

## Welty Centennial Celebration Culminates in April

### Gov. Barbour To Cut Birthday Cake at Party April 13

The Eudora Welty Centennial Celebration is in full swing. On March 24, the Eudora Welty House was inducted into the Southern Literary Trail, which features legendary writers and playwrights and their homes in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.

A seminar on historic plants and gardens was held March 27 at Belhaven College, with a plant sale at the Eudora Welty House featuring some of Welty's favorite varieties of flowers and shrubs. On March 29, a portrait of Eudora Welty was presented for the Mississippi Hall of Fame in ceremonies at the Old Capitol.

The Centennial Celebration

culminates the week of April 13. The public is invited to enjoy birthday cake, cut by Governor Haley Barbour, at 10 a.m. on April 13 at the Welty House and free tours (reservations still required).

Jackson's New Stage Theatre production of "The Ponder Heart" opens April 14 and runs through April 26. On April 16, the Mississippi Museum of Art will host an opening reception for an exhibit of Welty's photographs taken during the 1930s in Mississippi and New York City.

Also beginning April 16 is the Southern Literary Festival and Eudora Welty Society Centennial Conference, featuring public readings by Richard Ford, Elizabeth Spencer, Ann Patchett, and Alfred Uhry at Millsaps College. On April 17, "Singing the Centen-



William Gantt (above), Alabama Project Director for the Southern Literary Trail, spoke at an induction ceremony at the garden of the Eudora Welty House on March 24, as did author and longtime Welty friend Patti Carr Black (at left).

nial: A Welty Tribute Concert" will feature Mary Chapin Carpenter, Kate Campbell, Caroline Herring, and Claire Holley at the Belhaven Center for the Arts.

The birthday week concludes on April 18 at Thalia Mara Hall with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Bravo V Concert

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## Historical Society Awards Prizes, Elects New Officers

The Mississippi Historical Society held its annual meeting in Jackson, March 5 through 7, to honor its 2009 award winners and offer presentations focused on the meeting's theme, "Historic Preservation in Mississippi."

Christopher Myers Asch was awarded the McLemore Prize for best Mississippi history book of 2008 for his work *The Senator and the Sharecropper: The Freedom Struggles of James O. Eastland and Fannie Lou Hamer*.

Ruth Baker of Tupelo Middle School received the society's

John K. Betterworth Award, presented annually to an outstanding history teacher. Baker has been a classroom teacher for more than thirty years. A National Board Certified teacher, she earned her undergraduate and master's degrees in education from the University of Mississippi.

Mona K. Vance, archivist at Columbus-Lowndes Public

Library, won the Glover Moore Prize for best master's thesis in Mississippi history. Vance presented her thesis "Fighting the Wave of Change: Cultural Transformation and Coeducation at Mississippi University for Women" for her Master of Arts degree at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

University of North Carolina



Outgoing MHS president Gail Tomlinson passes the gavel to new president Wes Busbee.

at Greensboro history professor Charles Bolton was awarded the Willie D. Halsell Prize for the best article published in the *Journal of Mississippi History*. Bolton's article, "William F. Winter and the Politics of Racial Moderation in Mississippi," appears in the Winter 2008 issue.

The Brandon Historical and Genealogical Society won the Frank E. Everett Award for its outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history.

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# 2009 Mississippi Historic Preservation Conference

The fourteenth annual Mississippi Historic Preservation Conference will be held Friday, April 24, in Jackson. The conference will celebrate a decade of saving Mississippi's 10 Most Endangered historic places.

The meeting will be in the Old Capitol Museum, pictured at right. Damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the National Historic Landmark has undergone a massive and meticulous restoration and is now reopened to the public as a museum of Mississippi government in action and historic preservation.

In 1999 the Mississippi Heritage Trust developed the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places program as a way to raise awareness about the most threatened historic sites in the state. Now, ten years later many of those sites have been saved and most are being restored—but some have been lost.

To acknowledge those places, the statewide preservation conference this year will focus on ten case studies to help other preservationists learn from places named to the endangered list. Presenters will discuss their efforts to save places on the 10 Most list and the challenges



they have faced, how they met those challenges, and the status of the projects. Sites discussed will include the state's historic school buildings, Old Bridgeport Road in Hinds County, Biloxi's White House Hotel, the Cedars in Jackson, the Tippah County Jail, Jackson's Belhaven and Belhaven Heights neighborhoods, Oxford's L.Q.C. Lamar House, and the Farish Street Historic District and King Edward

Hotel in Jackson.

