

Newsletter devoted to Mississippi's true treasures — our volunteers

SUMMER 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

July:

7/20-23 Naturalist Camp children's day camp. 9 a.m.-noon. Reservations required. \$20 fee. (HJC)

7/21 Snakes of Mississippi 11 a.m. Bryan Fedrick, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science biologist. (HJC)

7/21 History is Lunch noon-1p.m. *Chai Cotton: Jewish Life in Mississippi.* Stuart Rockoff, historian. (WWB)

7/23 MDAH Board of Trustees Meeting 10 a.m. (WWB)

Future computer workshops will include
Not Your Granny's Card Catalog: the Online Catalog at MDAH.

To our Volunteers:

Grassroots efforts by community volunteers have been responsible for some of the most effective preservation activities in Mississippi. It is often local citizens who are at the forefront in the fight to protect and preserve historic resources in their communities. These resources may include dilapidated homes, declining commercial districts, or perhaps an Indian mound or Civil War site. Whatever the resource, the common ingredient with any successful preservation effort is that it has local interest and the support of volunteers and community leaders.

The Historic Preservation division is proud to work with citizens interested in protecting their history, and there are many opportunities in which volunteers serve to protect the historic and cultural resources of our state. For more than a century, the Department of Archives and History has proudly worked with the people of Mississippi to save our historic landmarks, many of them now listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Thirty-nine of these sites are designated as National Historic Landmarks, the highest recognition of significance by the National Park Service. I would call that a successful partnership.

Thank you for your ongoing support of historic preservation in our great state!

Jim Woodrick
acting director, Historic Preservation Division

Computer Classes for Beginners: Email Tutorial

You don't need to own a computer to take this class!

Learn how to

- Set up an email account
- Use email
- Access and navigate the MDAH Web site
- Attach and open a document

Join us for a new series of workshops for MDAH volunteers only.

Monday, August 9, 2010

Session 1: 10 –11:30 a.m. (1 seat left) Session 2: 1 – 2:30 p.m. (12 seats left)

Reserve your spot by Wednesday, August 4, 2010.

FREE ■ Space is limited.

Contact: Elizabeth Coleman 601-576-6985 or ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us

Meet Archives and Records Services Volunteer Nan Harvey

continued

8/4 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front*. Timothy B. Smith, historian. (OCM)

8/25 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *History of Mississippi's Birds and Flyways*. David Ringer, Mississippi Audubon Society, biologist. (WWB)

9/1 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *Another Hot Summer: Slocum's Expedition 1864 to Jackson*. Jim Woodrick, MDAH historian. (WWB)

9/8 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *Fannie Lou Hamer: Her Religious Foundation*. Leslie McLemore, Hamer Institute director. (WWB)

9/11 Copper Magnolia Fine Arts and Crafts Festival and Flea Market. Free. (HJC)

9/15 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *William Faulkner: His Life, His Work*. Noel Polk, Mississippi State University. (WWB)

9/18 Bark in the Park
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Annual Fundraiser for the Natchez Humane Society. \$4 adults; \$1 children 5 and under. (GV)

9/22 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. Art program. Glennray Tutor, artist. (WWB)

On Mondays Nan Harvey can be found staffing the media room of the Archives library. Retired from the Department of Microbiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Harvey has found satisfaction in helping library patrons with their research needs.

Her volunteer service includes providing assistance to visitors who wish to view microfilm, video footage, and microfiche. Additionally, Harvey indexes death certificates when she is not helping patrons.

Archives Library staff

say that when Harvey comes to do research on her

own time, they find that she still helps people.



Reference Services volunteer Nan Harvey assists library patron Charlie Carlisle with microfilm of old newspapers. Carlisle, from Bentonia, is a Yazoo County High School teacher of forty-two years.

Manship Closes for Repairs: Plans for Large Volunteer Program!

The Manship House Museum (circa 1857) has closed for approximately eighteen months to undergo a nearly half-million dollar repair of the building's foundation. Because the building is thirteen inches out of level, there are huge cracks in the plaster walls and gaps at doors and windows throughout the house. An MDAH-commissioned report conducted by Wayne Timmer and WFT Architects, P.A. concluded that Yazoo clay and a large Magnolia tree contributed to the foundation trouble and instability.

"This is a huge project that will be a major step

in the preservation of the building," said Marilynn



Damages to the grained wallpaper of the Manship House Museum dining room due to foundation issues.

