embrace your CULTURAL STORY

YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW
Fall is on its way, which brings up an age-old question. Is it ok to wear white after Labor Day? I think that all depends on who you ask. My mother would say, absolutely not, other fashionistas are saying that’s not a rule anymore. White has always been the color of summer, it’s bright, cool, and just like watermelon, picnics and boating means summer is here. So where did the fashion rule, you can’t wear white after Labor Day begin and why? By the 1950’s, women’s magazines started making “no white after Labor Day” official. I think a big factor was white gets dirty and cities at that time were kind of dirty. Also, most people were leaving the city during the summer months to go to the country, or the coast and would bring along their white clothing. When summer vacation ended and they returned to school and work after Labor Day, they began to transition to more of a city look. White was also hard to keep. It’s a high-maintenance piece of clothing that was difficult to keep clean in the fall and winter months, plus most stylish ladies switched to darker fall and winter colors.

Looking at fashion today, it’s fair to say that rule doesn’t exist anymore. What was once a fashion faux pas has now transitioned into winter white. Winter white is now a trend that’s been around for some time, and when strategically paired with a great pair of jeans or vice versa, can brighten those winter days. Fashion has always been about expression and what makes you feel good. So don’t hesitate to celebrate Labor Day in style and sport that white sweater or jeans after September 6th. Well, in south Miss. you may want to wait a couple of months before bringing out the sweaters.
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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19TH ANNUAL PINEY WOODS HERITAGE FESTIVAL
CROSBY ARBORETUM
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13
11:00 AM - 3:30 PM

25 28
HISTORICAL
SHOTGUN HOUSES
A VARIETY OF TYPES AND STYLES

{01} Bay St. Louis
{02} Ocean Springs
{03} Biloxi
{04} Bay St. Louis
{05} Bay St. Louis
{06} Pearlington
{07} Gulfport
{08} Gulfport
{09} Gulfport
{10} Pearlington
{11} Biloxi
{12} Biloxi
{13} Ocean Springs
Historical
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SHOTGUN HOUSE? WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT!
SHARE A PICTURE ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND TAG #MSCOASTNHA.
Shotgun housing is an innovative regional housing form that is a response to the American south’s hot humid climate. While the form can be found all across the southeastern United States, perhaps most famously in New Orleans where the form mask up a large portion of the city’s late 19th and early 20th century neighborhoods, the shotgun house can be found in all parts of Mississippi. Shotgun houses built on the Mississippi Gulf Coast are designed to the unique to the needs of the region’s residents. Most of these innovations were implemented to help the occupants keep cool in Mississippi’s sweltering summers by providing shade and allowing for airflow.

Most notable about a shotgun house is how narrow it is. Whether located on a slender city lot, or a rural lot, the narrowness is the form’s defining feature. Being one room wide allows each room to have openings on opposite walls permitting for a cross breeze that keeps the air moving throughout the house. The shotgun house is also synonymous with an open, pier foundation. Being raised up off the ground, this open underside of the building allows air to flow through helping to keep it cool. Not exclusively, but some shotgun houses have very tall ceilings. Taller ceilings allow for hot air to rise above the space people occupy. As the air rises it cools, and eventually begins to sink. The tall ceilings help create a uniform temperature. Mississippi Gulf Coast shotgun houses sometimes had a side gallery, or porch. This porch was nearly always on the west or south side of the house, giving shade to the wall that faces direct sun for much of the day. Keeping the sun off the house helps keep it cooler.

Shotgun housing can be dressed up in a variety of architectural styles. You can find the form decorated in the Victorian Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and even Craftsman style embellishments. Queen Anne Style shotguns often have turned, or rectangular porch posts, decorative facia boards and decorative shingle siding. Colonial Revival Style shotguns have Tuscan, or other classical type columns for porch posts and simpler trim and detailing. Craftsman Style shotguns often have battered porch columns, sometime grouped in twos or threes. However, most Mississippi shotgun houses are simple with little in the way of stylistic adornment. The reason for his is being that the form was built most frequently as rental housing, for workers. Shotgun houses were built in various settings for farm tenants, factory workers and domestic staff. The downfall of the shotgun form began in 1934, when the National Housing Act was passed. This act passed by the federal government created a multiple impact for the housing form in the guise of more accessible home loans, building requirements and developments of public housing projects.

