

embrace your
CULTURAL STORY

YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW



welcome

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Summer is here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and I think everyone is ready! Some fun activities to do this summer may include beach sunsets, dinner cruises, fishing and crabbing along the piers and, of course, fresh shrimp boils with friends and family. As the coast gets back to normal, there is so much to do and see. I hope you get out and take part in our great festivals, summer concerts and don't forget to visit one of our fresh farmers markets. Summer on the Coast is all about life on the water, I know my boys seize every opportunity to drop a hook in the water or kayak down one of our Blueways. I hope you get a chance to experience life on the water, eat some fresh seafood or just relax while enjoying the AC in one of our many museums. So, mold some clay, take a cooking class, learn to sail or pick fresh vegetables. This summer the Coast is your oyster!

If you are out this summer and see our table at an event, come by and say hi. Also, if you have a great historic, innovative, natural or flavorful story to share send it to us at heritage@dmr.ms.gov and it may appear as a future Embrace article.

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MGCNHA Director

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DOWNLOAD THE MGCNHA APP!

Discover the cultural, historical and natural treasures of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area. From museums and historic sites, to year-round festivals and miles of sandy beaches, we have it all.



Cover photo: The old Pascagoula Central Fire Station was built in 1924 in the Mission Revival Style, evocative of historic Catholic Mission buildings in the Southwest.

our MISSION

ENHANCE, CONSERVE AND PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY

to cultural resources of a unique and defined area through identification, interpretation and promotion.

CREATE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

and serve as a source of pride. Providing increased awareness and appreciation of their environment, history, culture, traditions and lifestyles.

PROMOTE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

of heritage resources that benefit the entire region and support the long-term enhancement and conservation of those qualities that make the six counties of the MS Coast NHA unique.

TELLING THE AREA'S NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT STORY

to residents and visitors through activities and partnerships that celebrate the area's unique history, people, traditions and landscapes.

Your MS Coast NHA is a partnership of communities, businesses, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals who value the region's rich cultural and environmental diversity, history, natural beauty and traditions.



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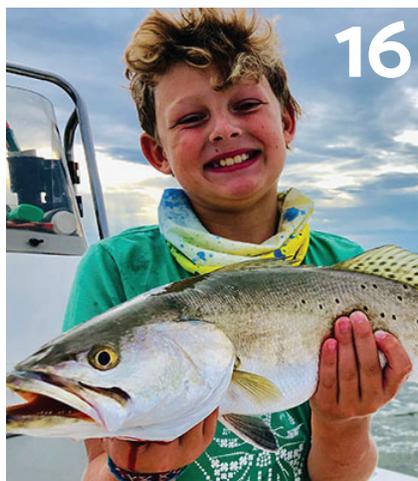
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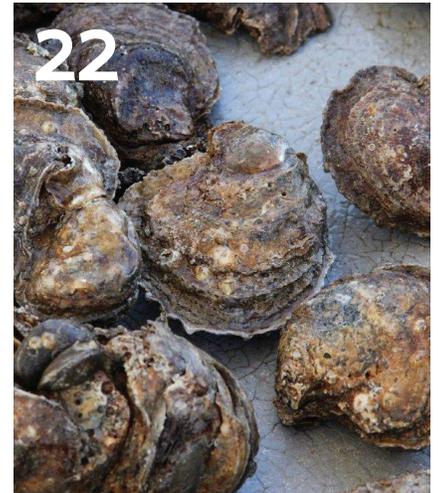


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S U M M E R

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM COMING TO

WAVELAND'S

GROUND ZERO

HURRICANE MUSEUM

BY: ANDREW BARRETT



With partial funding through a Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area grant, the Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum will host an exhibition and lecture series this summer that should be on everyone's to-do list before it closes in the middle of August this year. The museum has been expressly chosen by the Mississippi Humanities Council to host the traveling exhibition *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*. The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation and local host institutions. The exhibition will tour six (6) communities in Mississippi, and Waveland is the only host site on the Coast.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America offers small towns a chance to look at their own paths to highlight the changes that affected their fortunes over the past century. The exhibition will prompt discussions about what happened when America's rural population became a minority of the country's population and the ripple effects that occurred.

Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America's small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development. Economic innovation and a focus on the cultural facets that make small towns unique, comfortable and desirable have helped many communities create their own renaissance. The future is bright for much of rural America as small towns embrace the notion that their citizens and their cultural uniqueness are important assets.

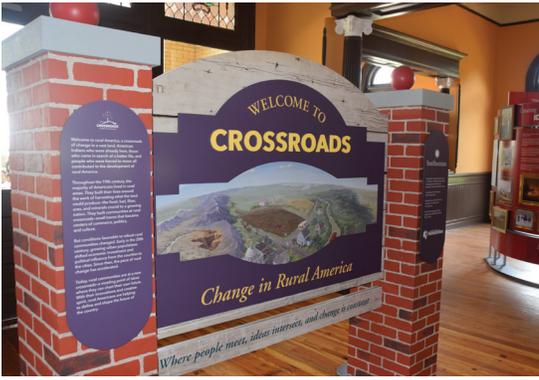


In addition to the Smithsonian exhibit that will focus on themes such as rural identity, land use, sense of community, persistence and the ability to manage change, the Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum will have temporary exhibits depicting areas in Hancock County, Miss., complementing the Crossroads national installation. This will be in addition to their permanent exhibits featured at the museum. A series of lectures will also take place at various venues throughout Hancock County. The lecture series will feature speakers with an abundance of knowledge on the development of different regions within the county, and each lecture will augment the local exhibits of Hancock County on display at the museum.

Whether you are a coastal resident, history buff or just passing through town, this is an opportunity you will not want to miss that promises plenty of intrigue while exploring our collective story as our communities have evolved over the last 100 years. The exhibition will open on July 3 at the Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum and will close on August 14. The lecture series will take place at various venues throughout the county during July and August.

A complete calendar of events and a description of the lecture series can be found at wavelandgroundzero.com or at facebook.com/WavelandGZM.

For questions about the museum exhibition or lecture series, contact the Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum's Bernadette Cullen at tcbbcullen@yahoo.com.



The Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum will host a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, this summer at their acclaimed Hancock County Museum. In addition to the Smithsonian Exhibition and the museum’s permanent displays, a lecture series and six regional displays will highlight the history of Hancock County to complement the Smithsonian installation.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America

July 3-August 14, 2021 • Tuesday-Saturday, 10a.m.-3p.m.
 Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum,
 335 Coleman Ave., Waveland, MS 39576.