Jones, Manship House Museum director. "This is also an excellent opportunity for us to evaluate our collection and improve interpretation for when we reopen."

"Once the Manship House re-opens, we will continue our great programming for adults and children," said Michael Busbin, MHM education coordinator. "We will have a great need for volunteers to assist in many areas and – most exciting – we will implement a docent program. We look forward to a grand future at the Manship House Museum!"

Note: Please email or call Elizabeth Coleman (email: 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.

Old Capitol Museum Happenings

Hosts Popular Family Events – Guided Tours in the Works!

From fire engine unveilings to political speeches, the Old Capitol's history is full of occasions where it served

continued

9/29 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *The de Grummond Collection at USM.* Ellen Ruffin, University of Southern Mississippi, curator. (WWB)
9/30-10/1 Pioneer Days
More than 20 demonstrators present pioneer life to school groups. (HJC)

For more information visit

mdah.state.ms.us

as a community gathering place for important events. History has a way of repeating itself as nearly five hundred guests enjoyed the first *Gathering on the Green* in April. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped make the day so successful.

The Old Capitol continued its host role when it participated in *Red, White, and Jackson* on Thursday, July 1. Sponsored by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, this event featured exciting outdoor entertainment, a spectacular fireworks show, and patriotic children's activities.

Finally, although visitors tour the building on their own, the staff has

Jim Hill High School choir performs at the Old Capitol's *Gathering on the Green*.

begun developing a special guided tour to be offered once or twice a week. A docent school is in the works for those interested in being a part of this new feature.

Other upcoming programs include the second annual *Present Meets Past* event featuring several of the building's former important personalities. You never know who you might encounter at the Old Capitol. Please call Maura Johnson at 601-576-6923 for more details.



Volunteer Betty Henry helps with children's activities at *Gathering on the Green*.



MHT Wraps Up *Good Neighbor* House Painting Project



Mississippi Heritage Trust board member Lolly Barnes administered successful Gulf Coast volunteer project. To find out more about the Trust's work or to join the organization, please visit www.mississippi-heritage.com.

Working with volunteers from around the country, the Mississippi Heritage Trust has helped paint nine historic houses on the Gulf Coast damaged in Hurricane Katrina through its *Good Neighbor* house painting project. The project was administered by Gulf Coast resident and MHT board member Lolly Barnes. According to executive director David Preziosi, "Lolly was invaluable in making

this project a success with her coordination of volunteers, procuring needed supplies and paint, making such a difference for homeowners." The *Good Neighbor* project utilized funds from the Trust for supplies, and paint was donated by Valspar and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Volunteers contributed 3,754 hours of hard work scraping and painting the houses.

This project is just one example of the Trust's hard work to save historic treasures after Katrina. The Trust also assisted with damage assessment, volunteers, and advocacy to help historic property owners. Through its *Pilot Stabilization Program*, several historic buildings were stabilized, including the Walter Anderson Cottage in Ocean Springs and the Rectitude Masonic Lodge in Gulfport.

For more MDAH volunteer opportunities visit
<http://mdah.state.ms.us/volunteer/index.php>

Welty House Volunteer Helps Display Student Creativity



Many Eudora Welty House (EWH) volunteers are retirees who bring valuable years of experience from other fields with them when they donate their time.

Docent Laura Magee is no exception, having served hundreds of hours at the Museum since 2006. Previously, she worked in art education for decades, retiring in 2000 as the director of arts education with Pittsburg Public Schools.

This spring, Magee put her background to good use when she generously funded and assisted in the hanging of an exhibit of artwork by Power APAC students in the Education and Visitors Center. Classes of fourth through eighth grade students were asked to explore 'sense of place' by reading and illustrating short stories by Welty and creating artwork of the Welty House and garden. EWH director

of education Meemie Jackson notes, "We are so happy to be able to exhibit this work because it not only shows how talented these students are, but also it is a tangible example of the ways that the Welty House can be creatively incorporated into a curriculum." The first portion of the exhibit went on display in April and the second half of the artwork will remain hanging until August.

The Mississippi Historical Society Wants You...

to help preserve our state's history. The Society sponsors the Internet publication *Mississippi History Now*, and with the Department of Archives and History, publishes the *Journal of Mississippi History*. Its annual meeting features distinguished speakers, tours of historic sites and buildings, and special events. Annual dues are \$25, and membership benefits include subscriptions to the quar-

terly *Journal of Mississippi History* and the *Mississippi History Newsletter* and other timely information on historical activities throughout the state.

