embrace your CULTURAL STORY

YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST NATIONAL HERITAGE PUBLICATION | FALL 2020
The year started out normal enough. We just kicked off our Embrace your Cultural Story campaign in February, but somewhere around March, when everyone was getting ready for prom and our 2020 senior class was winding down, everything changed. It’s been a crazy year! If you heard that statement once, you heard it three times a day, but we have still been working hard, just in a different way. Even with these challenges, we are working on new projects, we released our new 2020-2021 Heritage Community grants, and you may notice a new look to our newsletter.

As always, the goal of the Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area is to enhance, conserve, promote and provide connectivity among the coast’s many heritage resources. Our Heritage Community Grant program allows our partners to create projects that tell the area’s nationally significant story to residents and visitors. Residents benefit from increased awareness and appreciation of their environment, history, culture, traditions and lifestyles.

Congratulations to all the 2020-2021 Heritage Community grant recipients. We look forward to watching their projects unfold and add to our economic value of cultural and nature tourism. Each project benefits our entire region and supports the long-term enhancement and conservation of those qualities that make our Mississippi Gulf Coast unique.

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: Shaw Property in Pearl River Country
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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.

FLOOR LOCAL HERITAGE RESOURCES
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.

From our Director
Rhonda Price
MGCNHA Director

Cover photo:
Shaw Property in Pearl River Country
Wilfred S. Lockyer  
MAN OF MYSTERY

Wilfred S. Lockyer (May 23, 1876 - October 10, 1964) migrated from England in 1913 and was believed to be associated with Harland and Wolff, the Belfast-based shipbuilders of the RMS Titanic.

Mr. Lockyer stated he was one of the naval architects who designed the library aboard the RMS Titanic. Although, I have found no proof of either. All I do know is he left England in 1913, leaving everything and taking with him only a trunk and a life insurance policy for his family back home in England. This trunk will play a main character in this tale because it holds the mystery of who was Mr. Lockyer. What I did find out was he loved music and was an accomplished musician. He was also a man of God and wrote several short stories and poems about his faith, and he loved Christmas cards from friends and family. While working my way to the bottom of the trunk, I found a peculiar story from Hearst magazine dated 1916, neatly folded and tucked in a journal. The story was titled, “The War the Great Awakener,” by Estelle W. Stead. Ms. Stead’s father, Wm. T. Stead, the great English editor and investigator was lost on the Titanic. The pictures in the story were not related to the great war that was happening in Europe at the time, but of ghostly portraits of her father. Did Mr. Lockyer have a connection to the fated ship or just a deep-rooted curiosity?

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Whatever the reason that brought him to the states, he ended up in Ocean Springs where he had an office on DeSoto Street, and being an accomplished architect, laid out his office and residence. While there, he designed sub-divisions, multi-functional business districts and new downtown attractions for Biloxi and Gulfport. He eventually found his way to Picayune where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Lockyer is responsible for the design of several churches, civic projects, schools and courthouses, along with residential and commercial properties along the coast. Around 1939, he designed the Picayune City Hall, which he included metalwork, hardware, railings and banisters, and is now a now a Mississippi landmark.

Digging through over 400 drawings, I noticed his attention to detail was almost obsessive. He would create ornate cornices, railing, banisters and columns for his architectural projects. He even created a beautiful scenic drive along Highway 11, lining both sides of the highway with tung oil trees. The oil from mature dried nuts, used in paint and wood sealers, and also poisonous if eaten, was a profitable industry in Pearl River County. In the springtime they bloom a beautiful flower and I’m sure he drew his inspiration from the fields, filled with the beautiful, yet deadly, trees.

Through the thoughtfulness of the Formby family and a partnership grant, we are working with the Picayune Train Depot, Museum and Tourist Center to archive and house all Mr. Lockyer’s drawings, creating an exhibit for everyone to visit.
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Some of you may have already watched our great videos, like Bro. Earl Smith singing a beautiful gospel hymn, Dr. Mason talking about his restaurant experience at Mary Mahoney’s, Darlene Kimball sharing why she, like so many others, are drawn to our Mississippi waters and we can’t forget Mr. Clemon Jimerson talking about his days filled with music and his chance encounter playing with music legends like and Tina Turner. It has been our pleasure to release one video each week on our Facebook and Instagram for our friends, relatives and visitors to listen to some of the great stories about life in coastal Mississippi.