Photo Credit: Hancock Historical Society

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE

July 14, 6 p.m.
 “Port and Harbor: An Asset to Hancock County”
 presentation, William Cotter

July 28, 6 p.m.
 “African American History and Influence in
 Hancock County” presentation, Art Clementin

July 21, 6 p.m.
 “Creative Economy of Hancock County”
 presentation, Steve Barney

August 4, 6 p.m.
 “Logtown to Infinity” presentation, Allison
 Anderson and Brehm Bell

July 24, 6 p.m.
 “Agricultural Changes of Hancock County”
 presentation, Dr. Christian Stephenson

August 11, 6 p.m.
 “Exploring Rural Mississippi Through Population
 Studies” presentation, Dr. John Green

TWO NEW NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REFLECT VARIETY OF GULF COAST HISTORY

BY: JEFF ROSENBERG

This spring the MS Coast NHA completed two National Register of Historic Places nominations. One for the Scranton Historic District in downtown Pascagoula and the other for the William and Mary McGee House in Pearlington. The nominations will be considered by the Mississippi National Register Review Board on July 15. With approval from the review board, the nominations will be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service where they will be entered on to the register.



L&N Train Station, Pascagoula,
Built 1904, Expanded 1918



Delmas Ave., Pascagoula,
Postcard circa 1904



Jackson County Courthouse,
Pascagoula, Built 1949

THE SCRANTON HISTORIC DISTRICT is the downtown core of Pascagoula, Miss., approximately 47.5 acres, that consists of commercial, governmental, religious, residential and light industrial sites that reflect urban planning patterns of the late 19th century. Initially laid out in the 1870's, the district has experienced change and development typical for Mississippi downtown commercial districts since then; however, it retains this original layout. The railroad named the town Scranton, which was separate from the village of Pascagoula located on the shore of the Mississippi Sound. These two communities would completely merge under the name Pascagoula by 1910. The district's oldest buildings date back to the 1880s where most properties were constructed between 1930 to 1979 and still reflect the history, architecture or culture of the community.

The district was nominated based on three areas of significance:

- Settlement as a railroad town laid out in the 1870s.
- Politics and Government for the wide variety of governing organizations that utilized existing space or built purpose constructed buildings within the district.
- Architecture which reflects the variety of architectural style and form examples of downtown properties built between c.1880s and c.1972.

Two events specifically contributed to the appearance of the Scranton Historic District. The first being the layout in 1870 of the rail line running east/west through the district. From this plan, the current street grid grew, and the establishment of a train station brought commerce and a new location for the Jackson County courthouse. Of course, with a city you need a city hall. So, in 1924, the old Pascagoula city hall that graces the cover of this issue was built on Delmas Avenue. The second was a post-World War II building boom that would peak in the district during the 1950s. Much of the construction resulted in beautiful modern architecture, some examples of which are at the intersection of Magnolia Street and Watts Avenue. These are the Our Lady of Victories School (1947), Jackson County City Hall (1949), the Pascagoula Municipal Building (1956) and the former Pascagoula-Moss Point Bank (1958-1960). In the past several years there has been renewed interest in downtown Pascagoula, and the creation of a historic district can provide financial incentives to aid in the restoration of the area's historic treasures. This project was sponsored by Main Street Pascagoula.

THE WILLIAM & MARY MCGEE HOUSE IN PEARLINGTON is an excellent preserved example of a side hall shotgun house that was built in 1904 for William, a lumber schooner captain, and Mary, a schoolteacher.

The house was nominated based on three areas of significance:

- African American Ethnic Heritage as representative of an African American owned property at a time when such opportunities were limited for African Americans.
- Persons significant in our past for associations with individuals who contributed to their community: Mary, as a schoolteacher, and William, as the leader of the Sailors Benevolent Society.
- Architecture which reflects a unique example of a type of shotgun house, the side hall shotgun, not commonly found on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



William and Mary McGee House, Pearlington

William McGee (c.1872-1930) and Mary E. Slocomb (1874-1966) were married in Hancock County on July 19, 1898. William was born in Pearlington as one of seven children to John and Mariah McGee. Mary was born to George and Martha Slocomb. Being one

of her parents' six children that lived to adulthood, she was reared on Apothecary Street (now State Street) in Bay St. Louis, Miss., and attended St. Rose de Lima Catholic School. After their marriage, William worked as a captain of the lumber schooner, *Alice McGuigin*, which delivered lumber to New Orleans from sawmills on the Pearl River. Mary taught elementary school in Logtown and Pearlington and would also teach domestic arts in her home. The couple raised eight children in the six-room house. The youngest of which, Clothilde, owned the home until 2002 when it was sold to the current owner. While shotgun houses can be found across Mississippi, the side hall shotgun is not commonly found on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In this variant of the form, the front door leads to a small entrance hall. Behind this small hallway is usually a porch, that runs the length of the shotgun and serves as an "outdoor" hallway. Shotgun houses with a side porch can be found in Mississippi, but the inclusion of an enclosed entrance hall is typically used in urban areas, such as New Orleans, to afford the occupants additional privacy.



While these nominations are for historic places on opposite ends of the coast, they share a lot in common. Specifically, our connection to the water and how this connection drove and continues to drive habitation in the Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN MISSISSIPPI, VISIT MDAH.MS.GOV/HISTORIC-PRESERVATION/BUILDINGS/NATIONAL-REGISTER.



WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of our country's historic buildings, districts, sites, structures and objects worthy of preservation. It was established as part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the program at large is overseen by the National Park Service. A National Register listing is honorific and alone does not restrict any uses or changes to a property; however, there are both state and federal tax incentives for listed properties. For a property to be considered eligible, it must generally be 50 years old and retain the integrity of 1) location, 2) design, 3) setting, 4) materials, 5) workmanship, 6) feeling and 7) association. For more information on the National Register, visit nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/what-is-the-national-register.htm.



Charnley-Norwood House and Guest Cottage as photographed for the 1987 National Register of Historic Places nomination.

Summer at the **CHARNLEY-NORWOOD HOUSE**

BY:JEFF ROSENBERG

The year 2022 will mark the 35th anniversary of the creation of the Sullivan-Charnley National Register historic district in Ocean Springs. One of Ocean Springs’ smallest historic districts, when created it contained only three buildings: the Louis Sullivan House, the Charnley-Norwood House and the Charnley-Norwood Guest Cottage. (For more information on the National Register of Historic Places see page 7 of this issue.)

You may not recognize the name of architect Louis Sullivan, but your life has likely been shaped by his works. While internationally known, few know he drew his inspiration from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Sullivan owned his retreat on the Bay of Biloxi for 20 years. He has been considered the creator of modern skyscraper design and called the “father of modern architecture.” Influential as an architect, artist, author and critic, he was also a mentor and first boss to Frank Lloyd Wright. Sullivan is best known for popularizing the design term “form follows function” and his distinctive style of architectural ornament.

