



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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10-10-SB
Feb. 2, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NERR Hosts Presentation on Coastal Birding and the Great Backyard Bird Count

BILOXI, Miss. – The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is pleased to announce that on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010, Dr. Olivia Graves, a retired teacher and avid bird enthusiast, will present a short program that will highlight her recent participation in the American Birding Association’s Annual Big Year of Birding for the lower 48 states. A brief social will be held at 6 p.m. and presentations will start at 6:30 p.m. and conclude around 8 p.m. at the the Caylor Auditorium located on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast Research Lab in Ocean Springs, Miss.

Graves worked tirelessly last year to seek out and document over 600 different bird species within the lower 48 states. Her program will primarily concentrate on birds that she has seen right here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. NERR Education Coordinator Jennifer Buchanan will demonstrate how anyone in the community can participate in Audubon’s upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count which will take place Feb.12-15 and become a citizen scientist and help document birds found in your community.

Authors and photographers for the Reserve’s newest field guide entitled “Selected Birds of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Vicinity” will be on hand to sign copies of the free book.

This activity is one in a series of the Reserve’s My Coast community programs conducted in partnership with the J. L. Scott Marine Education Center, Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society.

For more information on the event, please contact Jennifer Buchanan, education coordinator, at 228-475-7047 or jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov. Please visit the Reserve’s Web Site at www.grandbaynerr.org for more information on the Reserve.

The Reserve is located near the community of Pecan in southeast Jackson County and includes wetlands and waterways from Bang’s Lake to the Alabama state line. A major goal of the Reserve is to provide for research coordination and dissemination of scientific data to the community and local decision-makers to provide sound information on which to base management decisions.

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The 18,000-acre Reserve is home to several rare plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species. The Reserve is managed through state-federal partnership between the DMR and its local partners: Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi State University, The Nature Conservancy, The University of Southern Mississippi and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov

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