Recently, there has been a resurgent in popularity for the Shotgun House. The Katrina Cottages shotgun reminiscent form were based in part on the shotguns’ vernacular roots to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and the tiny house movement has borrowed heavily from the form.
THE LEWIS HOUSE: OLDFIELDS

By: Jeff Rosenberg

Mississippi Heritage Trust (MHT), Mississippi’s Statewide Historic Preservation Non-Profit has purchased the Lewis House, also known as “Oldfields” in Gautier, Miss. For over 20 years they have been preserving Mississippi’s history to save and renew places meaningful to Mississippians and their history. MHT does this by advocating issues related to historic properties and by raising awareness of endangered properties with their biennial 10 Most Endangered Places. In 2011, Oldfields was included on this notorious list. On rare occasion MHT has stepped-up to save very important historic buildings by direct action, such as the Lowry House in Jackson, Miss. that became MHT’s Headquarters in 2016.
Oldfields is one of those properties. Built for Alfred E. Lewis, the house is an outstanding example of a large Greek Revival cottage of one and one-half stories with undercut galleries. The house was built on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico around 1845, across the Pascagoula River delta from what is now Pascagoula. The plantation was instrumental in the settlement of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, for few larger enterprises had been started in the region by that time. Replete with service buildings, enslaved quarters, docks, racetrack and cemetery, the house originally stood on a tract as large as 20,000 acres. In 1905, the Grinstead family purchased the antebellum home. In the 1932, coast artist and potter, Walter Anderson (Peter Anderson, brother) married the daughter of the owners Agnes Grinstead, and through the remainder of the 1930’s and early 1940’s spent an extraordinarily productive period of his life at the home. Anderson’s time at Oldfields came to an end in 1945, and the property would eventually pass from the Grinstead’s. The once large estate was subdivided into residential lots, leaving the mid-nineteenth century building surrounded by mid-twentieth century ranch homes.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina significantly damaged the house, which has sat vacant and unrepaired since, calling out for a savior who can address the unique and complicated preservation issues of such a property. This past December, MHT purchased Oldfields through a generous donation from a longtime supporter, starting the property on the long and arduous road to being saved. MHT held a preservation summit in June 2021 with residents of Gautier and preservation professionals together to discuss the future use of the property. At this time, the MHT has received a grant from the MS Coast National Heritage Area to aid in the restoration of this mystic beauty and landscape we call Oldfields.

As one approaches this graceful jewel, she patiently sits under her guarded oaks. Feral cats keep the critters from her walls and a breeze sways the moss onto the porch that once expanded the south side of her reaching view.

Mississippi Heritage Trust’s experience rehabilitating important properties includes the Lowery House, their headquarters, in Jackson, Miss.
DISTINCT ASPECT OF THE

Piney Woods

BY: JEFF ROSENBERG

Photo credit: Jeremy Breland, Mississippi Sought
The Mississippi coast is a liminal landscape where
the flat coastal plain meets the rolling piney woods.
Mississippi’s piney woods are part of a larger band of
pine forests that stretch from the Carolinas to Texas.
The geology of the Piney Woods made up of sand, silt
and shale, deposited during the early lower Eocene
Period from upland environs by streams as the coastline
receded south to its current location. This sandy clay
soil in the well-drained areas are ideal conditions for
southern yellow pine trees to thrive. This conifer species
includes the Loblolly, Longleaf, Shortleaf and Slash pines.

Land long occupied by the Choctaw tribe, the Piney
Woods became home to European-descended
homesteaders in the mid-19th century. These
homesteaders found the soil of the Piney Woods not
as desirable for large scale farming, but that hearty
livestock could provide them a means for existence.
Breeds such as Piney Woods cattle, Piney Woods
horses, sheep and pigs, could roam an open range and
forage on the underbrush of the woods. Many of these
breeds have their origins in Europe and North Africa,
selected by European explorers because they were
hearty enough to withstand a trans-Atlantic voyage,
and then required little care or oversight once they
arrived in the New World. Despite these hearty
homesteaders ability to eke out a life, the Piney Woods
remained sparsely populated during the late 1800s.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the South
Mississippi wilderness was literally buzzing with activity.
The prize was Longleaf Southern Yellow Pine as these
mammoth trees grew gracefully straight with a clear
grain, free from knots and other blemishes. With axes
and crosscut saws to bring the trees down, oxen team
pulled carry-log wagons which gave way to steam driven
skid steers for moving the downed timber. Logging rail
lines crisscrossed the land bringing the much sought-
after timber to sawmills. These sawmills, some large, but
some small, all operated from sunup to sundown, six
days a week turning the region’s most precious resource
into dressed lumber. The earliest mills operated with
sash or gang saws, and as technology improved in the
late 19th century, saw the use of circular and band saws.
What was believed to be an inexhaustible supply of
Longleaf stands was cut over within a mere 40 years. A
once vast pine forest became prairie in short order. The
little topsoil that existed was washed away as replanting
was yet to be commonplace leaving the Piney Woods
resembling a foreign landscape with only stumps
remaining.