In 1890, Sullivan made a visit to the Mississippi Gulf Coast city of Ocean Springs with his friends, James and Helen Charnley. The trio was so entranced by the quiet densely wooded little town that they purchased adjacent properties on East Beach Drive where Sullivan set about designing two vacation homes. His Ocean Springs home is where Sullivan claimed to do the “finest, purest thinking.” While Sullivan’s home was destroyed in 2005, the Charnley-Norwood House he designed next door survived. Both homes were influential to residential design during the 20th century and contributed to the popularity of the Ranch house as the century’s dominant house style.

If you are interested in touring the Charnley-Norwood House, drop us a line at heritage@dmr.ms.gov to schedule a tour. Learn more about the National Register of Historic Places on the following page of this issue.



Louis Sullivan House, 1890-2005



Charnley-Norwood House



SUMMER TIME *and* CHERRY PIE

- BY:JEFF ROSENBERG -



In our last issue, we featured an article that described how the arrival of the railroad to the Mississippi Gulf Coast changed commerce here forever by opening up new markets for seafood, lumber, naval stores and truck farming (“150 Years Ago The Railroad Transformed The Coast” *Embrace your cultural story*. Spring 2021, pages 6-7). In addition to carrying goods away to new markets, these trains returned with dry goods, produce and sundries that were previously unavailable on the coast. Fresh cherries were one such item that were a previously unknown luxury, as they do not grow well in the South Mississippi climate.

The lack of lard, oil or shortening in the pie crust makes this a unique recipe. Have you ever tried a similar recipe? You might notice that instructions of baking temperature and length of baking time is omitted. This recipe was printed in an era when homes had a variety of cooking ranges.



IN 1905, THE NEWSPAPER THE GULFPORT RECORD PUBLISHED THIS RECIPE FOR CHERRY PIE.

Mix two teaspoonfuls baking powder thoroughly through two cupfuls of flour, adding a teaspoonful of salt and make into a good crust. Roll about a quarter of an inch thick, butter a large bowl and line with the crust, allowing it to lap over the top. Fill this with stoned cherries and half a cupful of sugar. Gather the crust over the edges and put in the range to bake. Let it cook until you can pass a straw through the crust and bring it out dry. Serve with plain sauce or sauce with brandy flavoring.

“Some Cherry Recipes.” The Gulfport Record (Gulfport, MS), 5 August 1905. Page 7.



Wood, coal, gas and even a few electric powered ranges were in coast kitchens at the start of the 20th century. Gas and electric range ovens made it easier to maintain a set temperature. While a wood or coal range it is easier to cook on based on the foods’ appearance as the temperature can fluctuate based on when the fire is fueled. This is why the recipe gives the instruction that the cherry pie is done cooking when the crust is no longer sticky, rather than a time and temperature at which to cook the pie.

Cherries Jubilee

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | (16-ounce) can pitted dark sweet cherries | 2 | tablespoons cornstarch |
| 1/4 | cup sugar | 1/4 | cup brandy, kirsch or cherry brandy |
| | | | Vanilla ice cream |

Drain cherries, reserving syrup. In sauce pan, blend sugar and cornstarch. Gradually stir in reserved cherry syrup, mixing well. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture thickens and bubbles. Remove from heat; stir in cherries. This much can be done ahead of time. If necessary, reheat and turn into top pan of chafing dish. Fill bottom pan of chafing dish with hot water. Keep hot over flame. Heat brandy or kirsch in small metal pan with long handle. Carefully ignite heated brandy and pour over cherry mixture. Stir to blend brandy into sauce and serve immediately over ice cream.

Yield: 2 cups sauce

A dramatic end to a special meal! You flame this dessert right at the table as your guests watch. The contributor of this recipe says that she has been serving it for over 30 years. It is always a big hit and has become a family tradition.



Encore! Encore!

What is something you think of as something common place on the Coast today that originates from a different area? What goes better with pie than ice cream?

Try this recipe for Cherries Jubilee which comes from the cookbook *Encore! Encore!* by the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra Guild. The publication of the cookbook was funded in part by the Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area.