Conference registration and program sessions will be held in the Old Capitol. Participants may register between 8:15 and 9 a.m. The Mississippi Heritage Trust luncheon, annual meeting, and an update on MHT's Flannegan-Lowry House will be at the Old Capitol Inn, located at 226 North State Street.

Cost is \$60 to attend the conference and Mississippi Heritage

Trust luncheon, or \$25 to attend the luncheon and MHT annual meeting only.

The conference is sponsored by the Mississippi Heritage Trust, the Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Development Authority—Division of Tourism, and Nell Dickerson, AIA.

To learn more, email [info@mississippiheritage.com](mailto:info@mississippiheritage.com) or call 601-354-0200.

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Stephen Cresswell, West Virginia Wesleyan College history professor, won the Mississippi History Now award for his article "Nuclear Blasts in Mississippi."

Awards of Merit were presented to Percival T. Beacroft and Brian Gary and Wendi Berman for their production of the scholarly documentary film *Jefferson Davis: An American President*; Bryant R. Boswell for his work with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and his splendid living history presentations in the role of Meriwether Lewis; and Thomas D. Cockrell for his exemplary work in the creation of an archives for Blue Mountain College and the school's National Alumnae Association.

Awards of Merit were also presented to the writers and editors of the *Delta Camelot Times* for their outstanding work in covering

local history, genealogy, and the activities of Greenville High School graduates of their era; Allan Hammons for his leadership in regional and community cultural enrichment; Bill McPherson for his effective chairmanship of the Mississippi Blues Commission and invaluable contributions to the establishment of the B.B. King Museum in Indianola; and the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University for its remarkable work in acquiring the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Collection.

Awards of Merit were presented to the Department of Archives and History's Museum Division for planning and directing the Old Capitol Restoration; project architect Robert Parker Adams for his work in planning and overseeing the restoration; and Formations, Inc. for its work in the design,

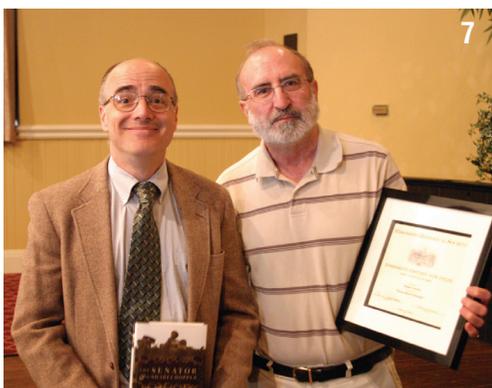
fabrication, and installation of new exhibits in the restored Old Capitol Museum.

Newly elected officers for the Mississippi Historical Society are Westley F. Busbee, Jr., Belhaven College, president; Princella Nowell, Greenville, vice president; and Elbert R. Hilliard, Madison, secretary-treasurer.

New members of the society's board of directors for 2009–2012 are Mary Kathryn Barbier, Mississippi State University; Nancy Guice, Laurel; Aubrey Lucas, Hattiesburg; Mary Libby Payne, Pearl; David Preziosi, Jackson; and Ann Simmons, Columbia. Terrence Winschel, Vicksburg, was elected to complete an unexpired term.

John Langston, Jackson, and Charles Sallis, Jackson, were re-elected to the Board of Publications for 2009–2012.

# Pictures from MHS Annual Meeting March 5–7



1. Marty Friend (left) presented Ruth Baker with the Betterworth Award. 2. Al Hollingsworth (right) presented Chuck Bolton the Willie D. Halsell Award. 3. Stephen Cresswell (left) presented the Glover Moore Prize to Mona K. Vance. 4. Tim Cupit (left) accepted the Frank E. Everett Award from Al Hollingsworth. 5. Governor Haley Barbour and first lady Marsha Barbour (pictured with MHS Secretary-Treasurer Elbert R. Hilliard) welcomed Society members at a reception at the Governor's Mansion. 6. Mississippi Supreme Court chief justice William L. Waller, Jr. (pictured with MDAH director H.T. Holmes) welcomed Society members at the start of the first session. 7. Holmes (right) presented Stephen Cresswell with the Mississippi History Now award.



## WELTY, from p. 1

“Adoring Eudora,” featuring performances of James Sclater’s *Images from Welty* and Crafton Beck’s adaptation of *The Whistle* at Thalia Mara Hall.

