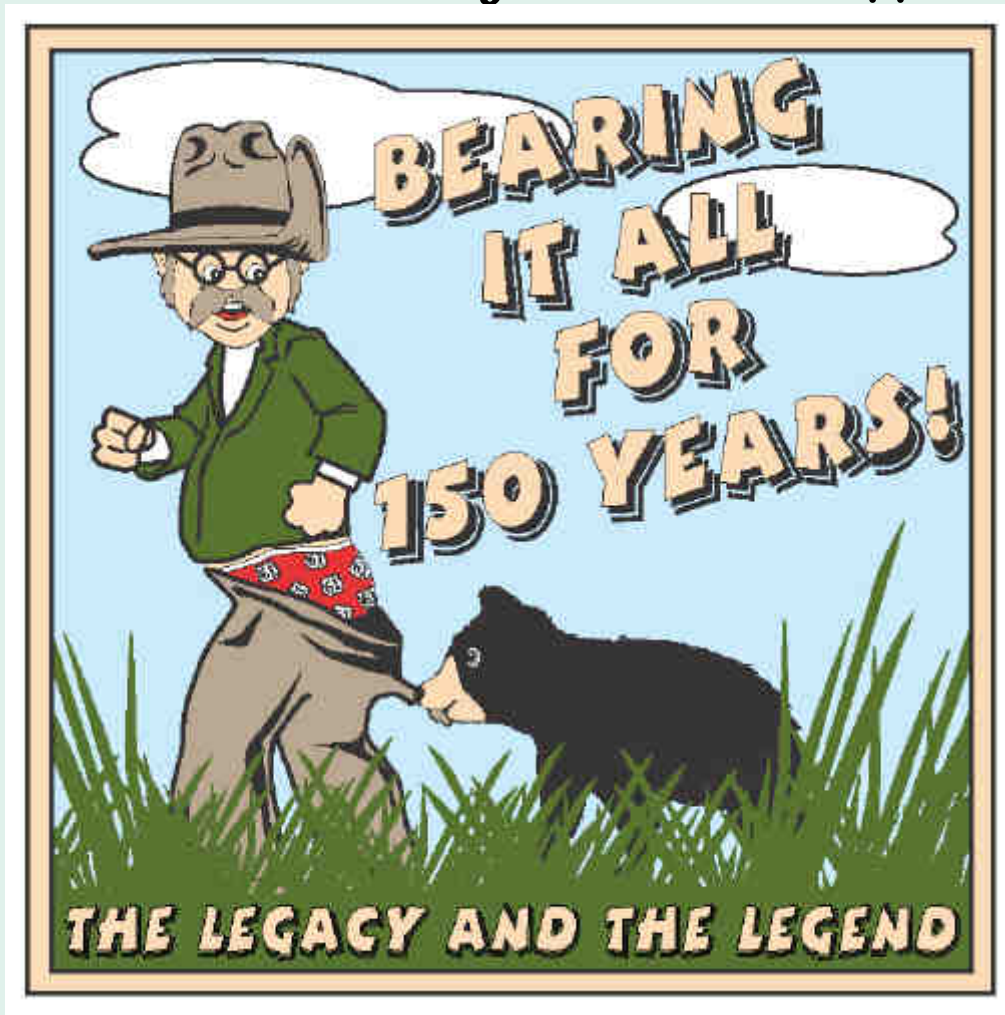


Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership

Sept./Oct. 2008

www.lowerdelta.org

GREAT DELTA BEAR AFFAIR
October 25, 2008
Downtown Rolling Fork, Mississippi



Join us as we celebrate President Theodore Roosevelt's 150th birthday with a fun filled celebration!
Schedule of events on page 2

Great Delta Bear Affair

2008 Great Delta Bear Affair activities begin on Friday, Oct. 24 with 4th grade Youth Education Day. Sponsored by area Soil and Water Conservation Districts, this fun field trip opportunity teaches students about natural resources, our environment, conservation and of course black bears. This educational event is offered to 4th grade students from the surrounding counties.

Friday evening, Teddy Roosevelt's 150th Birthday Party will take place at a ticketed reception held at the home of GDBA co-chairman, Lynne Moses, in Rolling Fork. Blues diva, Eden Brent, and Theodore Roosevelt Living Historian, Case Hicks, will provide the evening's entertainment. For ticket information call Meg at 662-873-6261.