With the trees harvested for lumber, it was not long until
a productive use was found for the stumps. Rich in the
same elements that made the timber so sought-after,
the stumps could be chipped and distilled to produce,
rosin, turpentine, tar and pitch. From cleaning products
to construction materials, and even clothing, these pine
products, known as Naval Stores, were in high demand.
(learn more about Naval Stores on the bottom of the
next page)

While the Longleaf pines have been replaced by the
quicker growing Loblolly and Slash pines, in places the
Piney Woods remain very much the same as they have
been for the past hundred years. Dedicated individuals
work to keep the Piney Woods breeds alive, while logging
of second-and-third growth pine forests remains a major
industry.
WHAT ARE NAVAL STORES? The first word of the term, Naval, is used in an obsolete way referring to “of or relating to ships or shipping.” The second work of the term, Stores, is not meant as the primary definition we are familiar with, rather the secondary definition referring to a quantity or supply of something kept for use as needed. From an 18th century point of view, all the pine trees in North America were ready for the European fleets, it just needed to be harvested. The European colonizers thought of these trees as storing potential for harvesting when needed. This is the origin of pine-derived products being referred to as Navel Stores.

NEEDLING QUESTIONS:
Identify Southern Yellow Pine trees by needle variations

Distinguishing between various Southern Yellow Pine trees can be difficult if you are unfamiliar with their differences. The simplest way to distinguish between Slash, Loblolly and Longleaf Pine trees are the length of their needles.

Slash Needle
Slash Pine needles are 4–9” long, sometimes reaching 12”, that are arranged in “brooms” at the end of branches.

Loblolly Needle
Loblolly Pine needles are 6–10” long and grow in tufts.

Longleaf Needle
Longleaf Pine needles are up to 18” long and typically in bundles of 3.
A stroll through a historic cemetery this fall may be humbling, but it offers a myriad of cultural mystery, intrigue and historical lessons of those that once lived within a community. While there are many historic cemeteries on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, only a handful have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many coast cemeteries have fall tours where consumed interpreters narrate storied accounts, depict fascinating narratives of our past and provide a perspective of those steeped in the origins of the area. The following cemetery descriptions and information come from their respective National Register nomination forms.

These can be found at apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/search.aspx.
The Old Bay St. Louis Historic District includes four cemeteries; three of the four relate to the Catholic Church, historically a dominant cultural influence in the community. The public burying ground is Cedar Rest Cemetery located on South Second Street adjacent to the Woodmen of the World Hall. The first land was donated for the cemetery circa 1860, with additions made in 1888 and 1891. Some burials are said to predate the official circa 1860 date. St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery was dedicated in 1872 and is located on South Necaise Avenue, adjacent to St. Rose de Lima Church. Brothers of the Sacred Heart Cemetery is located on Hancock Street at the rear of the St. Stanislaus College campus and is the burying ground for departed members of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart that served at St. Stanislaus College. St. Augustine’s Seminary Cemetery, located on the west side of Seminary Drive, was founded by the Society of the Divine Word in 1929 to provide a resting place for those who had served the seminary.

CEDAR REST CEMETERY
According to cemetery records, the earliest unmarked grave, E. Meggs, May 15, 1815, and the earliest marked grave, Powhatten Robertson, 1821, were moved to this location after their original burial ground began to erode. Since its consecration, over 2,000 individuals have been laid to rest within its boundaries. Markers are made of marble, granite, and concrete and range from mausoleums, box tombs, head and foot stones and plaques. There is a high concentration of Woodman markers in this cemetery since there were many members living in the Bay. The second, middle portion of the cemetery was deeded to the City of Bay St. Louis on September 3, 1888, in an exchange of property with St. Luke’s Church for the now vacant old burial ground. The last portion of the land was given to the city by Joan N. Seal on November 20, 1891. The cemetery is still active and represents the growth of Bay St. Louis from the early nineteenth century to today.

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CEMETERY
The earliest marker in St. Mary Cemetery dates to the 1860’s and is older than the nearby St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church. Since its consecration, approximately 1,400 individuals have been laid to rest within its boundaries. Burials face east and radiate north and south from a central east west road. The markers are constructed of marble, granite, and concrete, and range from mausoleums, box tombs, head and foot stones and plaques. St. Mary Cemetery was opened Dec. 22, 1872, by Father Henry LeDuc. LeDuc served as pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church from 1859 to 1897. Several church officials, including LeDuc, are buried in the cemetery. The presence of earlier graves in the cemetery suggests that either graves were moved after its opening, or it had previously been used as a cemetery before the official consecration. While the cemetery is adjacent to St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church, a traditionally African American institution. The cemetery was not traditionally affiliated with St. Rose de Lima.

BROTHERS OF SACRED HEART CEMETERY
This is an ecclesiastical cemetery devoted to departed members of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart who have served as St. Stanislaus College. It is comprised of 184 marble headstones, each sculpted in the form of a cross. These markers are arranged symmetrically and flank a central walk that is on an east west axis. The walk commences with a brick altar which supports a crucifix flanked by two standing figures and one kneeling figure.