Elbert R. Hilliard, MDAH director emeritus, is a full-time volunteer. He serves as secretary-treasurer of the MHS, editor-in-chief emeritus of the *Journal of Mississippi History*, and volunteer editor for the Public Information Office.

For Society membership information, contact Hilliard at hilliard@mdah.state.ms.us or 601-576-6850.

"Every responsible citizen of our state should be a member of the Mississippi Historical Society. The best citizens and leaders are those who have a good knowledge of history. One's knowledge of Mississippi history can be enhanced significantly by reading the *Journal of Mississippi History* and attending the Society's annual meetings," said volunteer Elbert Hilliard.



Volunteer Dr. Marion Miles helps campers Mary Reid Dixon of Ridgeland and David Park of Brandon with the Mississippi Internet Scavenger Hunt at the William F. Winter Archives and History building computer classroom.

Kids Have Fun and Learn!

Participants of the Museum Division's *Mississippi Faces and Places* Kids Camp spent a week visiting the MDAH's Jackson historic sites and learning about citizens, events, and places important to the Mississippi story. During the two sessions of camp they visited the Old Capitol

Museum, the Governor's Mansion, the Eudora Welty House, the Manship House Museum, and the William F. Winter Building.

These rising fourth, fifth, and sixth graders participated in interactive activities and produced crafts from their camp fun.

Governor's Mansion Docents

Visitors of all ages enjoy a tour of the Governor's Mansion



Docent Andi McDaniel and Ruleville Middle School 7th graders in the Back Rose Parlor.



Docent Sarah Flanagan and Madison Crossing 3rd graders in the State Dining Room.



Docent Lynn Stuart and Brandon Elementary 4th graders in the Gold Bedroom.



Docent Bernie Lieb and visitors from Germany and Greenville in the Foyer.



Docent Judy Lacy and visitors from the Philippines, Missouri, and Jackson and Ridgeland in the Front Rose Parlor.



Docent Pauline Akers and MDAH Kids Camp participants in the Pumpkin Bedroom.

Archaeology Volunteer's Work "Priceless"

Volunteer Jaclyn Lewis is cataloging the archaeology library housed in the Historic Preservation Division research room of the Charlotte Capers building. Lewis works closely on this project with staff member Ashley Fedoroff. Fedoroff stated that the library consists of archaeological refer-

ence books and materials for research, archaeological journals from multiple states, theses and dissertations from scholars, and books covering a wide array of subjects such as underwater archaeology, archaeological law and methodology, and Native American culture. Archaeologist Patty

Miller-Beech, who oversees the archaeology volunteer program, said, "Jaclyn's volunteer service has been priceless. She is cataloging the entire archaeology library."

Volunteer Jaclyn Lewis will attend the University of Southern Mississippi in the fall to pursue a graduate degree in Library Information Sciences.



Work Experience Via Volunteering

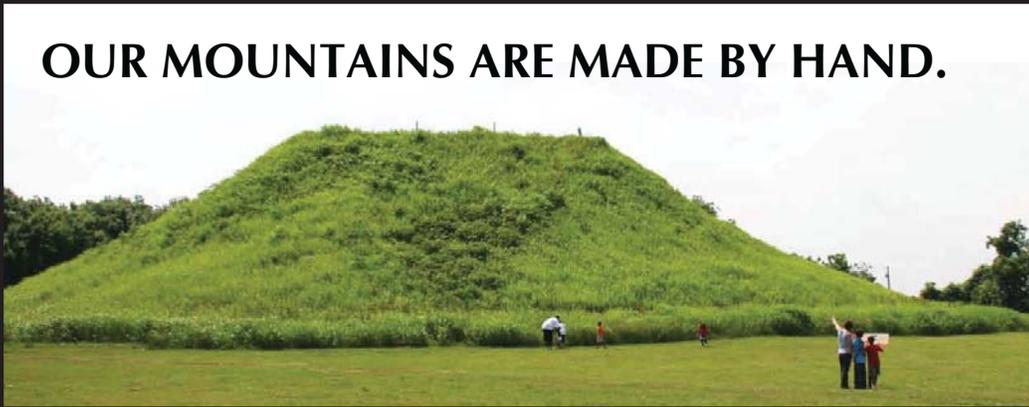
Michaela Caventer of Youngstown, Ohio, is spending her summer volunteering in the Archaeology and Historic Sites section, too. Caventer has processed archival photographs from the U.S. Forestry collection from the Civilian Conservation Corps and is currently accessioning stone artifacts (lithics). When Caventer was asked what motivated

her to become a volunteer, she said, "Volunteering is a good way to start your career." Caventer will attend the College of Wooster (Ohio) in the fall working toward a degree in English.

