

# Mississippi History

# MDAH

# NEWSLETTER

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Department of Archives and History  
H. T. Holmes, director  
Chrissy Wilson, editor  
<http://www.mdah.state.ms.us>  
Mailing address: MHN, P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

## Connaway's *Fishweirs* Book To Be Published

*Fishweirs—A World Perspective with Emphasis on the Fishweirs of Mississippi*, by MDAH archaeologist John M. Connaway, is being published as Report #33 in the Department's ongoing *Archaeological Reports Series*.

A *fishweir* is a dam or fence-like structure usually built in a flowing stream to funnel fish into a trap, or built in a tidal flat to trap fish behind it as the tide goes out, or along a shoreline to trap fish in a maze-like structure. Geographically widespread and formerly economically important, fishweirs have become a subject of study for researchers throughout the world.

Available for purchase in late September, the *Fishweirs* volume is a result of more than thirty years of research on the subject by the author. It is the most comprehensive and detailed compilation of information about the subject now available and will serve as the foundation from which other works on the subject can be developed.

The 575-page volume provides an outline of the antiquity and use of fishweirs throughout the world; a more extensive overview of the use, distribution,

and regulation of fishweirs in North America; and a detailed review of the fishweirs of Mississippi, both prehistoric and historic. It contains 157 black and white figures and photographs and 32 tables. An extensive, annotated bibliography and a glossary of weir-related terms are among the four appendices.

John Connaway, one of the first archaeologists at MDAH, began work in 1968. Since then he has participated in many excavations and surveys, has written or co-authored five other reports in the *Archaeological Reports Series*, published numerous articles and reviews in archaeological journals, and has operated the MDAH Delta office at Clarksdale since 1968.

MDAH is offering an introductory price of thirty percent off for the purchase of *Fishweirs* through December 31, 2007. The volume, regularly priced at \$74.95, will be available at \$52.50 through that date. For more information or to order, call 601-576-6921.

*Fishweirs* will be promoted and distributed worldwide by McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company, which specializes in archaeological publications. It is described on their Web site at [mwpubco.com](http://mwpubco.com).



*The Bishop Fishweir in northern Alabama near the Natchez Trace Parkway. Jim Hargett, who discovered the weir, stands on the chute, now filled with gravel. The stream flows to the left (north).*

## Coming MDAH Events

### Jackson

**Manship House Museum**  
420 East Fortification St.  
601-961-4724

**September 2–29: Manships in Mourning.** Period rooms reflect how homes were prepared for the Victorian rituals of mourning. Free of charge, reservations required for groups of ten or more.

**September 23, 2–4 p.m. A Tale of Two Houses.** A program on the first owners of two of Jackson's oldest and most interesting houses—the 1857 Manship House and the 1846 Boyd House, also known as “The Oaks.” Master grainer Malcolm Robson will demonstrate Charles Henry Manship's decorative painting. James Anderson will portray James H. Boyd, four-time Jackson mayor. Singer Lester Senter Wilson will provide period music. Free.

**William F. Winter Archives and History Building**  
200 North Street

Lobby exhibits *Mississippi's Greatest Treasure: The Old Capitol* through October 20, and *Fishweirs in Mississippi* through September 30.

**History Is Lunch**  
**Brown Bag programs**  
**Wednesdays at noon**  
601-576-6857

**September 5: Seetha Srinivasan**, director of the University Press of Mississippi, will present “**Fault Lines: Living in Two Cultures.**”

**September 19: Historian John F. Marszalek**, Mississippi State University (emeritus), will discuss his first book, *Court Martial, A Black Man in America*, the movie made from it, and its republishing

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### OLD CAPITOL SHOP SUPER SALE

75% off on Mississippi books, pottery, crafts,  
CDs, toys, jewelry, souvenirs, and more.

Friday-Saturday, September 14 -15 601-576-6920

## Events, *continued*

under the movie title, *Assault at West Point*.

### Greenville

**Winterville Mounds**  
2415 Hwy 1 North  
662-334-4684

**September 15, 1–4 p.m.**  
Florida Muscogee artist Valerie Goetz will lead a dreamcatcher workshop. A \$35 registration fee is due by September 12.

### Natchez

**Grand Village of the Natchez Indians**  
400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.  
601-446-6502

**September 13, 6:30 p.m.:** Hiram “Pete” Gregory and Dayna Lee will present “**Song and Dance—The Old Ways Live: Southeastern Indian Music and Dance**” and sign their new book, *The Work of Tribal Hands: Southeastern Indian Split Cane Basketry*.

**September 22, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
**Bark in the Park.** Annual fundraiser for the Natchez Humane Society. Admission fee to attend dog show.

**October 2, 6:30 p.m.:** Lee Jones, Maya expert, will talk about recent discoveries in the Yucatan. Program presented as a part of Archaeology Month.

### Washington

**Historic Jefferson College Highway 61 601-442-2901**

**September 15, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.:**  
*Copper Magnolia Festival and Flea Market.* Annual fair features handmade crafts, food, and music. Free of charge.

## Mississippi History Now

This month *Mississippi History Now* features “Good Roads,” an article on the construction of U.S. Highway 90 along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the early 20th century. Written by Charles L. Sullivan, professor emeritus and archivist, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the article opens with Mississippi’s first automobile appearing in Biloxi in 1900.

Biloxi first set the speed limit for an automobile in the city limits at eight miles per hour.

The automobile’s arrival meant that government at all levels would have to deal with the construction of suitable roads for the new machine. Visit *Mississippi History Now* at <http://mshistory.k12.ms.us>.

More than 100 articles and lesson plans are archived on the site for students, teachers, and lovers of history.

## The Mississippi Blues Trail: August Marker Dedications

Three more Mississippi Blues Trail markers were unveiled and dedicated in August.

**Blue Front Cafe, Bentonia, August 21.** The Blue Front Cafe opened in 1948 under the ownership of Carey and Mary Holmes, an African American couple from Bentonia. In its heyday the Blue Front was famed for buffalo fish, blues, and moonshine whiskey. One of the Holmes’s sons, Jimmy, took over the cafe in 1970 and continued to operate it as an informal, down-home blues venue that gained international fame among blues enthusiasts.

**Guitar Legend “Magic Sam,” Grenada, August 28.** Samuel Maghett was one of the most dynamic and gifted performers in the blues during his short lifetime (1937-1969). Maghett began his career in Grenada and lived there until he moved to Chicago in the early 1950s. The youthful energy and spirit of Magic Sam, Buddy Guy, Otis Rush, and Freddie King modernized Chicago blues into an explosive, electrifying new style in the late 1950s and early ‘60s.

**Howlin’ Wolf, West Point, August 30.** Born Chester Burnett in West Point in 1910, Howlin’

Wolf started recording in Memphis. His 1950-51 Phillips recordings were purchased by Chess Records in Chicago. Wolf’s gravelly voice and falsetto howl became trademarks, and his career flourished.

For more information on the Mississippi Blues Trail, call Alex Thomas, 601-359-3424.

## Lafayette Symposium

As part of the Crosby Lecture Series, the symposium *The Marquis de Lafayette: From Washington’s Aide to Historical Icon* will be held at the University of Southern Mississippi and the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County September 25 and 26. The event celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de Lafayette.

Among other presentations, David A. Clary will discuss and sign his book *Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship That Saved the Revolution*, and Christine Messing, assistant curator at Mount Vernon, will present *A Son and His Adoptive Father: The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington*. For more information call 601-584-3166.