ST. AUGUSTINE’S SEMINARY CEMETERY
This is an ecclesiastical cemetery devoted to departed members of the Society of the Divine Word who have served as St. Augustine’s Seminary. It is comprised of 70 granite headstones, each depicting a cross draped in ivy (a symbol of friendship and fidelity which never dies). These markers face east and are arranged symmetrically in rows flanking a central walk. The walk begins with two urns atop low brick pillars on either side of the walk and ends in a marble altar which is adorned with a frieze and capped by two urns and a crucifix. St. Augustine’s Seminary Cemetery was consecrated in the first quarter of 1929 when Father Christman, the Father Rector of the Seminary, perished. Father Christman was the first priest serving at the Seminary to die while at his post. It was decided that because of his efforts at the Seminary that he should be interred on the Seminary grounds instead of at the Society of Divine Word’s cemetery in Techy, Ill. The location of the cemetery was chosen for it is on a rise of land visible from the former location of the main Seminary building.

IF YOU HAVE A HISTORIC CEMETERY IN YOUR AREA, CONTACT HERITAGE@DMR.MS.GOV
Ocean Springs has two National Register listed cemeteries. The Bellande Cemetery, also known as the City of Ocean Springs Cemetery, is listed as a contributing element to the Old Ocean Springs Historic District. Located on Dewey Avenue, this burial ground has roots dating back to the 1850s. The Evergreen Cemetery is individually listed and located on Fort Bayou. The Evergreen Cemetery was established about the same time, during the 1850s.

**BELLANDE CEMETERY**
The earliest marker in Bellande Cemetery dates to the 1850s. Since its consecration, approximately 300 individuals have been interred within its boundaries. Burials face east and radiate west from Dewey Avenue which runs north and south. The markers are constructed of marble, granite, and concrete ranging from mausoleums, box tombs, head and foot stones and plaques. Bellande Cemetery is named for Joseph Bellande, a French immigrant seaman, who settled in Ocean Springs in 1835. He made his livelihood as a fisherman and a sailor. Joseph Bellande received about 20 acres of land beginning at the front beach on the Bay of Biloxi to what is now Government Street. It is assumed that Bellande Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Ocean Springs, starting as a family burial plot for the LaFontaine Family and then becoming a neighborhood cemetery for many of the early Ocean Springs families.

**EVERGREEN CEMETERY**
This cemetery was the first public burial ground in Ocean Springs, with the earliest marker being dated 1854. The cemetery lies on a ridge with a northwest-southwest axis between two marshes on Fort Bayou. Sunset Avenue enters from the southwest and runs a loop around the ridge. Burials are arranged in clusters, rather than uniform rows. According to articles by Ray L. Bellande, the nucleus of the cemetery is land patented by David Kerr. On Oct. 2, 1854, he sold the property to Philip P. Bowen, a Baptist minister. Bowen donated the property to the City of Ocean Springs in 1860. In 1884, a Catholic cemetery was established adjacent to the public burial ground. Both cemeteries were expanded periodically until 1957, when the current perimeter was established. In 1974, the city bought the Catholic tract and renamed the unified burial grounds Evergreen Cemetery.
Biloxi also has two National Register listed cemeteries. The Biloxi Cemetery is listed as a contributing element to the West Beach Historic District and has records of burials dating back to the 1840s. The Biloxi National Cemetery is located on the grounds of the Biloxi VA and a contributing element to the Biloxi Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District.

**Biloxi Cemetery**
The Biloxi Cemetery consists of the ‘old section’ closest to the beach and a newer section which extends beyond the railroad tracks, for a total of approximately 30 acres. The cemetery contains a variety of markers including gravestones, monuments, box tombs and mausoleums that represent burial practices and marker designs from the early 19th Century to modern times. Other features include many old trees and decorative fences around burial plots. Several stones were restored after being damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Recording of burials began in 1841, but the ground may have been used as a cemetery much earlier. The heirs of Louis Fayard deeded the property to the town of Biloxi in 1844. Among the prominent people buried here are CSA Brigadier General Joseph Robert Davis (1825-1896), Charles Albert Blessey (1848-1909), an 1877 recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, George Ohr (1857-1918), artist and potter, and Archbishop Eugene Marino (1934-2000), the first African American Catholic Archbishop.

**Biloxi National Cemetery**
This cemetery is the largest of the National Register listed cemeteries on the coast at just over 54 acres in size. Located on the southeast side of the of the center. Early design plans for the Biloxi VAMC included a cemetery that was to be anchored by a chapel, which was never constructed. While most of the graves at this cemetery are recent, its location is in keeping with the original 1930s design of the facility. In the area of the cemetery, several non-contributing modern buildings have been constructed to provide administrative offices and covered gathering areas for visitors. A formal processional drive in to the cemetery is long, straight and anchored at one end by a monumental obelisk.