"Volunteering is a good way to start your career," stated volunteer Michaela Caventer. Caventer (seated) works on an important lithics collection with MDAH archaeologist Patty Miller-Beech (standing).



Winterville Mounds Volunteers Pose for new Billboard



OUR MOUNTAINS ARE MADE BY HAND.

WINTERVILLE MOUNDS
11 mounds, museum, and a picnic area
Six miles north of Greenville on Hwy 1
FREE • OPEN EVERYDAY
THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Morris, and their six children—frequent visitors to Winterville as well as dependable volunteers for WM programs—are shown viewing Mound A in the new Winterville Mounds Park and Museum billboard (located on Highway 82, east of Greenville), made possible through an advertising grant awarded by the Mississippi Development Authority.

Natchez MDAH Sites Host Cookout for Volunteers

Volunteers serving Historic Jefferson College and the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians were treated to a cookout hosted by MDAH recently. These volunteers assist staff throughout the year with special events such as the annual *Discovery Week*, *Student Days*, and *Eleventh Moon Storytelling* at Grand Village and *Pioneer Days* and *Wirt Adams' Raid into Natchez Civil War Reenactment* at Historic Jefferson College, as well as many other programs and events.

Historic Properties division director Jim Barnett talked about the importance of their volunteers: "We depend very much on our volunteers' help with these important programs. With our budget restrictions, volunteers are even more critical to our mission in the Historic Properties Division."

Grand Village and Historic Jefferson College volunteers enjoy an appreciation cookout hosted by the MDAH staff.



Take a Fun Trip to Natchez, Mississippi

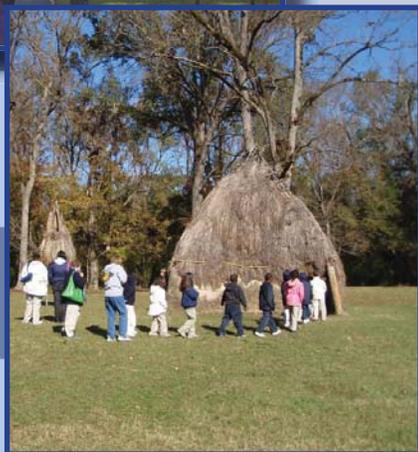
If you want to take your loved ones on a fun trip, hop in the car and drive to Natchez to visit the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Historic Jefferson College (located in Washington, north of Natchez). Admission is free at both sites, and you will learn much!

Historic Jefferson College

Four miles northeast of Natchez on Highway 61
P.O. Box 700
Washington, MS 39190
601-442-2901
Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 1:30-5 p.m.
Grounds are open daily from sunup to sundown.

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard
Natchez, MS 39210
601-446-6502
Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 1:30-5 p.m.
Grounds are open daily from sunup to sundown.



Tippy and Louis Lyell host a Foundation for Mississippi History Reception for the new Museum of Mississippi History



Louis Lyell, Tippy Lyell, Hank Holmes, Louise Lampton, and Dr. Luke Lampton.

A Foundation for Mississippi History reception was recently held in the Jackson home of Tippy and Louis Lyell. The event, co-hosted by the Lyells and the foundation's board president Dr. Luke Lampton and his wife, Louise, was held in order to present information about the proposed Museum of Mississippi History to Jackson-area supporters of the Foundation and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

When completed, the new museum—alongside the restored Old Capitol Museum, the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, the GM&O Depot, the Charlotte Capers Building, and the War Memorial—will form the heart of a state history center that will serve as a gateway to heritage tourism and attract visitors from across the nation and world.

If you would like to contribute to the construction of the new Museum of Mississippi History, please contact the Foundation at 601-576-6855.



Mary Sydney Green, Tippy Lyell, and Betty Lake.



Dr. Pat Barrett and Dr. Luke Lampton.



Left: Louis Lyell, Jay Wiener, Bill Hanna, Therese Hanna, Dr. Luke Lampton, Hunter Cole, and Tippy Lyell.

Right: Elbert Hilliard, Dr. Raymond Martin, Hunter Cole, Judge Swan Yerger, Dr. Luke Lampton, and Dr. Robert McArthur



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.