

AROUND THE SOUND

#2 | SEPTEMBER 2024



Greetings from the Mississippi Sound Estuary Program (MSEP) and welcome to our second "Around the Sound" newsletter. This is a quarterly publication that will keep you updated on what MSEP is doing. In between newsletters, you can keep up with us on Facebook, Instagram, and on our website

[MSSOUNDEP.COM](https://mssoundep.com)



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP 14

MSEP IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
MISSISSIPPI SOUND COALITION AT THE
BILOXI SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

SEP 30

PHOTO CONTEST
SUBMISSIONS DUE!

SEP 21

COASTAL BIODIVERSITY DAY
AND BIOBLITZ

OCT 19

2024 ANNUAL COASTAL
CLEANUP

SEP 22

GROWING NATIVE WETLAND PLANTS
FOR COASTAL RESTORATION
WORKSHOP

Learn more about our upcoming events and
register on our website:

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](https://mssoundep.com)



WE CLEAN UP NICE



STAR-SPANGLED CLEANUP

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program held their annual Star-Spangled Cleanup on July 6th to target cleaning up the from the Fourth of July festivities.

We had an amazing turnout with **270 volunteers** who cleaned up a collective **3,000 lbs of trash** off the beaches of Coastal Mississippi.



BARRIER ISLAND CLEANUP INITIATIVE

The Barrier Island Cleanup Initiative has also had a successful launch and summer, **completing 4 clean ups on Cat, Horn, and Petit Bois islands.** In total, the team along with the amazing volunteers that have come out to support have cleaned 1,195 pounds of trash from our barrier island beaches! A huge thank you to our charter captains and volunteers for generously dedicating their time and resources to make this initiative a success!



1,195

pounds of trash have been removed from our barrier island beaches!



BARRIER ISLAND CLEANUP INITIATIVE



HELP US KEEP OUR BEACHES CLEAN, NEAR AND FAR!



1

Take back all that you bring when visiting the beach, including any trash or damaged gear. Trash receptacles are available at beaches across the coast, and in marinas when you return via boat.

Don't see a trash bin nearby? Let us know so that we can work with municipalities to make them available!

2

Join us for a clean up event or schedule one yourself! We have several clean up events throughout the year, including our upcoming annual Coastal Clean up on October 19th!

Can't make a scheduled clean up? Conduct your own! Gather a group of friends and request a bin from us.

CHECK OUT THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS AND TO REQUEST A BIN!

**MISSISSIPPI COASTAL
CLEANUP**



COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES

MSEP had our second round of meetings with the Science, Engagement, and Civil committees to begin the process of laying out action items for the comprehensive conservation and management plan (CCMP). Our committees made great progress and MSEP staff have started to draft the action item templates that will go into our CCMP. Our fall committee meetings are around the corner where we will continue to work on the CCMP to make sure all priority topics are covered!

1ST ANNUAL TEACHER WORKSHOP



MSEP co-hosted its first annual teacher workshop at the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center back in June. The goal of the workshop was to provide regional high school age science teachers with working knowledge of our estuary, issues facing the coast, and ways to engage students in learning about our natural resources and climate resilience.

We had 10 teachers from across the Coast for the two day workshop where they learned about sustainability, resilience, and topics like estuary conservation and living shoreline restoration.

They also got to participate in an island cleanup and see some of the living shoreline restoration efforts in Back Bay. We look forward to supporting our teachers throughout the year with our many education and outreach programs and hosting a new cohort of teachers at the next workshop on June 17- 19, 2025!



Save the date for
our 2025 teacher
workshop:

**JUNE 17-19,
2025**

MSEP IN BOSTON

This past summer our education coordinator Evelyn McQueen, along with educators from our partner programs, attended the National Marine Educators Association's 2024 annual conference in Boston titled "Wicked Good Marine Education".