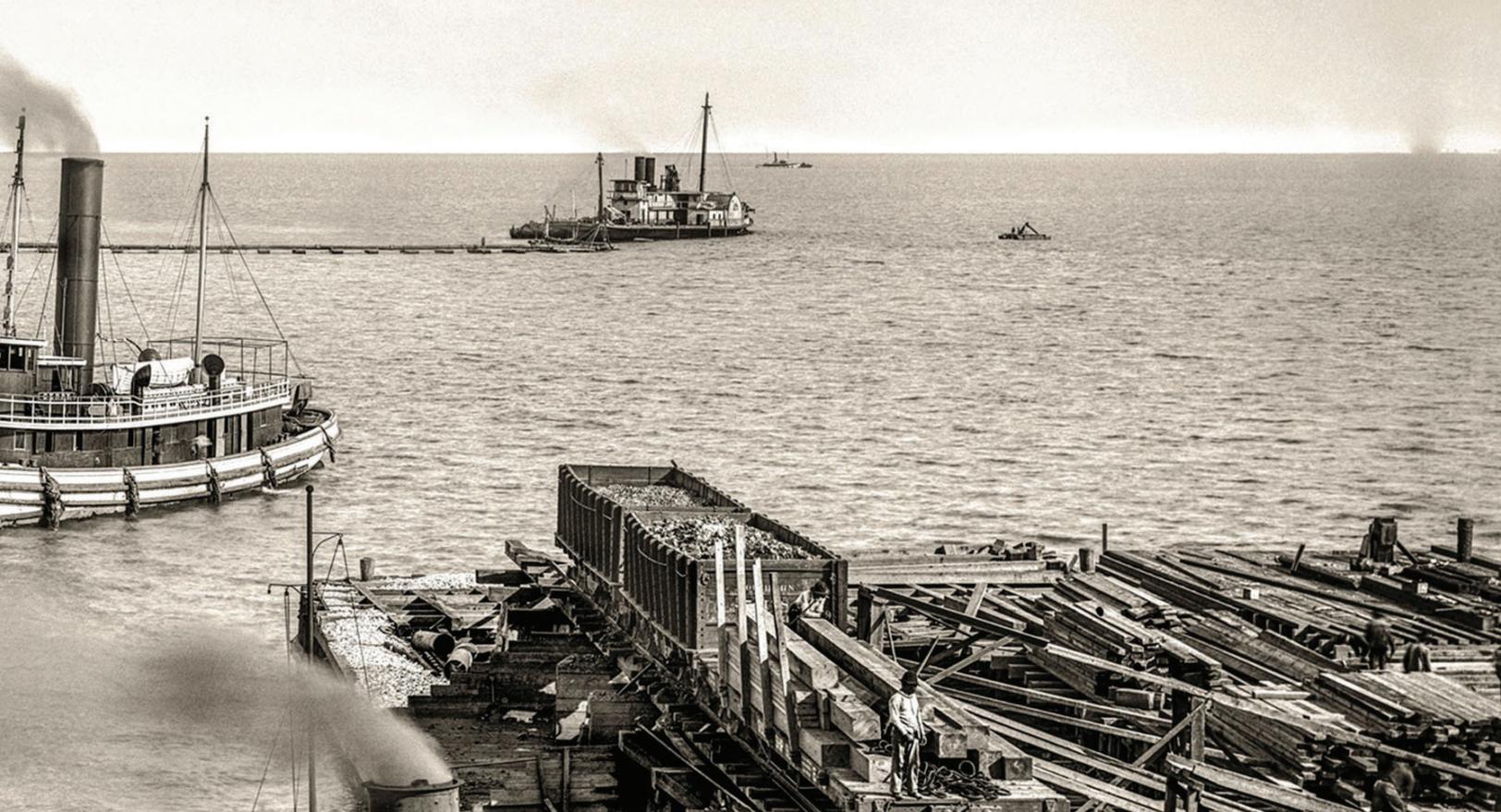




THE PORT OF GULFPORT AND ITS FIRST COMMERCIAL SHIP

By: Andrew Barrett





Driving down the beach on Highway 90 in Harrison County, one can easily pass right by the Port of Gulfport without giving it much thought. For us, this port has always been here. It doesn't seem unusual or even extraordinary that it is here. The port is a huge economic engine for the Gulf Coast; a vital asset in the ebb and flow of supply and demand that helps keep the wheels of commerce in motion. Why wouldn't it be here?

The Port covers well over 200 acres and is responsible for moving more than two million tons of cargo every year. It is the third largest container seaport on the Gulf of Mexico and is the country's second busiest importer of green fruit. The Port of Gulfport, with the accompanying Gulfport Municipal Harbor and surrounding area, is home to numerous entities such as the University of Southern Mississippi Marine Research Center, the U.S. Coast Guard, McDermott International, Dole Fruit Company, Jones Park, the Gulfport Yacht Club and a variety of commercial charter boat services as well as several private, recreational boat slips to name a few.

But it may surprise you to know that not all too long ago, this area was a neglected, inhospitable, mosquito-infested swamp choked with trees and underbrush that was repellent to settlement and seemed preordained to remain a wilderness. Although, even before the Civil War, it was recognized by the State of Mississippi that a deep-water port and a north-south railroad could enable vast economic growth by capitalizing on the huge natural resource of timber in the area, the expected area of

development was farther to the east of this marshy bog. The Mississippi state legislature even approved a charter for the Gulf and Ship Island Company in 1854 to build a railroad predicated on the construction of a deep channel port being established somewhere on the Gulf Coast. Plans for this development were soon hampered by the onset of the Civil War followed by reconstruction and a period of economic malaise in the 1870s. Designs for the Gulf and Ship Island Company would have to be mothballed.

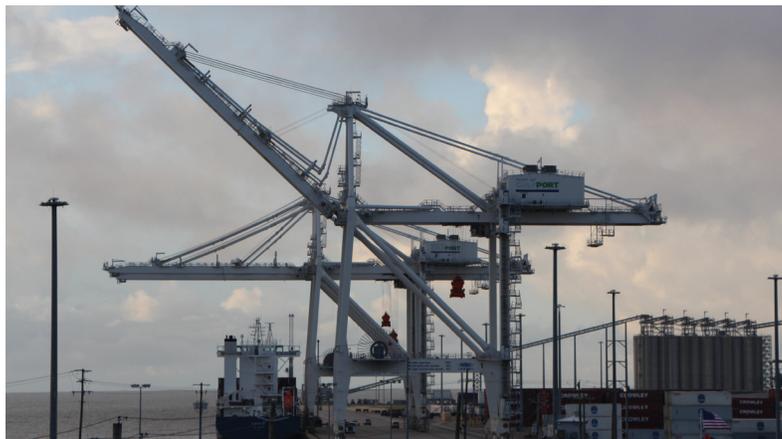


Steamer Loading Resin

By the 1880s, with the economic picture considerably brighter, the development of a port and railroad finally seemed like a viable prospect- in steps William Harris Hardy. Hardy one of the two founders of the City of Gulfport, was a lawyer and former Confederate officer who, after the war, had become involved in the chartering of the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad company. While surveying for a railroad line near present day Hattiesburg, Miss., Hardy realized the potential of an intersecting railroad from the north to the Gulf Coast and first proposed its construction in the early 1880s. Hardy later founded the town of Hattiesburg, naming it after his wife, Hattie.

In 1886, Hardy assumed the presidency of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad and, by 1887, had signed a contract to build the north-south railroad terminating at an accompanying seaport in the newly founded town of Gulfport. A port at this location could take advantage of the natural pass on the west side of Ship Island but would require significant dredging of a channel toward the mainland for larger, commercial vessel access. Construction on the railroad terminus began that same year, but after petitioning the federal government to invest in the dredging and development of the harbor, the request was denied. The federal government did not think the existing landing was worthy of improvements.

With the onset of yet another economic depression, construction on the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad had come to a halt in 1892, and by 1894, the company declared bankruptcy. Hardy's vision for the Gulf and Ship Island railroad and harbor, along with the new town of Gulfport, was in jeopardy of collapse. A new influx of capital was desperately needed if the project was ever going to come to



fruit.

In 1895, that influx arrived in the form of Joseph T. Jones, the other founding father of the city of Gulfport. Jones, a Union soldier from the Ninety-First Pennsylvania Regiment during the Civil War, made his fortune after the war in the oil fields of Pennsylvania. Since childhood, Jones had a persistent infatuation with railroads and, after realizing the potential of the coastal Mississippi project, soon rescued the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad from bankruptcy. On the Gulf Coast, he became affectionately known by the moniker "Captain Jones." Jones, too, appealed to the federal government for funding to dredge a channel for the harbor, but again, the government considered the massive costs of such a project ill-advised and a poor use of federal resources. Undaunted by the federal government's rejection, Jones arrived on the Gulf Coast in 1897 and proceeded to finance the dredging of his own channel while continuing the construction of the railroad.

In 1902, the harbor and railroad were both nearing completion and ready for unveiling. On January 24, a train arrived from Jackson, Miss. on the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad filled with dignitaries to witness the arrival of the first commercial vessel into the new harbor. But the channel was untested by deep draft merchant ships, and its construction

was not sanctioned by the United States government.

