



**Land Trust News**  
**Leaving a Legacy for Our Future**  
**Volume 14, Issue 2 - June 2017**

***The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain protects over 9,100 acres within the six coastal counties and has helped develop a regional network of recreational trails and blueways.***

## **STUDENTS FIND THEIR WAY**

### **Land Trust teaches the Next Generation of Conservationists**

Youth at Harrison Central High School have completed 6 out of a total of 20 classes in the Next Generation of Conservationists program, leaving them well on their way to conservation-minded futures!

One recent class exposed students to principles of map-making. Using handheld Global Positioning System ("GPS") devices in the field, students plotted coordinates for later use in creating property maps with Geographical Information System ("GIS") software. The Next Generation of Conservationists program is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("NFWF"). For more information, visit [NFWF's website](#). Additionally, Mississippi Power provided this [write-up](#) of the project, which has included field work adjacent to its power lines.



## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

### **Boy Scouts encourage bluebirds to nest**

A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to Quentin Boccaleri and Boy Scout Troop 245!

Quentin built 22 bluebird houses as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project. Quentin and his fellow scouts installed 12 bluebird houses on one of our conservation sites along the Pascagoula River, with the remainder to be installed at other Land Trust properties in the near future. We hope that many twittering, fluttering, blue-reddish-brown-and-white families will soon make an appearance!



## SHED SHAPES UP

### Land Trust completes restoration of tractor and grist-mill shed at Shaw Homestead

This project is made possible in part by a grant from Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area. MGCNHA receives support from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service, for the purpose of preserving and interpreting the area's natural, cultural, historical, scenic, and recreational resources. For more information, visit [MGCNHA's website](#). You can also learn more about the Shaw Homestead from our website: <http://ltmcp.org/shaw-homestead/>.



Special thanks to our design/build partner Allison Anderson of unabridged Architecture who contributed this photo of the finished project.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Climb CDC combats invasive species at Weeks Bayou

The battle against invasive exotic species is seemingly never-ending!

Non-native species such as privet and cogon grass threaten many Land Trust properties, by out-competing native species and upsetting the natural balance of Gulf Coast ecosystems. These invasives homogenize the plant landscape. The resulting loss of plant species diversity has negative impacts further up the food chain, on herbivores and omnivores who may no longer have access to the native foods that are part of their normal diets.



We appreciate the work of our volunteers willing to brave the heat and humidity to protect the integrity of our sites!

## CRITTERS ABOUND AT TWELVE OAKS

### Herpetology survey reveals species diversity

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources conducted a two-year herpetology survey at the Twelve Oaks property that recently ended. The results show good species diversity for such a small site, including the presence of the salt marsh snake, which is a state species of concern. The total tally of critters you might encounter on a nature walk included 9 species of toads/frogs, 10 species of snakes, the American alligator, 5 other types of lizards, the Mississippi slimy salamander, and 2 types of turtles, for a grand total of 28 species!

Photo of this skink courtesy of Jennifer Frey with MDMR.



## THIRD ANNUAL ENCHANTED FOREST EVENING

Don't forget to save the date!

July 25, 2017 from 6-9 p.m.  
Beau Rivage Resort and Casino

Event honoring the Swetman Family  
Generational Preservationists.

Tickets are \$100 and include a plated dinner, two drink tickets, and access to live and silent auctions featuring the work of many local artists, including Tommy Moran, Bruce Seabolt, Shearwater Pottery, and Bob Brooks, to name a few. A cash bar will also be available. Proceeds will benefit the conservation work of the Land Trust. Dress is Coast business attire. Call for tickets or sponsorship opportunities: (228) 435-9191.



To view additional works of art that will be available at auction, click on the painting above by Bobby Walters, entitled "Headed Home."

Special thanks to those who have already helped sponsor the event--

Memorial Tree Sponsor: Hancock Bank.

Attendee Gift Sponsor: Bank Plus.

Longleaf Pine Sponsors: Balch and Bingham; Gulf of Mexico Alliance; Kent & Jenny Nicaud; The People's Bank; Tradition Properties.

Live Oak Sponsors: Comvest Properties, LLC; Department of Marine Resources; Department of Environmental Quality; Holden Earth Moving & Construction; Andi & Butch Oustalet.

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Red Creek cleanup and float trip

October 7, 2017, as part of Renew Our Rivers

Don't miss the chance to give back to the community while enjoying a day on the [Red Creek Blueway](#).

Tentative plans are for canoeists and kayakers to clean the six-mile stretch of river between the Kansas City Southern Railway trestle (near Highway 49) and City Bridge. Volunteers will be divided into two groups. Each group will have the opportunity to clean for three miles and float for three miles.

Other partners include Mississippi Power, The Friends of Red Creek, Stone County Board of Supervisors, Stone County Economic Development Partnership, DeSoto Ranger District, Mississippi Men Standing Tall, The Friends of Deer Island, D'Iberville Volunteers Foundation, Gulf Coast Office Supply, Uncle Ralph's Cabin Rentals, Keesler Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation, and Northwood Church.



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