We have expanded our Embrace Our Cultural Story by partnering with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance’s (GOMA) campaign “Embrace the Gulf.”

“When approached with the MS Stewardship sponsorship highlighting school age children, this seemed like a perfect fit to what we were planning for the adults, so we’ve expanded our Embrace Our Cultural Story campaign by partnering with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance’s (GOMA) campaign to Embrace the Gulf,” said Rhonda Price, director of MS Coast NHA.

Partnerships are the main goal for MS Coast NHA, and these two projects capture both children and adults resulting in oral histories for future generations. It also helps broaden interest, understanding and support for the Coast NHA and the Gulf.

For the next year, the MS Coast NHA will release one video each week on their Facebook and Instagram. Each video is less than one-minute long and focuses on one aspect of life in Coastal Mississippi: historic, innovative, natural or flavorful.

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THE 19TH AMENDMENT IN ACTION

Tuesday, November 3, is election day this year, which also marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment that states the right to vote shall not be denied on account of sex.

In those early years, women did more than turn up at the polls to cast their first vote, they ran for office too.

In 1922, Florence Cassibry (1900-1994) of Gulfport became the first woman in Mississippi to be appointed, then elected to a City Commission. Serving Gulfport during some of its busiest years of growth, commissioner was one of many public positions she held during her lifetime. She also served as acting mayor, city clerk and city tax collector.

Upon her election, the Daily Herald said, "Here let it be known that "Our" means Gulfport and not "us women." Miss Florence is elected good and hard to an office she richly deserves to hold."

During her terms as commissioner, a comprehensive system of beautifying the parks, cemeteries and neutral grounds was inaugurated, placing public recreation at the forefront of importance for the City of Gulfport. After holding the position of commissioner for ten continuous years she retired in early 1933.

HISTORIC
Ours is a place of history. The Spanish and French explored this land preceded by Native Americans who lived here for thousands of years. A drive here reveals stunning homes that have survived the ravages of disaster, downtowns whose history is being reinvented each day. Lighthouses here shine as beacons to our past and optimism about our future. Across our communities we revel in sharing our history in an array of museums and historic sites.

INNOVATIVE
We are a place of innovations. It is here that we build ships that defend our nation. It is here that the rockets that propelled our country into space were tested and proven. It is here that we bring the bounty of America to the western hemisphere through our ports. We are innovators in art. It is a place where creativity thrives. Our people create paintings, poetry and sculpture that have come to be known worldwide.

NATURAL
Our land is defined by the water that connects us. We are beaches, bays, rivers, creeks, swamps, marshes, islands and shores. We are home to the nation’s last remaining unimpeded river and 36 miles of sandy beaches. Our environment creates seafood known worldwide, freshwater that flows abundant from artesian wells and unmatched habitats that sustain untold species of flora and fauna.

FLAVORFUL
We are a people with a flavorful culture. We blend customs, ethnicities and back-grounds to bring a warm space of life that welcomes visitors and soothes the soul. We are a place where food unique to our region is shared in grand seafood houses, gourmet kitchens, backwoods barbeque joints and tiny dives. Our zest for life is celebrated throughout the year with small festivals, large events and coast-wide celebrations.
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The Gulf Coast Outpost business recognition program is part of the 2016 Nature-Based Tourism Plan for Coastal Mississippi. It was developed for the MS Coast NHA 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 agrotourism entities.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

THE BETSY ANN RIVERBOAT
The Betsy Ann Riverboat on one of America’s last remaining true sternwheel paddleboats. Disembarking from Biloxi, the Betsy Ann Riverboat is a unique way to experience the beauty of our Mississippi Gulf Coast. A variety of affordable cruise packages offers tours of the Mississippi Sound Estuary with a focus on the seafood industry, the Barrier Islands, ecology and wildlife. The lower enclosed cabin is heated and cooled for year-round comfort, while sights and sounds of the journey can be enjoyed on the covered open-air upper deck. The Betsy Ann is Coast Guard certified to carry 150 passengers, plus crew, and is docked between the Golden Nugget and Margaritaville. Visit their website betsyannriverboat.com for tickets. Follow their Facebook and Instagram pages for up-to-date information.

