

FALL SCIENCE SEMINAR: MARSH DWELLERS

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 ~ 6:00pm - 8:00pm

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) and the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) invite you to attend our Fall Science Seminar.

AGENDA

6:00 **Welcome and Overview**—Traci Floyd, Shrimp and Crab
Bureau Director, MDMR

6:05—7:50 **Presentations**

Ecology and conservation of tidal marsh birds along the MS & AL Gulf Coast *Mark Woodrey, Grand Bay NERR/MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center*

Blue crab research at the USM Gulf Coast Research Lab
Darcie Graham and Harriet Perry, USM Gulf Coast Research Lab

Break

Ecology and history of Mississippi's diamondback terrapins
Christina Mohrman, NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center/Grand Bay NERR

Distribution and controls of grazing by salt marsh grasshoppers
Jessica Dean and Eric Sparks, University of South Alabama/ Dauphin Island Sea Lab

7:50 **Questions and Wrap-up**

8:00 **Adjourn**

****Refreshments will be served****

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530

From I-10, take Exit 46A (I-110) and head south.

After crossing the bridge over the Back Bay of Biloxi, take Exit 1D for Bayview Ave.

Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Bayview Ave W, and merge onto Bayview Ave.

Continue down Bayview Ave for ~1 mile, the Bolton State Office Building (MDMR Building) will be on your left.



First Floor Commission Meeting Room
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Ecology and conservation of tidal marsh birds along the Mississippi & Alabama Gulf Coast

Mark Woodrey will highlight on-going research focused on breeding marsh birds, in particular Clapper Rails and Seaside Sparrows. Marshes along the northern Gulf coast have some of the highest densities of marsh birds and thus understanding the factors that affect them is of critical importance.

Dr. Mark Woodrey is a coastal ecologist with the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center and Research Coordinator for the Grand Bay NERR.

Blue crab research at the USM Gulf Coast Research Lab

Darcie Graham will discuss the ongoing study of harvest and fishing effort in Mississippi's blue crab fishery and Harriet Perry will give an overview of the crab resource based on her years of experience.

Darcie Graham is Assistant Director, Center for Fisheries Research and Development, USM GCRL. Harriet Perry is the recently retired Director, Center for Fisheries Research and Development. She continues to be an active and essential research leader in the Gulf.



Ecology and history of Mississippi's diamondback terrapins

Diamondback terrapins have great ecological, cultural, and historical importance. Christina Mohrman will talk about the ecology and history of terrapins, as well as current research on terrapin nesting ecology in Mississippi.

Christina Mohrman is an estuarine ecologist and is the Coordinator of Research Programs/Services for the NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center at the Grand Bay NERR.

Distribution and controls of grazing by salt marsh grasshoppers

Jessica Dean and Eric Sparks will discuss research about salt marsh grasshoppers. These grasshoppers are the most abundant grazers of Black needlerush leaves and are highly influenced by small changes in the environment. They will discuss the distribution of these grasshoppers and some potential influences on their feeding behavior.

Jessica Dean is a Biology graduate student at the University of South Alabama. Eric Sparks is a graduate student in the Marine Sciences department at the University of South Alabama and Dauphin Island Sea Lab.



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