this year were (L to R): Bernie Lieb, Billie Henry, Clytice Gardner, Janet McLaurin, Freda Spell, Ruth Byars, Pauline Akers, Janis Roberts, and Jean Clarkson. Not pictured is Judy Lacy .



Retiring docents recognized for their service were Jane Baird (24 years), Doris Brickell (10 years), and Shirlee Lawson (8 years). Shown are Lawson and Baird.



Docent Mackie Jernigan tells Pearl High School students about the State Dining Room decorated for Christmas.

Archives and Records Services Division

“This is my life!” says Volunteer Jean Hudspeth

MDAH volunteer Jean Hudspeth is the longest-serving Archives and Records Services volunteer (eight years of service). As a token of appreciation, Hudspeth was presented with two tickets

to the B.B. King Museum by MDAH staff who surprised her while she was volunteering one day. Asked about her volunteer work, Hudspeth smiled and said, “This (MDAH) is my life!”



Image and Sound section head Elaine Owens, Volunteer Services administrator Elizabeth Coleman, MDAH volunteer Jean Hudspeth, and Archives and Records Services Division director Julia Marks Young.

Jackson State University Work Study and MDAH

As part of its growing partnership with the community, MDAH has engaged Jackson State University (JSU) work study students. JSU junior Jhasmine Andrews works with the Tougaloo Civil Rights Collection. Recently, she has been working on the files pertaining to Rims Barber, who was a significant member of the



Jackson State University student Jhasmine Andrews works with the Tougaloo Civil Rights Collection as an archival processing aide.

Delta Ministry. When asked what she most enjoyed about her work with MDAH, Andrews said, “I enjoy the information that I get to read—old newspapers and newsletters—especially, good articles on feminists.” Andrews is a history major and is preparing for the Law School Admission Test, working toward her goal of becoming an attorney.

Natchez PowWow

March 26-27, 2011

For information,
call the
Grand Village of
the Natchez
Indians
at
601-446-6502

Volunteer Scott Brewer Builds Databases for MDAH



Volunteer Scott Brewer has been serving as a Government Records volunteer for MDAH Government Records director, Bob Dent. Brewer is building databases and helping revamp state government records retention schedules.

Brewer retired recently from the Marine Corps and moved his wife and three children from South Caro-

lina to Brandon to be near family. As a Marine, Brewer worked as a data analyst, specifically dealing with F-18 aircraft. Originally from New Orleans, Brewer has had tours of duty in Saudi Arabia and Turkey but has found happiness in Mississippi and enjoys his work with MDAH staff members.

Government Records volunteer Scott Brewer about his move to Mississippi: “Everybody with the state has made such a good impression on me. They have been very kind and helpful. I am hoping to work for the state of Mississippi one day.”

Forensic Scientist Helps to Piece Together History at MDAH

Volunteer Clydell Morgan is accessioning a collection of artifacts that MDAH received from Chucalissa in Memphis. These artifacts were excavated from sites in northeastern Mississippi. Morgan values her service to MDAH as much as MDAH values her service. "To volunteer time and life's experiences aimed at historic documentation is a rewarding experience. At the same time, the rewards of self-actualization, MDAH

welcomed appreciation, and the proffered process of working with Mississippi artifacts have sustained me in that old age need to be needed. I also applaud the administration of MDAH who has shown their vision by allowing volunteers to be a part of such important Mississippi history. Thank you!" said Morgan. Morgan is a retired forensic scientist with a Ph.D. in psychology and education.



Dr. Clydell Morgan is putting the pieces of Mississippi's history together in the MDAH Archaeology Laboratory.

The Purple Hat at Welty

The Eudora Welty House held a holiday celebration on December 13, 2010, in honor of the museum's

volunteers. In addition to homemade hors d'oeuvres and desserts, the volunteers were treated to a preview of *The Purple Hat*, an independent short film based upon Welty's short story by the same name. Afterwards, Dr. Carolyn Brown, an adjunct professor of English at Millsaps College, led a lively discussion of the film and short story.

Dr. Carolyn Brown, adjunct professor of English, Millsaps College

Betty C. Simmons, Dot Weathersby, Dr. Carolyn Brown, Carolyn Jones, and Carol Busbee.



Celebration of Christmas Trees and Statehood Day at Historic Jefferson College

Since 1981, school groups and organizations have decorated trees, enjoyed Christmas stories, and learned about the first meeting of the General Assembly at Historic Jefferson College on December 10, 1817.

This year HJC hosted 674 visitors for this very special program. Volunteers Shelia &

Ricky Byers (Brookhaven) assisted staff member Kay McNeil with the event by serving donated refresh-

ments, receiving visitors, and assisting groups who decorated trees.

On Statehood Day, Friday, December 10, visiting groups wished Mississippi a *Happy Birthday!* McNeil

also read the MDAH holiday publication *A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge* to visiting children.



The staff at HJC invites all MDAH volunteers, their families, and friends to come visit!

Manship House Museum Staff Prepare Collection

Manship House Museum staff have been tagging furniture, cleaning artifacts, and preparing this one-of-a-kind collection for storage. The museum, which will be closed in 2011 for foundation repair, will reopen to the public with one of the most extensive collections of original furnishings of this time period. Mississippi is fortunate to have such a treasure and MDAH is excited about the role its volunteers will play in its interpretation and operation when it opens its doors once again to the public.



Education coordinator Michael Busbin assists with packing up the small items of the collection.



Collections manager Tyler Nowell places a description tag on a pier table.



Tyler Nowell vacuums textiles before placing them in boxes for the move.



The grained window cornices in the museum must be carefully removed before work on the foundation of the house can begin.

Old Capitol Museum Docent School

The Old Capitol Museum will begin offering guided tours in 2011 for an hour each week. A docent school is scheduled to train volunteers to lead those tours.

Monday, January 31, and Monday, February 7, 2011

9 a.m. to noon

30 seats available

For reservations and more information, contact
Maura Johnson 601-576-6923 or Elizabeth Coleman 601-576-6985
or email mjohnson@mdah.state.ms.us



Volunteer Lucky Osborne and His Doodle Factory

The model town of Possum Ridge magically appears every December at the William F. Winter Building. Based on a typical Mississippi town of the 1940s, Possum Ridge bustles with activity. Model trains such as the Illinois Central Railroad and the Panama Limited zip around and through this town much as they would have in real life. The attention to historical accuracy of the town can be partly attributed to MDAH volunteer Lucky Osborne.

A history enthusiast and artist, Osborne has melded the two interests to create many of the buildings and life-like residents of Possum Ridge. Osborne spends many hours each year preparing the little town so that visitors young and old can see a slice of Mississippi during the railroad era.

Top: *Longtime volunteer Lucky Osborne (twenty-five years of service) at work in his workshop named the Doodle Factory. Osborne prepares the Possum Ridge exhibit every year so that visitors can peer into Mississippi life of the 1940s.*

Middle: *Lucky Osborne reads A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge to an audience of children at the Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight tour on December 3, 2010.*

Bottom: *Students enjoy the Possum Ridge train town as part of the Winter Holidays exhibit and tour.*



Research at the Archives

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History offers unparalleled resources for researching Mississippi history and people.

Knowledgeable and friendly staff can help you with searching the vast holdings of the archives including:

- Government Records
- Photographs
- Film Collections
- Manuscripts
- Newspapers and Books
- Maps
- Genealogical Materials
- Digital Archives
- Telephone and email research requests

William F. Winter Building
200 North Street
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HOURS

Monday: 9 a.m.— 5 p.m.
Tuesday—Friday: 8 a.m. — 5p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m.— 1 p.m.



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.