Commercial captains were reluctant to be the first to enter the new channel fearing the loss or damage of their vessels. Only by secretly agreeing to pay the captain \$1,000, and ensuring the reimbursement for any damages incurred, could Jones get a merchant vessel to agree to navigate the channel for the unveiling ceremony. With hundreds of spectators amassed at the harbor, the Italian flagged schooner *Trojan*, captained by Filippo Avegno, entered the new harbor with great fanfare.

Through the imagination, grit and determination of both Hardy and Jones, the Port of Gulfport was born; that and a bribe to a leery captain. The Gulfport Museum of History, operated by the Historical Society of Gulfport, has recently commissioned the building of a model of the *Trojan* that will go on display at the museum to celebrate the unique history of the Gulfport harbor. This laborious task has fallen to Mr. Russell Barnes, a well-known Biloxi author, model builder and historian with a passion for seafaring vessels. The 223-foot-long and 43-foot-wide *Trojan* will be re-imagined at a 1/96 scale which makes the model a little over three feet long. The arduous process of building the model could take as long as two years, but Mr. Barnes affirms the process is genuinely a labor of love.

To learn more about the construction of the port or the history of Gulfport, visit the Historical Society of Gulfport at historicalsocietyofgulfport.org/ and consider becoming a supporting member.



Loading Lumber Steamer



Trojan



Russell Barnes,
Model Builder



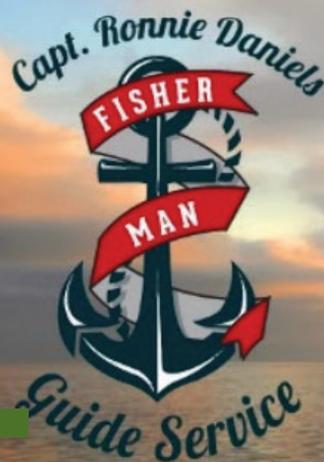
GULF COAST OUTPOST

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

In this edition of the Gulf Coast Outpost (GCO) Business Spotlight, we are featuring two seasoned charter boat fishing businesses on the Gulf Coast whose services are a must for any die-hard angler: Fisher-Man Guide Service and Shore Thing Charters.

The Gulf Coast Outpost business recognition program is part of the 2016 Nature-Based Tourism Plan for Coastal Mississippi. It was developed for the Heritage Area by stakeholders in the industry. Business owners and operators are recognized through a checklist that focuses on training, sustainability and stewardship. The program is aimed at those companies whose primary business is dependent on the natural environment in Mississippi's six coastal counties. This includes eco-tours, locally owned outfitters, charter boat operators, tour guides, eco-lodges and agritourism entities.

With the arrival of summer, so too arrives yet another fishing season on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Migratory fish such as Cobia, Tripletail and Mackerel are common to Mississippi waters in the summer. Near shore fish like Speckled Trout and Redfish are in abundance. Flounder have returned to the estuaries by summer. The offshore season for Red Snapper opens in summer. If you have ever considered fishing on a charter boat, summertime is, well, the time to fish or cut bait.



FISHER-MAN GUIDE SERVICE

Whether you are looking for a Bull Red, a box full of Speckled Trout or simply a day of sightseeing around Mississippi's Barrier Islands, Fisher-Man Guide Service will do their very best to fulfill your wishes. During a standard trip you will have the opportunity of landing multiple species of fish including, but not limited, to Redfish, Speckled Trout, White Trout, flounder, Sheepshead, Black Drum, sharks, Cobia, and the ever popular and tasty Triple Tail, also known as Blackfish. If floundering is your gig, Fisher-Man Guide Service offers that as well. A typical floundering trip consists of heading out to one of Mississippi's barrier islands prior to dark. After witnessing a spectacular sunset, the floundering fun begins. Wading along in the shallow water equipped with a light and a gig, Fisher-Man Guide Service's experts will soon have you schooled in the art floundering. Captain Ronnie Daniels is a USCG licensed captain with 20 years of fishing experience and knowledge. He is eager to share that knowledge and experience with you on your next near-shore guided fishing adventure. He guarantees that if you catch no fish, you pay no fee.

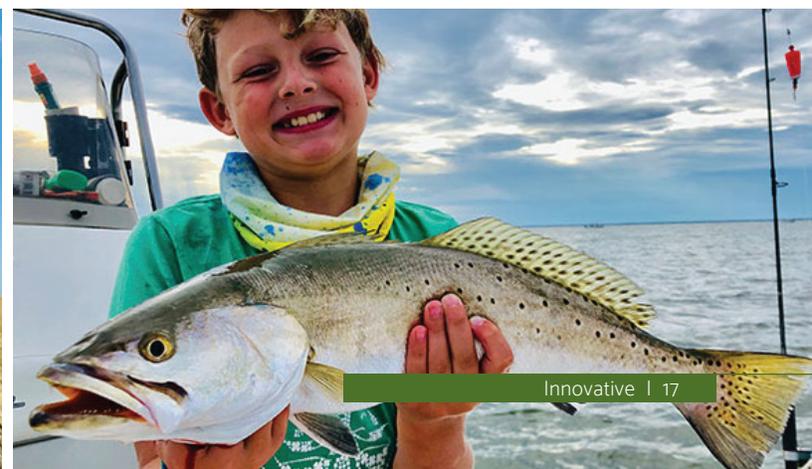
Book a charter or view various offerings at msfisherman.com.



SHORE THING CHARTERS

Established in 2003, Shore Thing Fishing Charters is the largest Louisiana and Mississippi fishing charter company on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Offering both Louisiana and Mississippi fishing charter services, Shore Thing Charter's seven captains and boats are licensed to fish in both states with departures from a variety of docks in Hancock and Harrison County. Shore Thing Charters strives to deliver an unbelievable fishing experience to their customers and takes every step prior to your arrival to make certain that your trip is as enjoyable and as productive as possible. Depending on which trip you take, you will possibly be fishing marshes, reefs, islands and or wrecks. Shore Thing Charters primarily fish for inshore species such as Speckled Trout, Redfish, Triple Tail, flounder, Black Drum, Sheepshead, sharks and a few others. Charters are typically in shallow protected waters. If you are looking for a hard-core fishing adventure with your buddies or a fun filled fishing experience for your family, Shore Thing Charters has the right trip for you.

Book a charter or view various offerings at shorethingcharters.com.





GULF COAST OUTPOST

WELCOME TO NEW INDUCTEES

By: Barbara Medlock

We welcome the listed businesses below. They join Eco-Tours of South Mississippi in Gautier and the Harbor Garden House of Ocean Springs in the Jackson County Outpost program. These businesses offer knowledge of our coast's natural environment, and they understand the importance of our numerous, valuable habitats. They work diligently to protect our wildlife, our heritage and our many gifts from nature. Congratulations and job well done!