COASTAL RIDGE FARM
Coastal Ridge Farm is a small, family-owned flower farm near Picayune, Miss. The farm offers the opportunity to take great photos while you relax and wander in the sunflower fields. Bring a bucket and clippers to cut a few flowers to take home with you. The Sunflower Field & U-Pick are available twice a year, the summer season being May through June, and fall season beginning mid-September through October. Once the season starts, they are open daily, weather permitting. The colorful sunflower fields are also a great backdrop for photo sessions! Be sure to book your reservations in advance online, as there are no ticket sales at the gate. Visit their website coastalridge.com and follow their Facebook and Instagram pages for up-to-date information.

TO BECOME RECOGNIZED AS A GULF COAST OUTPORT, EMAIL HERITAGE@DMR.MS.GOV.
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PADDLE THE GULF

Paddle the Gulf (PTG) is an initiative to inspire people to become more connected to nature by exploring coastal streams and rivers that flow into the Gulf of Mexico. PTG hopes to create opportunities for new paddlers to canoe or kayak to improve their understanding and appreciation of the Gulf of Mexico’s unique coastal resources and paddle some blueways found in their own backyard.

Paddlethegulf.org was designed to showcase coastal blueways, across the five U.S. Gulf States. The site is a starting place to learn about local water trails, upcoming events and ways to become involved as a citizen scientist. South Mississippi offers explorers an unforgettable experience with miles of beaches, rivers, creeks and bayous. There are currently seven blueways, that can be found on gis.dmr.ms.gov/Blueways/ and are mapped out for recreational canoeers and kayakers. Check other waterways listed at the MS Coast NHA website at msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov/Blueways. It’s a perfect way to create your own adventure. Don’t forget to bring the sunscreen!

We mentioned adventure with a purpose, well here comes the purpose part. Did you know by just paddling, you can get involved as a citizen scientist or volunteer? Citizen science is a way for everyone to help scientists collect information and answer real world questions. Scientists can’t be everywhere at once, and paddling by kayak or canoe can make it easy to collect information in areas that are hard to reach on land without disturbing wildlife. Paddle the Gulf’s main goal is to connect people to the waters that flow into and skirt the coast of the five U.S. Gulf States. Partnering with Gulf of Mexico Alliance’s Embrace the Gulf 2020 campaign is another way to embrace our coastal waterways hoping to inspire future generations to take care of nature and our water resources, working together to help you find adventure with a purpose.

Make sure to get out and experience these beautiful waterways, in addition to the other blueways across the coast. You can find a detailed map at msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov or gis.dmr.ms.gov/Blueways/

To float the lower Escatawpa River is to experience exquisite natural scenery within one of the most biologically diverse watersheds in the country. One of three major tributaries of the Pascagoula River, the Escatawpa is unique in its proximity to the coast and its rapid transition between fresh and brackish waters that make up the lower reaches of coastal rivers.

The Escatawpa River Blueway is a 14.5-mile trail that begins in a large freshwater lake within the bottomland hardwood forest portion of the river where giant Bald Cypress, Water Tupelo and Atlantic White Cedar dominate the scene and dark, tannic (tea-colored) waters flow downstream around numerous “oxbow” bends in the river.

Recently, the MS Coast National Heritage Area provided a partnership grant to the Pascagoula River Audubon Center who will be installing the mile marker signs along the Escatawpa River Blueway. They have a great group of volunteers in the Pascagoula Paradise Paddlers who will be helping them in this effort, as well as installing new signage along the Pascagoula River Jackson County Blueway.
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paddlethegulf.org
embracethegulf.org
Nature Tourism is what BARBARA MEDLOCK is all about  
By Mark W. Lasalle, Ph.D. and Our MS Home

Promoting nature tourism in Jackson County is Barbara Medlock’s new job. Barbara recently joined the staff of Jackson County’s Recreation Department as an Outdoor Recreation Specialist, working with Recreation Director Darcie Crew on a unique partnership between the county and the Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area (MS Coast NHA), a program of the National Park Service that is managed by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

This Outdoor Recreation Specialist position is all about helping the MS Coast NHA implement the goals of its Nature-based Tourism Plan (NBT) that was developed in 2016 through a detailed process that engaged a brain trust of professionals and outdoor recreation providers in the region. With local governments as an active partner, each of the six counties within the MS Coast NHA can help facilitate the plan through direct engagement. Barbara then becomes a local face of nature-based tourism in Jackson County. Barbara has experience in operating a coastal marina and managing outdoor recreation programs for the U.S. Air Force across the region. She understands the connections between people and the outdoors and can guide them to enjoy their natural surroundings. We all look forward to seeing the fruits of her efforts and how they can bring residents and visitors to the Gulf Coast closer to what we all know are some of the highest quality nature experiences anywhere.