**Moran Site**
While not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Moran Site might be the oldest European burial ground on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Located just north of the Biloxi Lighthouse, it was established between 1720 to 1722 and is among the oldest, most significant, French colonial sites in the United States. During this era, Biloxi served as a staging ground for the thousands of European immigrants brought over to work the inland concessions. Beginning in 2016, a memorial garden was created with federal funds awarded to the City of Biloxi through the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program. The garden includes a historical marker and interpretive signage that describes the sites history and archaeological findings. A memorial monument, topped with a weeping angel statue, was funded by the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area.
Grains of Time
an intimate glimpse of grist milling

by RoxAnn Rankin Wicker
I found myself meandering down and around the Old River Road community of Vancleave navigating my way back to Sims Mill Pond Road. With each passing loop and turn came a flood of memories deep in the woods venturing into what I remembered as, “Snooks Grist Mill.” Back in high school I had slipped off with a group of friends late one night to swim in the pond dam that is spring fed by Mill Creek. I remember all of us being so adventurous to jump in, never caring about the old man they called “Snooks,” catching us. James Kennedy “Snooks” Mallette and his beloved wife, Sabe, lived on the 34-acre homestead and in 1973 began running his grist mill for friends and family. Snooks had a philosophy he demanded for those down the line of caretaking, “Don’t charge widows and don’t charge family.”

As I came around the bend and the pond became visible a flood of emotions came back. I found myself overrun with smiles to see one of the places that was instrumental in my rearing. Here I am peering out the window to where the old wooden bridge stands, the clabber boarded mill with a roof as crimson as the fall sky, the old house sits atop the hill with the same wooden rockers that always graced the porch, thankfully, all remained just as I remembered.
I had the pleasure of meeting the gracious and likeable Albert Goss, the son-in-law to Snooks. Albert married Snooks’ daughter, Sharon, in 1966. Immediately, he and Snooks became more like father and son. Goss lost his own father as a young boy. As time passed, Albert and Snooks developed a kindred friendship. That legion of brotherhood evolved through respect, adoration, value and appreciation. With this shown commitment and loyalty, Snooks passed on the operation of the grist mill to his son-in-law upon his death in 2006. This entrustment became the driving force to remain faithful to his father-in-law, keep with tradition, but most importantly, fulfill a promise made to Snooks to carry on his legacy by running the grist mill.

Albert and his grandsons met me at the pond dam. As Albert kindly instructed one grandson to crank up the mill, he fondly reminisced and educated me on Snooks. Snooks was a larger-than-life storyteller, one I imagined in my mind was full of free entertainment. From the pleasantries to my ear, Snooks was a keeper of all things that told a story. I imagined he could smell rust a mile away.
As the sluice gate opened, the groan of a belt was in the distance, the pond dam gorge ran through a pipe that led straight to the grist mill. This powerful force of water initiated the 170-year-old water wheels that came over from South Carolina, likely originally from France, began to spin. I am no engineer by trade, but I was about to get a lesson in physics, math, pulleys, flat belts and the force of machinery.

Led down to the grist mill by Albert, I found myself surrounded by nostalgia. Immediately, I witnessed an old wagon wheel rim fastened to the outside wall of the mill as if it were a welcome sign. Following a beatdown pathway along the entrance to the grist mill I could hear a babbling brook that sounded much like the whispers of playful sprites in the woods. Ornaments of yard characters were laden by the testament of time with mounds of leisured collections. Walking into the a-frame grist mill, gazing at all four walls lined with days of yore, my eyes examined each token of antiquities like ribbons and bows.

In awe of the time warp, Albert and his grandsons were enthusiastic to reveal a pair of oxidized handcuffs that hung on by the thread of a rusted nail. I could only imagine the foolery Snooks delighted in to his many visitors and friends over the years with the curio cabinet of antiques and relics. This time capsule of sorts provided a plethora of memorabilia on the walls as if they were laurels and bays from a container of treasure troves.

Inside were stacks of varieties of white and yellow corn. Albert uses organic, food grade corn from local farmers and co-ops. Once the corn selection is made and dropped in the hopper, a smell of fresh water and sweet, honey husked fragrance began to permeate throughout the small grist mill. The hum of those two wheels, one bed and one roller, created an excitement of what sounded like the mastery of synchronized, tandem musicians.
The archaic granite wheels have grooves on each side which can be adjusted to create fine milled cornmeal or coarse stone ground grits. As I watched the process, I began to imagine how Snooks would have put me to work, pouring organic corn he had received from local farmers into the hopper, providing me a history lesson as I leaned over the hopper, careful to criticize my layman in his best old-south gentlemanly demeanor, and giving me the same gentile nod just as Albert affectionately gave his grandsons as it was time for a refill of corn. The organic kernels pass through a millstone which spins to grind from the second of those five-hundred-pound wheel stones. As pure, fine milled, preservative, additive, fortified and enriched-free cornmeal plunged into a wooden chute and through to a wooden trough you witness the Holy Grail before you.