The week-long event brought great networking, socializing, and inspiring comradery. The education team returned with new ideas and approaches to engaging more with students and the public, along with many new connections to begin future collaborations with. We look forward to sharing these new skills with students in the upcoming months.



PREMIERE OF "AMERICA'S HIDDEN COAST: MISSISSIPPI"

MSEP staff were delighted to receive an invitation to the premiere of "America's Hidden Coast: Mississippi," hosted by the Emmy award-winning journalist and producer Peter Greenberg. This new production showcases hidden treasures of small towns, coastal history, traditions, and our scenic natural resources, previously cherished by locals but now shared with the world. It marks the first time the series has been filmed in the United States and will debut on PBS, Amazon, and Apple TV on Monday, September 9th. Don't miss it!

Special thanks to our friends and program partners at Coastal Mississippi for a memorable evening celebrating coastal pride and unique personalities like Your Barefoot Neighbor.



GROWING NATIVE WETLAND PLANTS for coastal restoration

WORKSHOP

A FREE EVENT FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN GROWING NATIVE WETLAND PLANTS

Learn how to cultivate native plants crucial for coastal restoration projects. This in-person event will provide valuable knowledge and practical skills for anyone interested in preserving our coastal environments. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference!

 **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

 **4- 5 P.M.**

 **MSU EXTENSION CENTER
1815 POPPS FERRY RD. BILOXI, MS**

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED



Register at:
[MSUCOASTAL.COM/NPPN/](https://msucoastal.com/nppn/)



**NATIVE PLANT
PRODUCER NETWORK**

Mississippi Sound PHOTO CONTEST

We've launched our first ever photo competition to gather pictures highlighting our amazing ecosystem for our comprehensive conservation and management plan. Entrants can submit up to 3 photos in each of our 5 categories: native plants, wildlife, landscapes, community connections, and macro photography. Check out our website or social media pages for more information and to submit your entries. Deadline is September 30th! Winners will be announced on October 4th.

CONTEST
DEADLINE:

SEPTEMBER 30

WINNERS
ANNOUNCED:

OCTOBER 4

Highlighting
the beauty
of our
Mississippi
watershed

[MSUCOASTAL.COM/PHOTOCONTEST/](https://msucoastal.com/photocontest/)

Entry Categories



NATIVE PLANTS



WILDLIFE



COMMUNITY
CONNECTION



LANDSCAPES



MACRO
PHOTOGRAPHY



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR

HOMESCHOOL
SCIENCE
FAIR

ON
JANUARY 17,
2025 AT 9AM

HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

MSEP in partnership with our friends Sustainability with Awareness and Prevention Solutions (SWAPS) are proud to announce we will be hosting a science fair just for our region VI home school students!

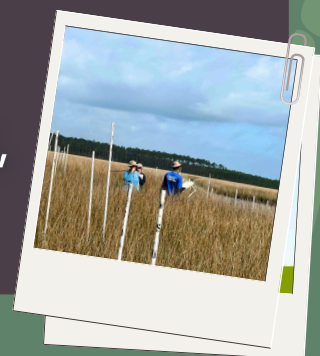
Join us on January 17th at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center where homeschool students will compete to win their age divisions and the chance to compete at regionals. Check out the website for more information.

[LEARN MORE](#)

WE NEED YOU! CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND RESEARCH PROJECT INVENTORY MAP



Help us learn more about conservation, restoration, research, monitoring, education, and outreach projects happening in our watersheds! Projects may be historical, current, or pending.



FILL OUT THE DETAILS ON OUR
PROJECT INVENTORY FORM:

INVENTORY FORM

JOIN US TODAY

INTERESTED IN CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND STEWARDSHIP?

Check out our website to learn more about how you can be a sound supporter.

GET INVOLVED!

BE A SOUND SUPPORTER!
DONATE NOW

This project was paid for [in part] with federal funding from the RESTORE Council and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act).

info@mssoundep.com

WWW.MSSOUNDEP.COM