Earlier this year, the Deputy Director of the MS Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, Ms. Rhonda Price, held a presentation for our newly recognized Jackson County Outpost businesses. We are extremely proud to have these amazing businesses and their offerings in Jackson County, Miss.

▶ **THE FRIENDS OF ARTS, CULTURE AND EDUCATION, OCEAN SPRINGS**

This is a non-profit organization whose mission is to instill a love of learning, encourage creative expression and enrich lives through educational, artistic, and cultural experiences.

228-818-2878 • thefriendsoface.org

▶ **MYSTIC CHARTERS, OCEAN SPRINGS HARBOR**

Matthew and Casey Hinson are the owners/operators of Mystic Charters. The Mystic is an amazing 65' wooden boat built in Biloxi in the 1930s. As a labor of love, the Hinson's restored this beautiful piece of history and offer cruises and over-night stays.

228-235-7439 • mysticchartersms.com

▶ **TWISTED RUN RETREAT, VANCLEAVE**

Mary Ann O'Gorman had a vision: a beautiful, secluded retreat surrounded by nature. She now has three private rental cabins on 15 acres of natural woodlands and lovingly landscaped grounds bordering Bluff Creek.

228-238-0739 • twistedrunretreat.com

▶ **WALTER ANDERSON MUSEUM OF ART, OCEAN SPRINGS**

This art museum celebrates the American Master and Naturalist Walter Anderson. Their mission is to empower lifelong curiosity and connection to the natural world through art.

228-872-3164 • walterandersonmuseum.org

▶ **WILD AT HEART RESCUE, VANCLEAVE]**

This non-profit organization specializes in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured, sick or orphaned wildlife native to MS.

228-669-7907 • facebook.com/wildatheartrescue

We are also proud to announce our most recent Outpost inductee:

▶ **THE PASCAGOULA RIVER AUDUBON CENTER, MOSS POINT**

The Center serves as a gateway to the largest, free-flowing river in the lower contiguous United States. Through education and conservation, they connect visitors to nature.

228-475-0825 • pascagoula.audubon.org





THE NIGHT THE LIGHTS CAME ON

By: Jeff Rosenberg

Celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration

As we read this issue on an electronic device, while an air conditioning unit hums away in the background, it is hard to imagine a time when such things were not so central to our lives.

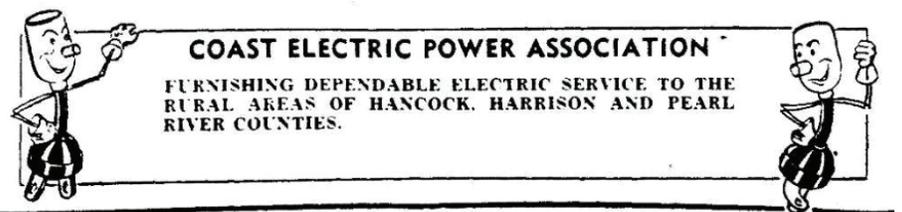
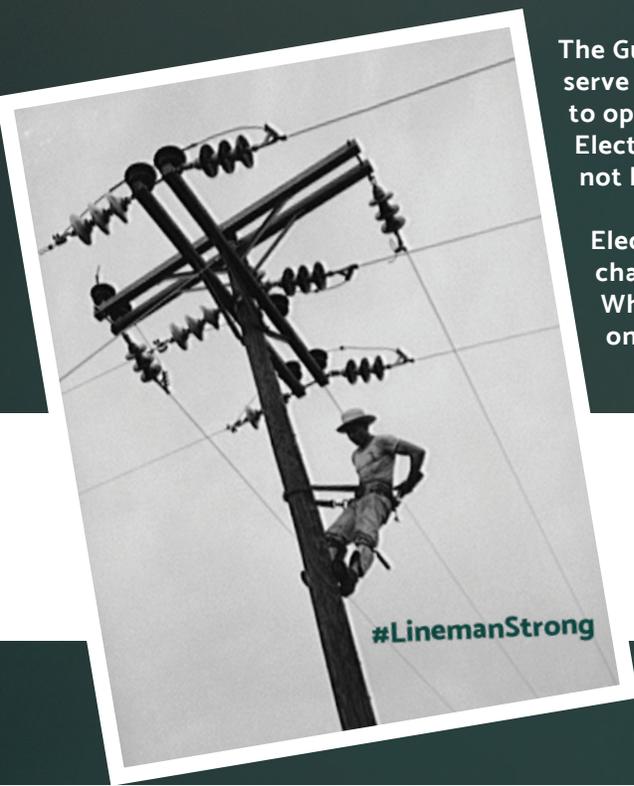
During the 1930s, while 90% of urban dwellers had electricity, only 10% of rural dwellers did, and roughly nine out of 10 farms were not electrified. Private companies had not been interested in building costly electric service lines into the countryside and assumed the farmers would be too poor to buy the electricity once it was there.

Under the New Deal's Rural Electrification Act, the Rural Electrification Administration encouraged the creation of electricity cooperative companies. It then channeled funding through these co-ops through low-interest loans to finance the construction of generation and distribution facilities and power lines to bring electricity to farms. One such loan was awarded to the Hancock Electric Power Association in 1937 to begin construction of 87 miles of lines to serve 605 customers in Hancock and Pearl River Counties.

The Gulf Coast Electric Power Association was established in 1938 to serve rural customers, and in 1939 the two organizations combined to operate as Coast Electric Power Association. By 1951, Coast Electric Power Association stated that only one-in-ten farms did not have access to electric service infrastructure.

Electric lighting, cooking, radios and telephones all drastically changed life for rural Mississippians.

What ways can you think of that electricity has changed rural life on the Mississippi Gulf Coast?

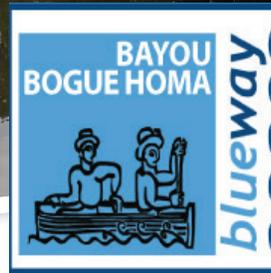


BLUEWAY SPOTLIGHT



As part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area's Nature-Based Tourism effort, the Blueways program was established to provide explorers an unforgettable experience along miles of beaches, rivers, creeks and bayous. There are currently 15 Blueways, or water trails, that have been mapped out for recreational canoers and kayakers within the six coastal counties in Mississippi.