Keeping his nose to the grindstone, Albert closely watched, never leaving the trough. He brushed and scooped the cornmeal that trickled. Patiently allowing the fruits of his labor to produce. He respectfully requested my hand and encouraged me to feel the powdery gold as it poured down from the old, wooden funnel. As the first hour passed Albert shared a surfeit of stories with me. He told me of a trip where he and Snooks were visiting a mountain town.
As Albert recalled, he was waiting for Snooks to reveal himself out of an old grist mill, he became so enamored by the local miller making ground popcorn meal. Having never heard of ground popcorn meal, he explained it is a coarser meal, harder to grind, more yellow in nature, but a lot of people prefer ground popcorn meal over regular cornmeal. Each story began and ended with Snooks. Albert never swayed in his devotion and allegiance to my visit being solely about Snooks and the legacy he demanded live on.

When asked about the maintenance, Albert cheerfully informed me, he has a motley crew of technicians in the area should he find himself requiring some repairs. It is a ‘one two’ process, if one breaks down, then two is sure to follow and the repairs must be made in haste. Assuredly, always committed to keeping the grist mill alive and operational as requested by Snooks in August 2006.

Today, I realized my fate was to be in this place on this day learning from Albert, hearing the stories of Snooks, reminding myself of the little town that shaped my adolescence. As Albert proclaims his hobby has come to the end of the process, I watched these four-generations of millers and I recognized something in that moment. Albert is not only following Snooks orders and wishes, but he is also leading the way for the generations behind him to keep old timer Americana alive. As I walked away with a bag of artfully prepared milled cornmeal and stone ground grits, I realized this quintessential, bucolic countryside is a sleeping beauty with rustic charm. Perhaps it provided me an intimate glimpse, an aura of my own spiritual quest that retains an allure and wonder just as Snooks last bequest to his devoted family on Sims Mill Pond Road.
NATURAL

Embrace Your Cultural Story
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 of Miss. Here is a quick look at the newly established Rotten Bayou Blueway in Hancock County.

Starting on the north side of Diamondhead, Miss., and ending near the Bay of St. Louis, Rotten Bayou Blueway offers nine miles of beautiful scenery for both the seasoned and novice paddler. The full paddle from the kayak launch at Bayou Drive on the north end to the Diamondhead Marina on the south side will take about four to six hours for most paddlers, but an out-and-back trip from one of the two launches may be preferred for those with less time or experience.

Rotten Bayou gets its name from the early Choctaw word Banshawah, meaning “decayed stream,” from the bayou’s use as a place for the Choctaw to dress their game after a hunt. Birdwatching along the Blueway is spectacular in every season with blue heron, osprey, bald eagle, hawks, owls and woodpeckers. Along the banks you might spot river otter, deer and raccoon. Fishing ranges from salt and brackish to freshwater species depending on the influence of rainfall on salinity. Upstream look for bass, perch, bream and crappie. Along the marshes and bay are Speckled Trout, White Trout, Red Drum, Black Drum and Flounder.

Points of interest include Devil’s Elbow, Alligator Lake, the Interstate 10 overpass and the Diamondhead Marina. If paddling the entire route, remember to check the weather and tides. Shade is limited so bring sunscreen, hats and drinking water. Waters at the open bay may be rough on windy days, and always watch for motorboats and personal watercraft.

Visit msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov to learn more about our various blueways. Download maps that include launches, mile markers and points of interest.
INNOVATIVE
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.

In this addition of the Gulf Coast Outpost (GCO) Business Spotlight, we are featuring two nature-based businesses on the Gulf Coast whose services could provide you with both beauty and serenity this fall: Coastal Ridge Farm and Twisted Run Retreat. With the arrival of autumn, cooler temperatures will have many of us seeking outdoor adventures and relaxation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Whether you are looking for cut flowers to decorate your home or are wanting to get away for a few days to commune with nature, these two Outpost businesses will surely spark your interest.