Thanks to Jackson County for seeing this as a great opportunity. For more information about the Gulf Coast Outpost program for small business and opportunities about outdoor recreation in Jackson County, contact Barbara at barbara.medlock@co.jackson.ms.us or 228-826-5330.

Best of luck to you, Barbara!!!

I hope to see you in our great outdoors!

Details about the NBT plan can be found by visiting the MS Coast NHA website at msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov/natural.

My Favorite Time of Year

By Rhonda Price

Countdown is on to fall, there’s an old wives’ tale that the first sighting of a love bug means our first cool snap is six weeks away. Fall brings about change. The trees change into beautiful autumn colors marking the start of the harvest season, which means an abundance of crops will hopefully be coming in and need putting up or canning. Because of south Mississippi’s subtropical climate, piney woods food culture developed according to what grew best, like sweet potatoes. Growing up, most everyone always planted a spring and fall garden. Canning allowed for fruits, vegetables and even meat to be preserved for the winter. Some would round up hogs for butchering, then slowly smoke the meat in a smokehouse. Late autumn is also syrup sopping time. The hot, labor intensive work would see sugar cane ground and boiled to produce a syrup that was used as a sweetener or over a big stack of pancakes, but the best way is with figs and homemade biscuits.

After all this hard work, where can you show off your best canned peaches, pickles and homemade pies, or prized cow or pig? How about a county or state fair? The early 19th century when agricultural organizations would set up local exhibits to promote modern farming, neighborhoods would come together and celebrate the fruits of their labor, vowing for the opportunity to wear a blue ribbon or be crowned sweet potato queen and let’s face it, who doesn’t look good in a crown, right? Mississippi joined this trend around 1858, and over the years, fairs have added rodeos, carnival rides and game booths. But let’s not forget the food; funnel cakes, cotton candy and candied apples. Growing up the fair was a big deal, not because we had anything to show, but for me, because I got a brand-new outfit. One year, my Aunt T gave me a green pant-suit, and as a family, we headed off to the fair to meet up with friends and family. My uncles would sometimes bring their best-in-the-county tractors to show off. It was a day and night of fun, plus we usually got time off from school because the county schools Future Farmers of America (FFA) would be there that week showing livestock. The fair is still a tradition I carry on with my two boys, but instead of a great outfit, they always got a brand-new pair of cowboy boots and hat.

So, if you’re interested in adventuring out to a county or state fair or just visiting a farm this fall, there are dozens to choose from within the six coastal counties. Check out Coastal Ridge Farm, an official Gulf Coast Outpost of the Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area. Learn more about old time fall harvest activities from the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain’s Shaw Homestead Podcasts, at ltmcp.org/shaw-podcasts-updated/.

Happy fall, Y’all!
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Best of luck to you, Barbara!!

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Details about the NBT plan can be found by visiting the MS Coast NHA website at msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov/natural.
Daddy got home from Ingalls Shipbuilding and changed from his blue-collar uniform into a t-shirt and shorts. There was plenty of light left in the day which gave him time to grab his cast net and head to the beach. I tagged along while my sister stayed at home to be in the kitchen with Mama.

We rode down East Beach Drive until Daddy saw those funny fish jumping out of the water not too far off the shore. We stopped. He took his net out of the dark green VW trunk our family shared and tied a much smaller net around his waist. When he got to the edge of the warm saltwater, he shed his shoes and off he went, wading towards those sweet, scaly haulers as they randomly bounded from the water.

By now the sun had begun to push towards the horizon. Daddy and his net were becoming one, like a single figure silhouette against the warm golden glow of the bay, one smooth throw and pull after another. It was a beautiful sight to behold. Once he had a mess-o-mullet in that sack around his waist, he waded back to shore. We headed to the harbor to clean our catch, then to the house to fry them up and eat them for supper.