HERE IS A LOOK AT TWO OF THE BLUEWAYS AVAILABLE FOR THE ADVENTURER IN US ALL:



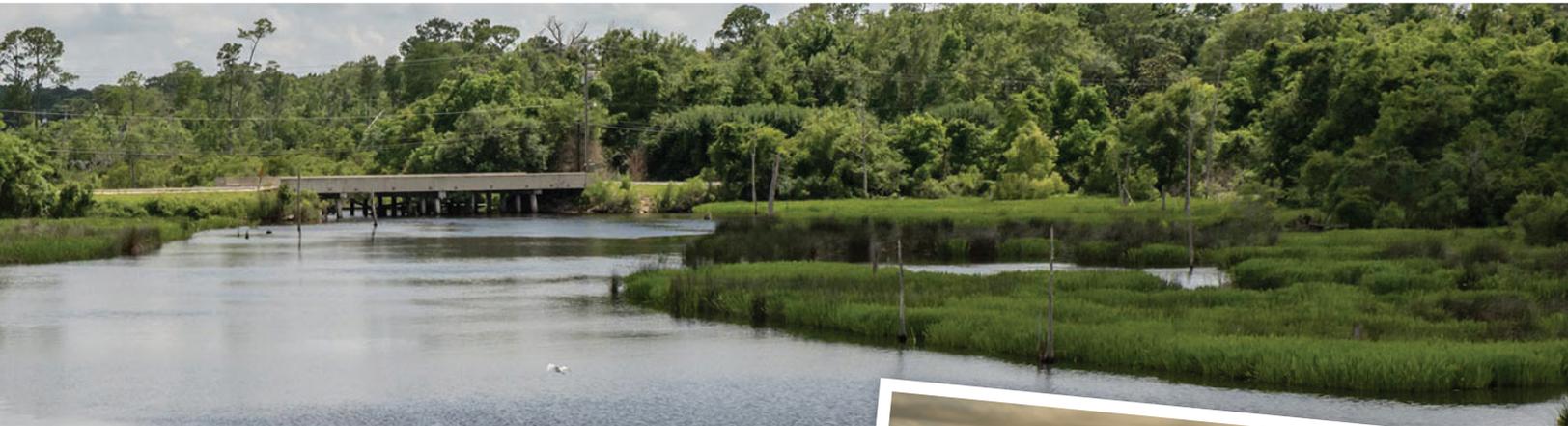
BAYOU BOGUE HOMA BLUEWAY

Located in southwestern Hancock County, this bayou is home to multi-cultural history including tribal cultures, pioneers, explorers, traders, and settlers from all over the world. Possum Walk is known for its rich African American settlement roots. It was in these waters along the banks of Bayou Bogue Homa that Possum Walk and Logtown residents drew water, washed themselves and their clothing and sourced their everyday necessities. Today, the Possum Walk Heritage Trail exists to offer hiker, bicyclers and kayakers a glimpse into history while showcasing the region's plant and wildlife.

Where the bayou meets the East Pearl River marshes, ancient bald cypress trees line the banks. Other plants you will see there include wild rice and pickerelweed. You will likely even see an alligator or two, so beware!

Look to the sky and you may see birds circling treetops or gliding in for a fresh catch. Birds of the area include Ospreys, Hawks, Bald Eagles, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Warblers, Buntings and more. The Bayou Bogue Homa is a serene place to come sit and enjoy nature's creatures in their natural habitat.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR VARIOUS BLUEWAYS AT MSGULFCOASTERHERITAGE.MS.GOV TO DOWNLOAD MAPS THAT INCLUDE LAUNCHES, MILE MARKERS AND POINTS OF INTEREST.



RED CREEK BLUEWAY

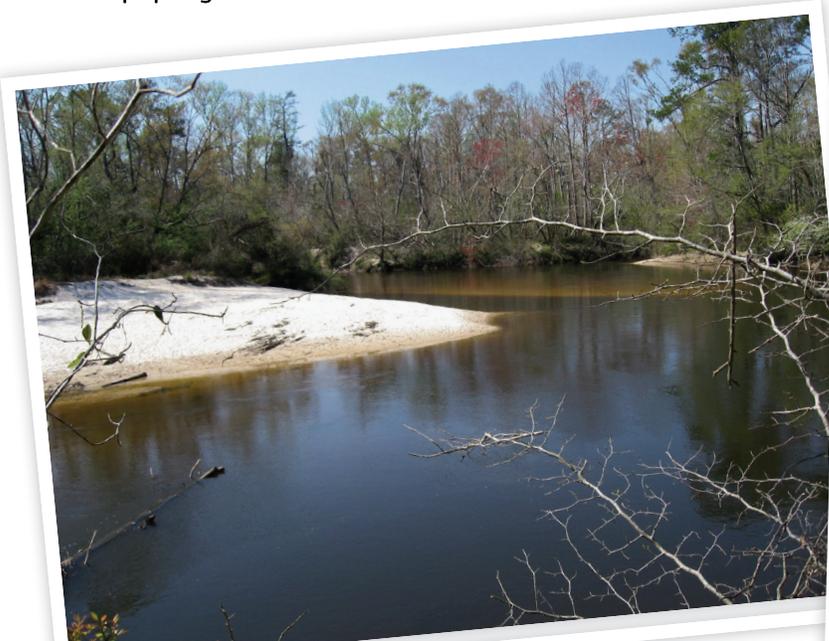
Red Creek is a coastal backwater stream in Stone County that gets its name from both the red clay bluffs along the banks and the naturally occurring tannins in the water that produce a reddish stain. The region along the creek is densely forested, making for picturesque views floating downstream in the warm summer months.

The Red Creek Blueway is comprised of four segments. Launching from Highway 26, about 3.3 miles west of Highway 49 near Wiggins, Miss., you will float the Clay Shelves segment. Red clay shelves line the creek, making it clear to see how the waterway got its name. You will even see several small rapids along the trip.

On the Railroad Trestle segment of the creek, located about 4.4 miles south of Wiggins on Highway 49, you can expect to float under an historic and photogenic railroad trestle still in service today. As you float downstream, you will encounter beautiful white sandbars where you can anchor for a while to swim or enjoy a waterfront picnic.

The next segment downstream is the Red Bluff segment. Along this trip you will observe and navigate through the remains of old rail lines, indicative of the early 1900's timber harvest. Look closely and you just might see the famous "Red Bluff" peeking through the trees.

If you would like to opt for a partial day trip, the Natural Springs segment is just right for you. From Cable Bridge Road to Highway 15, this float may be brief relative to the other segments of Red Creek, but the scenery will have you wanting to slow down and soak it all in. There are natural springs that feed the creek close to the site of historic Ramsey Springs Hotel.



eating oysters

IN MONTHS
WITHOUT AN "R"

- BY: ANDREW BARRETT -



Photo: Biloxi Public Library/ Local History and Genealogy Dept.

To learn more about local oyster reefs, farm raised oysters
or Mississippi's oyster aquaculture program, visit dmr.ms.gov.



