



MISSISSIPPI SOUND
ESTUARY PROGRAM

AROUND THE SOUND

#3 | DECEMBER 2024



Greetings from the Mississippi Sound Estuary Program (MSEP) and welcome to our third "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



2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Growing Native Wetland Plants for coastal restoration Workshop, January 11th**
- **Homeschool Science Fair, January 17th**
- **Teacher Workshop, June 17-19**

Applications are open for the GRITS STEM certificate program available for ages 15-18.

ONE-DAY CAMP DATES

- March 5, 2025
- April 16, 2025
- April 30, 2025

WEEK-LONG CAMP DATES

- June 23- 27, 2025
- July 14-18, 2025

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

MSEP EVENTS PAGE
MSUCOASTAL.COM/MSEP-EVENTS

WE CLEAN UP NICE

ANNUAL MS COASTAL CLEANUP EVENT



On Saturday, October 19th, **697 volunteers** took to the beaches for the **2024 Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup**. There were 10 different cleanup site locations spanning from Pascagoula to Bay St. Louis where volunteers cleaned almost **2,000 pounds of trash and debris!** The top 5 items found were cigarette butts (8,333), plastic pieces (6,085), food wrappers (2,094), foam pieces (1,856), and glass pieces (1,578).

Data from this cleanup contributes to the *International Coastal Cleanup* event.

We love ending 2024 on a great note and look forward to all that 2025 brings.

LOOK FOR OUR FIRST BIG CLEAN-UP OF THE YEAR ON SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST!





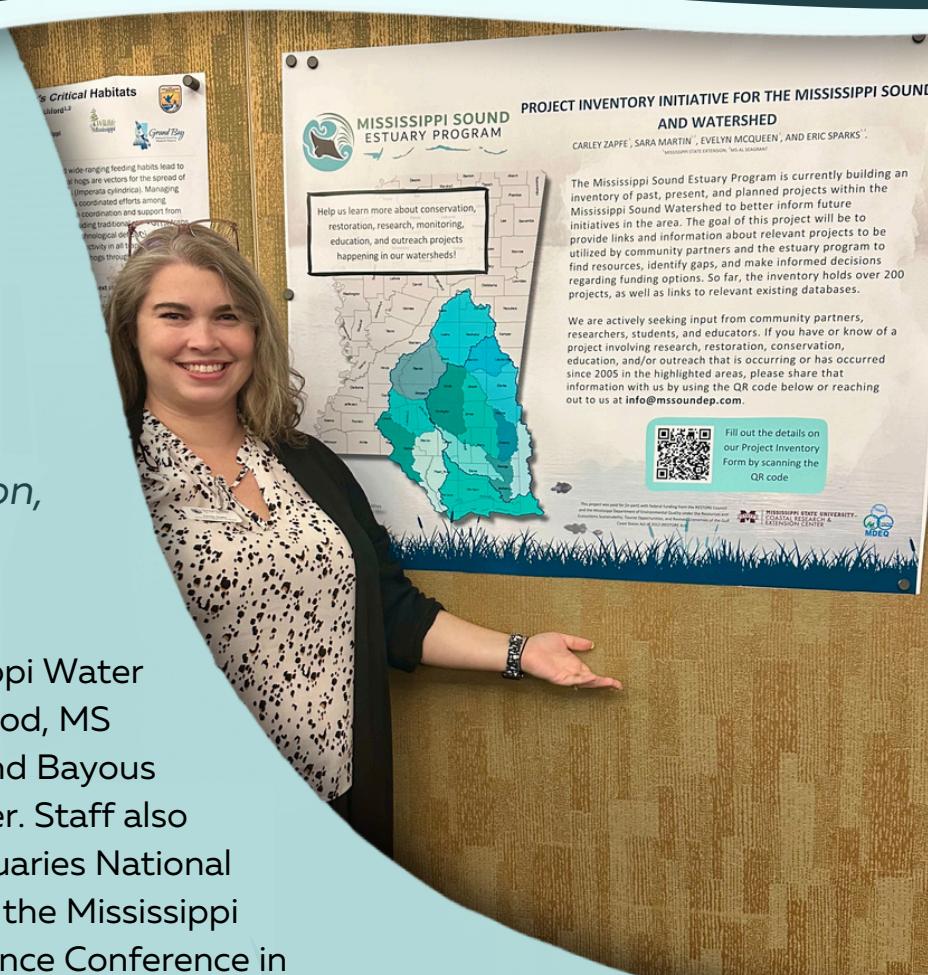
SPREADING THE WORD

MSEP staff have been busy these past few months attending conferences and presentations across the region, even all the way to DC!

MSEP staff presented on the estuary program at the Mississippi Water Resources Conference held in Flowood, MS earlier in October and at the Bays and Bayous symposium in Biloxi, MS in November. Staff also attended the Restore America's Estuaries National Conference in Washington, D.C. and the Mississippi State University Pathways to Resilience Conference in Starkville, MS.

Our director Eric Sparks has also been speaking about the estuary program to community groups across the coast, including the Ocean Springs Environmental Alliance and the USM-GCRL Science Café.

We love all the opportunities to tell everyone about the work we are doing and to create and foster connections that will help us restore and conserve our estuary!



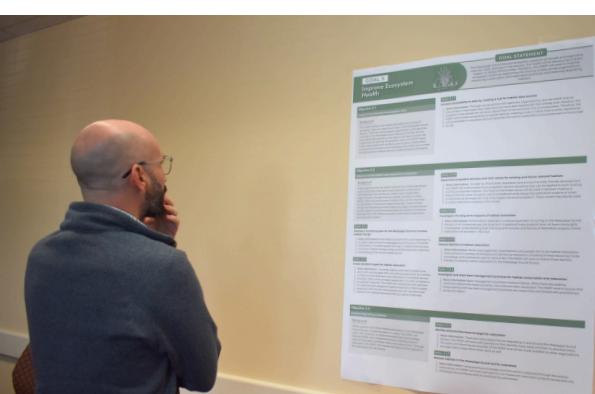


THAT'S A WRAP!

THE 2024 SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE.

On December 11th, we held the first full meeting of the Management Conference. Comprised of estuary program staff, our science, engagement, civil, and executive committees, the management conference is an EPA term to refer to the whole collective of community partners behind the estuary program. This was the first time many members met from the different committees and was also the first time that the management conference got to see the full draft of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

Attendees then were able to provide feedback via breakout rooms and feedback forms to help prepare the document for public comment. Be on the lookout for the CCMP to be released to the public for comment sometime in early 2025!





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!



Register at:
MSUCOASTAL.COM/NPPN/

**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 11, 2025**

1-2 P.M.

**THE CROSBY ARBORETUM
370 RIDGE RD, PICAYUNE, MS 39466**

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED



The Crosby Arboretum



**NATIVE PLANT
PRODUCER NETWORK**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR HOMESCHOOL **SCIENCE FAIR**

ON
**JANUARY 17,
2025 AT 9AM**

HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Join us for our homeschool science fair on January 17th!

It has recently been decided that homeschool students can now compete in regionals without a pre-competition requirement.

To help your child prepare, we are still hosting the Homeschool Science Fair at the MSU Extension Center, where they can practice and perfect their projects. In addition, all 1st & 2nd place winners from each category and age group will have their regional registration fees covered!

LEARN MORE



2025 GRITS

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR AGES 15-18

STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO...



APPLY TODAY
MSUCoastal.com/MSEP-Events

This free certificate program will focus on introducing basic STEM skills needed for coastal restoration.

lunch provided

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