**COASTAL RIDGE FARM coastalridgefarm.com**

Coastal Ridge Farm is a fresh-cut flower farm in the northern part of Hancock County, close to Picayune. Big, beautiful sunflowers and zinnias are the most abundant, which they sell at fresh markets from New Orleans to Mobile. This fall, the Zinnia Extravaganza took place in September followed by the Sunflower U-Pick in October. Open seasonally in the spring and fall, Coastal Ridge Farm invites you to visit where locals and visitors can spend some quality family time wandering the beautiful gardens, picking flowers and taking pictures. Admission rates are reasonable, and at the end of the day, you will leave with priceless memories and a bucket full of flowers. Owner Terri Doyle asks that you bring your own bucket, cutting supplies and garden gloves, as well as plenty of water for your adventure. Coastal Ridge Farm is a treasure in the agritourism offering of the MS Gulf Coast that is a must-visit.
Twisted Run Retreat in Vancleave, Miss. invites you to slow down and relax on their 15 acres of natural woodlands and lovingly landscaped grounds on Bluff Creek. The retreat is only ten miles from the interstate, but a world away from your busy life. Drive through the gate and enter the woods that lead you to your private cabin. The screened porch and comfortable seating give you no option but to sit down and listen to the birds, cicadas and tree frogs. Through the stands of cedar, pine and oak, the sun glistens on Bluff Creek. The covered floating dock and kayak launch are just a short walk from your cabin. Sit with a cool drink, bait your hook or launch your kayak or canoe for a paddle. You’re welcome to motor in from Paige Bayou Marina and tie up for your stay. Depending on the season, you can spend your days sunning, photographing the flowers and trees, swapping stories, enjoying a fire in the common fire pit, gazing at the stars, or walking the trails surrounded by fireflies.
LIFE
The 2020 Heritage Community Grant recipients have wrapped up their projects and the 2021 projects have been awarded and will be underway soon. In the era of Covid, our 2020 recipients have persevered through all the associated challenges including business cessations, social distancing mandates and labor and supply shortages to deliver on a variety of commitments that will benefit the entire Gulf Coast. In this issue we are highlighting two projects: one in Hancock County and one in Jackson County.

**2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Mississippi State University Extension: Enhanced Gulf Coast Outpost Program - Online Training Program for Outpost Business
- Biloxi Cruise Company: Sailfish Restoration Project
- Walter Anderson Museum of Art: Interpretative Signage and Bike Rack
- Mississippi Heritage Trust: Oldfields

- City of Ocean Springs: Marble Springs Park
- Alice Moseley Art Museum: Environmental Receptacles

A complete list of our 2019-2020 Heritage Community Grant recipients is available in our Fall 2020 newsletter at issuu.com/mscoastnha/docs/ms_coast_nha_newsletter_fall2020.

**HANCOCK COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU**

The Hancock County Tourism Bureau received a Heritage Community Grant for the creation of a historical guide for distribution in the Depot Visitor Center at the old L&N train depot in Bay St. Louis, Miss. The guide provides information on historical sites throughout Hancock County and directs visitors to their locations. In addition to the printed guide, the creation of a digital version for website and social media access has increased the Tourism Bureau’s ability to foster the local tourism industry by reaching a larger audience. Plans are in the works to provide a classroom presentation to encourage schoolchildren to embrace their local history and act as historical ambassadors for their communities. To view the digital brochure, visit the Tourism bureau’s website at https://playonthebay.org/ or stop by the Depot Visitor Center at 1928 Depot Way, Bay St Louis, MS 39520.
In Jackson County, the Pascagoula River Audubon Center received a Heritage Grant for the reinstallation of six mileage signs and 10 points of interest signs on the Pascagoula River Blueway that were lost as a result of damage from recent hurricanes. The Pascagoula River Blueway is one of several popular nature-based tourism Blueways along the Gulf Coast that offers both local and out-of-town paddlers an opportunity to venture out on Mississippi’s beautiful waterways. In addition to the reinstallation of lost signs, the Pascagoula River Audubon Center is adding two new interpretive signs to Rhodes Bayou and Beardslee Lake. One sign will showcase Moss Point’s history of sawmills in the area and the other will identify wetland vegetations and their cultural uses.

To learn more about what the Pascagoula River Audubon Center has to offer, visit pascagoula.audubon.org.

If you are interested in Coastal Mississippi’s Blueways program, visit msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov/natural/blueways.
FLAVORFUL
Fried Cornbread Fritters
Courtesy of: Sharon Mallette Goss

DRY INGREDIENTS:
1 cup cornmeal
1 cup self-rising flour
2 tsp. Baking Powder
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt

WET INGREDIENTS:
1 cup buttermilk
2 eggs
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup water

DIRECTIONS:
1. Mix dry ingredients well, then add wet ingredients.

2. Drop by spoonful into hot oil. Brown on one side, then turn and fry until golden brown on both sides.

Try these with a comeback or a cilantro cream sauce!
Southern Shrimp and Grits

Courtesy of Theresa Suarez, granddaughter of Joseph A. Suarez, Sr., owner of Suarez Seafood established in 1927 on Lee Street in downtown Biloxi, Miss. Suarez is the mother of Jonathan McClendon, president of M&M Seafood.