We have all heard the age-old adage of only eating oysters in months that contain an “R,” but for those of us who relish the idea of slurping down a salty oyster-on-the-half-shell drenched in hot sauce at your favorite restaurant this summer, there is good news. The last several decades have seen improvements in oversight of both safe seafood handling and oyster growing-area management. These improvements, coupled with the expansion of oyster farming and the science behind it, have made eating oysters year-round a much safer and more appetizing prospect.

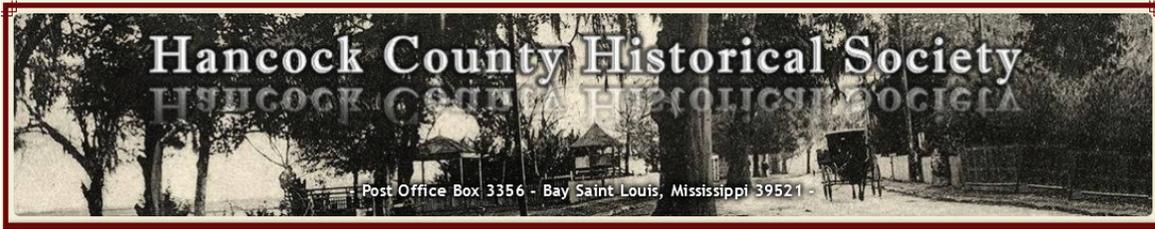
So, why don't we eat oysters in months without an “R”? Although it is true that there are more environmental risks from naturally occurring bacterium like *Vibrio vulnificus* associated with oysters from warm brackish waters, oyster meat quality from traditional on-bottom reefs simply is not as good in the summertime. Traditionally, oysters were harvested from the wild on native reefs that produced the ideal oyster for consumption in the fall and winter months. In the oyster life cycle, spawning generally takes place in the warm summer months of the year; leaving the oyster rather flimsy and depleted and not the most succulent specimen until they can recover from their energy expenditure and fatten back up again in the fall. Most oystermen understood there was no market for oysters in the summer and were happy to suspend the harvest and allow the summertime spawning cycle to replenish the reefs.

Like many old axioms that once rang true, only eating oysters in months with an “R” is an idea that has lost a certain amount of veracity. Thanks to stringent management and advances in technology, plump, delicious oysters can now be found on the menu all year round. The oyster industry today is the most highly regulated fishery of every state with a resource, and for good reason.

Because oysters are filter feeders, there is the possibility that harmful pathogens could accumulate in the meat of an oyster posing a potential health risk when consumed. For this reason, the Food and Drug Administration has set high standards in the management of every aspect of delivering oysters to your table in the interest of protecting the public health. Growing area waters are routinely monitored and sampled for pathogens by state managers. Time and temperature controls are strictly enforced during the harvest, interstate transport and retailing of shellfish products throughout the country. Proper tagging and labeling allow oysters to be traced back to their point of origin from harvest to consumption. The end result of all this vigorous regulation has made consuming oysters a considerably safer endeavor and has expanded our understanding of when we can dependably eat shellfish.

But what about those lower quality, depleted oysters that are not as appealing in the summertime? That is where the oyster farmer comes into play. The development of oyster aquaculture has enabled the growing and harvesting of oysters in cages on floating long lines at what is termed an oyster farm. Today's oyster farmers, with a little help from modern science, grow what is known as triploid oysters on their off-bottom farms that do not reproduce and thus will not spawn and weaken in the summer months. This, in conjunction with strict supervision of the growing waters and handling of shell stock, has allowed the harvest and consumption of fat, juicy oysters in even the hottest months of the year. So, as we all venture back to our favorite restaurants this summer from our collective COVID internment, keep in mind that oysters are now always in season. And if you want the very best oysters, be sure to ask for Mississippi farm raised oysters.





The Hancock County Historical Society received a Heritage Community Grant to help fund the creation of a film documenting the history, people, and places of Hancock County as told by Charles Gray, Executive Director of the Historical Society, and long-time resident of Bay St. Louis. The film is titled *Connections Matter: A History of the People and Places of Hancock County, Mississippi* and will tell the story of Hancock County from the time of European settlement (1699) until present day. Highlighting founding families and transformative events within the area, the film is sure to be an invaluable asset for residents and history buffs alike. The film is nearing completion and will soon be on permanent display at the Historical Society for all to see. A debut showing for all county residents is in the plans for the fall. Look for their announcements on their website at hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com.

MS Coast Heritage Community GRANTS UPDATE

The projects of the 2020 Heritage Community Grants are coming to a close, and a new round of projects will soon begin. While COVID-19 may have shifted the scope of some Heritage Community Grant projects, it has done little to slow the great progress our 2020-2021 grant recipients are making. In this issue, we're highlighting projects in Hancock and Pearl River Counties. **For a complete list of our 2020-2021 Heritage Community Grant recipients, read our Fall 2020 newsletter at issuu.com/mscoastnha/docs/ms_coast_nha_newsletter_fall2020.**

The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain received a Heritage Community Grant for the continued restoration work at the Shaw Homestead in Pearl River County. The Shaw Homestead is a late 19th century domestic farm site consisting of several buildings and landscape features reflective of early settlement patterns in southeast Mississippi. Grant funded work included repairs to the kitchen and west room ceilings, as well as foundation repairs. More information about the Shaw Homestead can be found at ltmcp.org.



Late Summer/ Early Fall Events

GROUND ZERO GALLERY OPENING, CROSSROADS: CHANGES IN RURAL AMERICA, A SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT

In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, the Waveland Ground Zero Museum will host this traveling exhibit that highlights the changes over time in rural Hancock County, through pictorial storyboards, presentations, and storytelling.

JULY 3- AUGUST 13 | WAVELANDGROUNDZERO.COM



BILOXI SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

The second weekend in September will mark the 40th anniversary of this summer staple festival, the Biloxi Seafood Festival. Located on the Biloxi Town Green, the Biloxi Seafood Festival is a celebration of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's rich culture, heritage and connection to the seafood industry. The two-day festival features continuous live entertainment, Sunday's Gumbo Contest, arts & craft booths, children's activities, and of course, an array of seafood!

SEPTEMBER 11-12 | FACEBOOK.COM/BILOXISEAFOODFESTIVAL

PADDLE PARADISE

The second annual Paddle Paradise event will be held September 25 at the Diamondhead Marina. This event is non-competitive and free. You must bring your own kayak, canoe or paddle board. The first 100 participants will receive a free t-shirt and goodie bag.

SEPTEMBER 25 | FACEBOOK.COM/DIAMONDHEADMS



If there is an event we should know about that relates to the Mississippi Gulf Coast's rich culture, heritage or natural environment, email us at heritage@dmr.ms.gov.



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