Many years later, it’s mid-September and cotton farmers are readying themselves for harvest while the shrimp boats, with which I am familiar, are coming and going from the Ocean Springs Harbor daily. My daddy is gone, but he would love the story I am in the midst of telling.

“Which story might that be,” you ask yourself, scanning to see which newsletter it is you’re reading. Really? A newsletter from MS Coast NHA with cotton farming mentioned in the same sentence after a couple of paragraphs of my talking about Daddy throwing a cast net?

Hold on to your rubber boots, or leather ones, depending on which part of the state you might be from, because I have got a story for all of you!

Cast Nets & Cotton is my personal, photojournalistic story. It began on the beach instead of in a field. And it has become my passion to understand and communicate the relevancy of Mississippi’s cotton story, its rich history, how it’s grown and harvested, yesterday and today. It has everything to do with our Coastal plain.

For example, the oldest house in the Mississippi River Valley is the La Pointe – Krebs House in Pascagoula. It was built in 1757 and sported a working cotton gin twenty-one years prior to 1779 when Eli Whitney applied for his gin patent and the Natchez region began looking for a new cash crop. It’s also documented that they spun cotton, too, in all Jackson County, which, by deduction, would mean they would also supply local fishermen with cotton yarn to knit the various nets necessary to farm the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

I love all things agriculture, but I’m having a love affair with cotton. For ten years, I’ve taken opportunity to photograph dozens of cotton fields and listen to even more stories from cotton growers, Agricultural science guys who check for bugs and weeds, a former U.S. Cotton Council CEO, cotton brokers and ginners. Bread has been broken with many folks who picked cotton back-in-the-day whose stories will soon be lost if they are not told. Throughout that entire period of time, I’ve come and gone to the place I’ve always called home and grown to appreciate what has made this place great: the fishermen, oystermen and crabbers, who farm the water, grasping that they are more like their counterparts who live off the Coast and farm the land.

After traveling the globe, I returned to crisscross the great state of Mississippi more than a couple of times, celebrating all there is to know about my encounters with any and all who would speak to me about their own cotton stories. At the end of the day, it’s all about the people I’ve met along the way: the way they live their lives working hard and enjoying the simple moments of life. Saltwater runs through my veins and the only thing I’d rather have on my toes other than sand would be cowboy boots so I can walk through a cotton field.

Aquaculture and Agriculture. Cast Nets & Cotton. They are not a juxtaposition in terms but more like synonyms. They collide in that moment of satisfaction at the end of the day when hard work pays off and each man and woman take a moment to enjoy that great big ball dropping off the western edge of the earth regardless of where they are on the planet. It’s down home cooking and telling stories and enjoying good music and beautiful art and living right the way your grandparents and parents taught you to live.

And cotton? Well... cotton is the seed from which we have all sprouted.

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For the 2020-2021 grant cycle, the Mississippi Coast NHA received a total of 24 applications, requesting over $500,000 in funding. Grant awards require an equal match of cash or in-kind services from the recipient. The grant awards include:

1. **DISABILITY CONNECTION** has been awarded $20,000 to expand and update the “Heritage Tours” page of the Disability Connection website which will encourage people to enjoy the heritage and culture in the southern six Mississippi counties: the rivers, the bays and the Gulf. The project identifies a wide variety of historic and cultural activities that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. The website will then promote through multi-media statewide.

2. **LAND TRUST FOR THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL PLAIN** has been awarded $11,130 to create and install signage on walls of the former laundry building telling the story behind Ramsay Springs. The project will also establish trails between points of interest and provide ecological restoration on the property.

3. **ALICE MOSELEY FOLK ART & ANTIQUE MUSEUM** has been awarded $5,812.50 to rehabilitate a donated trailer into a mobile educational exhibit that highlights Alice Moseley and her art which the museum can take to schools, festivals and public events.

4. **AIA MISSISSIPPI** has been awarded $15,000 for the creation of a mobile architectural app that quickly educates users about buildings and sites. As users travel through the MS Coast NHA, the app will notify them of nearby points along with photos, videos, podcasts, historic data and travel directions. This is part of a larger statewide project by the applicant.