For more details on any of these Centennial Celebration events, visit [www.eudoraweltyhouse.com](http://www.eudoraweltyhouse.com) or [www.eudorawelty.org](http://www.eudorawelty.org) or call 601-353-7762.

## Grant Writing Workshop April 22 on Coast

The Society of Mississippi Archivists (SMA), in conjunction with the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, is offering a basic grant-writing workshop on Wednesday, April 22.

“Introduction to Grant Basics” will be held at the Gulf Coast Library of the University of Southern Mississippi’s Long

Beach campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The SMA is offering this program as a preconference workshop to its biennial meeting, scheduled for April 23–24. Participants can attend the workshop only, the SMA meeting, or both.

Registration fee for the workshop only is \$20. Those attending the biennial meeting can attend the workshop for only \$10. A box lunch will be pro-

vided for everyone attending the workshop.

Registration for the workshop is open online now at <http://www.msarchivists.org/conference/registration.html>, or a registration form may be downloaded from the site and mailed.

For more information contact Jennifer Brannock at Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu, or by telephone at 601-266-4347.

# April MDAH Events Across the State

## JACKSON

### History Is Lunch Series

Noon–1 p.m., William F. Winter Archives and History Building  
200 North Street  
601-576-6998

**Wednesday, April 8**—Mississippi Museum of Natural Science director Libby Hartfield will present “Francis Cook: Conservation Pioneer.”

**Wednesday, April 15**—A celebration of the centennial of Eudora Welty’s birth featuring the film “A Confluence of Memories.”

**Wednesday, April 22**—MDAH Published Materials Librarian Jane Phillips presents “Mastering the MDAH Catalog.”

**Wednesday, April 29**—Director Connie Gibbons talks about the new B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola.

**Manship House Museum**  
420 E. Fortification Street  
601-961-4724

**Saturday, April 18**, 1 p.m. *A Saturday with Shakespeare*. The Mississippi College Tribal Players will perform scenes from Shakespearean works.

## GREENVILLE

### Winterville Mounds

Highway 1 North  
662-334-4684  
info@wintervillemounds.com

**Saturday, April 11**, 1 p.m. Second annual *Easter Egg Hunt*. For children up to 12 years old. Free, rain or shine.

## NATCHEZ

### Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.  
601-446-6502

**Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26**, *Basic Flintknapping Seminar*. Learn how to knap arrowheads and spearheads with Wilkie Collins, a craftsman with thirty years of experience. Registration \$45; all materials supplied.

## WASHINGTON

### Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North  
601-442-2901

**Through May 15**. *Tell Me a Story: Photographing the American South*, an exhibit from the Mississippi Museum of Art featuring works by Mississippi artists Eudora Welty, Birney Imes, and Maude

Schuyler Clay, among others.

**Saturday, April 11**. *EXPLORE! The Ancient Elephant Family*. Long before there were elephants, there were mastodons and mammoths, even here in Mississippi! Learn about the largest animals ever hunted by prehistoric humans with only stone tools. For ages 6-8 (10–11:30 a.m.) and 9-12 (2–3:30 p.m.). \$10 fee; prepayment required.

**Tuesday, April 14**, noon. *Lunchtime Lecture Series: Mississippi’s American Indians*. Grand Village of the Natchez Indians director Jim Barnett discusses the people who originally lived in the region. Free, bring a lunch.

**Thursday, February 26**, noon. *Lunchtime Lecture Series: James Wilkinson, A Curious Man*. HJC historian Clark Burkett will give a lecture on the life of the man from whom Wilkinson County takes its name. Free, bring a lunch.

**Saturday, April 25**, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. *NatureFest*. Join birders, hikers, and other nature lovers for activities along HJC’s nature trail.

## Manship House Seeks Historical Images for Study

The Manship House Museum has commissioned a cultural landscape report to learn more about how the Manship family used the land around their longtime home.

The museum has hired Suzanne Turner, of Suzanne Turner Associates and professor emeritus of the School of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University, to produce the report. Now the search is on for additional historical documents.

“We would like to provide the researchers with more documentation than we currently have,” said Marilynn Jones, director of the Manship House Museum, “particularly anything from the nineteenth century.”

Anyone with photographs, letters, newspaper clippings, or diary entries that include the Manship House up to the 1930s are asked to call 601-961-4724 or email info@manshiphouse.com. The Manship House will make digital copies and return the originals unaltered.