

For Immediate Release
March 9, 2015
Writer: Susan Collins-Smith
Contact: Adam Rohnke, 601-857-2284

**Jackson Master Naturalist
training begins April 21**

JACKSON, Miss. -- Individuals interested in learning about Mississippi's fish and wildlife and techniques to conserve them can attend an in-depth training presented by regional experts.

The Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science will team up April 21 through June 16 to offer Master Naturalist training. Nine weekly classes (Tuesdays) will be held from 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. at the museum. The museum is located at 2148 Riverside Drive in Jackson.

Participants will study Mississippi's ecosystems, native plants, insects, waterways, mammals, forests, fisheries, soils and birds in the classroom. Students also will tour the museum's specimen collection and aquariums and visit the Mississippi River, bottomland hardwood forests, piney woods, prairies and wetlands of central Mississippi.

To become certified Master Naturalists, attendees must complete the 40 hours of classroom instruction and 40 hours of volunteer service within 1 year of completing the course.

Registration is \$200 per person and includes educational materials, refreshments, two lunches and field trips. Enrollment is limited to 25 participants, and preregistration is required by April 14.

To register, download an application at <http://www.masternaturalists.msucare.com>. Mail the registration fee along with the completed application to the address on the form.

For more information, contact Adam Rohnke at 601-857-2284 or
adam.rohnke.msstate.edu.