Ingredients:

Grits
• 2 cups stone ground grits
• 2 Qts. whole milk
• 2 tsp. kosher salt
• 1/4 stick of butter
• 2 tsp. rosemary, finely chopped
• 2 tsp. thyme, finely chopped
• 2 tsp. parsley, finely chopped
• 1 Cup Asiago cheese, shredded

Shrimp Topping
• 16 slices of Applewood smoked bacon, diced
• 36 M&M Shrimp Company 36/40 ct shrimp, peeled & deveined
• 1 Tbsp. fresh chopped garlic
• 1 cup button mushrooms, sliced
• 2 lemons, fresh squeezed
• 12-14 dashes Tabasco
• 2 tsp. nutmeg
• Salt & pepper to taste
• 2 cups of butter, cubed
• 2 green onions, cut on the bias
DIRECTIONS:

Grits

1. In sauce pot, add milk, butter and salt to a boil.

2. When at a boil, add grits slowly stirring consistently until grits are done and desired thickness has been reached. (If available, use chicken stock to thin out if needed or to add a bit more flavor. You want a thick, but smooth, consistency).

3. Add remaining ingredients, stirring into the grits making sure cheese has completely melted.

Grits should be kept warm while preparing second part of recipe.

Shrimp Topping

1. Dice bacon into small, but good, sizes and render down in a sauté pan stirring on an occasion. (Brown and cook the bacon; don’t burn. Reserve grease).

2. In a separate sauté pan, add two cubed pieces of butter and garlic, then melt on low to medium heat.

3. Add M&M shrimp sautéing halfway, then add bacon grease, lemon juice, Tabasco, nutmeg, salt and pepper, bacon bits and mushrooms, cooking the shrimp and mushrooms the remaining way on medium heat.

4. When fully cooked on low heat, add remaining butter cubes stirring continuously to create butter sauce.

5. Portion grits into six medium-sized bowls, then place six M&M shrimp on top of each bowl of grits. Pour the sauce evenly over bowl, then garnish with green onions.

The M&M shrimp can be any portion size such as jumbo U-12, 16/20, etc. Just adjust sautéing time for bigger shrimp. A substitute for Asiago cheese could be Parmesan, but you can make anything you like.
Join us for the 19th Annual PINEY WOODS HERITAGE FESTIVAL on Saturday, Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Celebrate the early days of the Piney Woods, in this modified version of our popular annual event! Enjoy exhibits and demonstrations of traditional skills such as blacksmithing, quilting, basket-making, and more. Homeschool groups are welcome. The event will feature live music performances on the Pinecote Pavilion. Admission (non-members and members), adults $5, children $2. Masks are required indoors. For more information visit http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/
PETER ANDERSON FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 6-7

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.

PICAYUNE 54TH SEMI-ANNUAL FALL STREET FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 6-7

Picayune Main Street hosts this two-day family event held in downtown Picayune features unique downtown retail & antique shopping, food options, along with 200 arts and crafts participants. Saturday features the Boulevard Cruisers Classic Car Show, while Sunday is a 5k Run. Visit www.picayunemainstreet.com for more information.
The 100 Men Hall hosts its second annual Booker Fest to celebrate the musical genius of James Booker. The Fest is an annual fundraiser for the maintenance and preservation of the 100 Men Hall and also to attract regional, national and international attention to this African American landmark, one of the few standing buildings on the Mississippi Blues Trail.

James Carroll Booker III (December 17, 1939 – November 8, 1983) was a New Orleans rhythm and blues keyboardist born in New Orleans, LA and raised in Bay Saint Louis, Miss. Booker’s unique style combined rhythm and blues with jazz standards. Musician Dr. John described Booker as “the best black, gay, one-eyed junkie piano genius New Orleans has ever produced.”

Booker Fest is designed to bring awareness to one of the town’s most gifted artists who played with the St. Rose de Lima gospel choir and on the historic stage at the 100 Men Hall. Booker Fest will include a gospel tribute by the esteemed St. Rose de Lima choir and a piano tribute by two of New Orleans piano greats, Josh Paxton and Tom Worrell, spoken word by Sunni Patterson, a piano night with Joe Krown Trio, a concert with Sunny War, Booker plus tunes spun by DJ T Swan, a screening of Lily Keber’s acclaimed documentary on Booker, Bayou Maharajah, ending with an outrageous Drag Brunch by Catastrophe, Zamareyah, Latonia and Misty in Booker’s honor.

For more information, visit
the100menhall.com/collections/tickets/products/booker-fest-2021
CHARNLEY-NORWOOD

Christmas Open House

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021 • 1-4 P.M.
509 EAST BEACH DRIVE, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564

Free event • Open to the public • Footwear for soft floors required (high heels prohibited)

For more information, visit msgulfcoastnationalheritage.com

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