5. **BILOXI CRUISE COMPANY, LLC** has been awarded $10,000 to create a package that promotes several attractions, museums and covers multiple-counties. Funding will provide a dollar-for-dollar incentive to create interest in the Mississippi Gulf Coast during the low season months.

6. **HANCOCK COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has been awarded $10,500 to provide non-traditional visitor “touch points” through a “visitor center lounge” at Buccaneer State Park. The visitor center will serve as an information, referral and relaxation center for visitors to rest, charge their phones and explore information on heritage resources across the Coast.

7. **HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** has been awarded $8,000 to create a video record of the history, people and places of Hancock County as told by Charles Gray, executive director of the Hancock Historical Society and long-time resident of Hancock County.

8. **OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH** has been awarded $5,030 to provide the public with access to information and education regarding the historical significance of the church with signage providing the public with historical information and education regarding the building. Funding will also support the reconstruction of a handicap ramp at the rear of the former Our Mother of Sorrows school building.

9. **AVIATION MUSEUM** has been awarded $15,000 to provide computer programming for 14 Promethean tables, complete WWII map exhibit, furnish galleries with ottomans to serve as visitor resting areas, install roll-up door motor and purchase NASA virtual reality space shuttle exhibit chairs.

10. **LAND TRUST FOR THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL PLAIN** has been awarded $10,670 to provide necessary tasks to continue the public and educational events at the Shaw Homestead in Pearl River County including maintenance, repair of ceilings in the kitchen and west bedroom and address settling issues in the west bedroom.

11. **LAND TRUST FOR THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL PLAIN** has been awarded $4,500 to fund facilitated community meetings to determine the preferred uses of the historic Turkey Creek school buildings in Gulfport and prepare restoration and renovation plans suitable for submitting requests for future funding.

12. **HISTORIC OCEAN SPRINGS ASSOCIATION** has been awarded $15,000 to fund the production and installation of approximately 30 Historic and Cultural Markers throughout Ocean Springs.

13. **HANCOCK COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BUREAU** has been awarded $8,000 to develop a Hancock County Historical Guide. The guide will include historical information on past sites and directions to visit our current locations. Endeavors will also include updating and revising outdated rack cards, as well as initial development of ones that have no materials. The creation of a digital version for website and media will enhance the marketing ability to bring visitors to the area. The project will also include school distribution and classroom presentations to involve students in being historical ambassadors for their community.

To date, the Mississippi Coast NHA has funded 44 grants totaling $826,827 and leveraging another $126,467 in matching contributions from local governments and private sector with a total investment of $953,294. These grants have funded projects in all six counties of South Mississippi.
The Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area Community Grant review committee selected 13 grants to award a total of $198,642.50. The Heritage Community Grants help support projects across the state’s six southernmost counties of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, George, Stone and Pearl River, focused on the mission of the Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area.

The mission of the Mississippi Coast NHA is to promote understanding of and to conserve and enhance the heritage resources of the six counties of the Mississippi Gulf Coast by 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.

Funds for the Mississippi Coast NHA’s matching grants program are provided by a federal government through the National Park Service. The Mississippi Coast NHA program is administered locally by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources’ Office of Coastal Restoration and Resiliency.

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Photos are of prior recipients.
Upcoming Events

PETER ANDERSON FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 7-8
This award-winning annual arts and crafts festival will take over downtown Ocean Springs the first full weekend in November for its 42nd year. The festival was created to honor master potter, Peter Anderson, the original potter of Shearwater Pottery, and to celebrate the Coast’s arts community.

HISTORIC KREBS CEMETERY TOUR
OCTOBER 22 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Visit one of the Mississippi Gulf Coast’s oldest cemeteries and hear reenactors share stories of brides, patriots and tourists who left their mark on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the past 300 years.

CRUISIN’ THE COAST
OCTOBER 4 - 11
In addition to being one of the largest car shows in America, this weeklong event is one big block party from Waveland to Pascagoula and everywhere in between! “What is your favorite “cruising” memory? We’ll be sharing ours on the MS Coast NHA social media this week.

24th Annual Cruisin’ The Coast
Mississippi Gulf Coast of The Coast
Oct. 4-11 2020
PETER ANDERSON FESTIVAL
Presented By
BLUE MOON
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