The 2008 festival on Saturday, Oct. 25, will have all the usual activities: games, arts and crafts, musical entertainment, seminars, fireworks and more. It kicks off with an early morning birding tour on Yazoo NWR leaving the square at 7:30 a.m. At 8:00 the 5K run/walk begins and at 8:15 participants in the Black Bear bicycle ride begin pedaling. Seminars get under way at 9:30 in the Sharkey-Issaquena County Library courtyard. Additionally, there will be a dedication ceremony at the festival commemorating the recently established Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge. The actual location of the refuge is near the site of Roosevelt's famous 1902 bear hunt in Sharkey County. Festival goers can watch chainsaw carver, Dayton Scoggins, create another 14-foot wooden bear for the community, participate in Indian mound tours, catch the 4-H club's Pretty Goat Contest, purchase a book signed by its author, enjoy some fantastic music, and of course eat great food - there is something for everyone at the Great Delta Bear Affair!

The Great Delta Bear Affair Trail Ride will take place in Delta National Forest at this same time. For more information on the trail ride, call Russell Stewart at 662-873-4346 or 662-873-6405.

Main Stage Line-Up

- 9:00 Sharkey Issaquena Mass Choir
- 10:00 Miss Brittany's School of Dance
- 10:30 Meredith Virden with Bryan Ledford
- 11:30 **Theodore Roosevelt NWR Dedication**
- 12:30 Tim "Elvis" Johnson
- 1:00 King Edward Blues Band
- 2:00 Sweetwater Jade
- 3:00 Eden Brent
- 4:00 Peary Forrest
- 5:00 Tea & Sympathy
- 6:00 The Grayhounds
- 7:00 FIREWORKS!!



Other Scheduled Events

- 7:30 Birding Tour on Yazoo NWR
must register in advance - 662-873-2638
- 8:00 5K Run/Walk - \$15.00 entry fee
- 8:15 Distance Bicycle Ride (62 and 30 m)
\$20.00 entry fee
- 8:30 Youth Wildlife Olympics
pre-register teams of 9 - 12 graders
- 9:30 Seminar with Case Hicks
- 10:00 Prehistoric Mound Tour with Sam Brookes
- 10:30 Storytelling with Doris Jones
- 11:30 Refuge Dedication
- 1:00 Prehistoric Mound Tour
Live Snake Presentation with
Terry Vandeventer
Book Signings with Regional Authors
- 2:00 Seminar with Minor Buchanon
- 3:00 Seminar with Brad Young
MDWFP Black Bear Biologist
- ALL DAY - Chainsaw Woodcarver Demonstrations
Dayton Scoggins

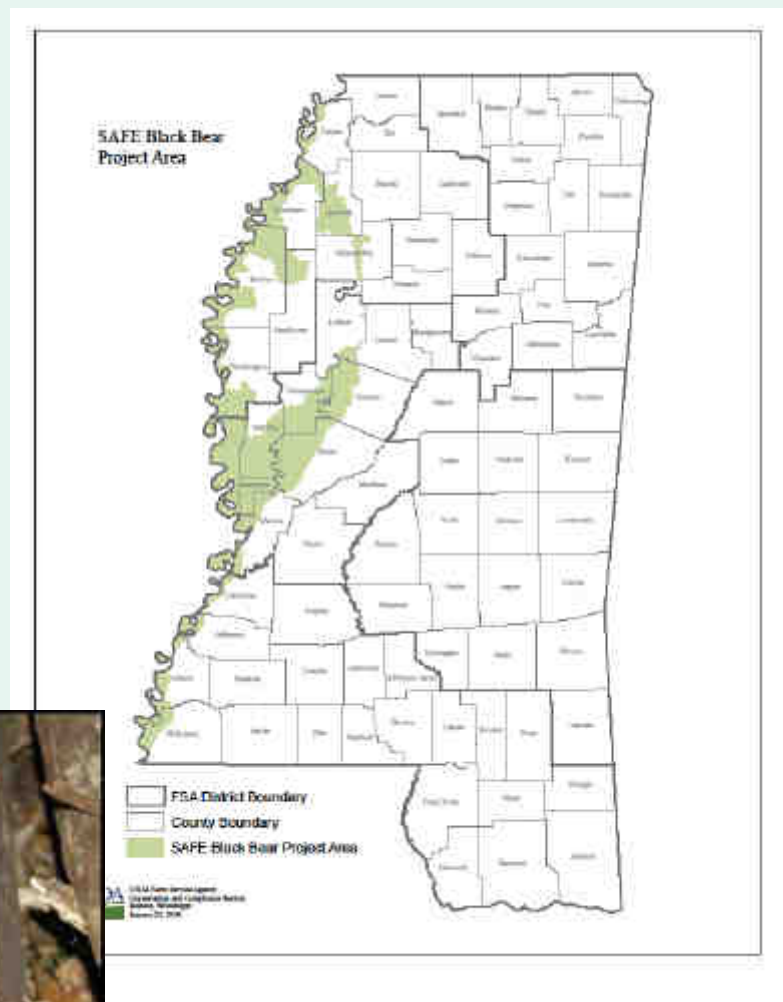
The Great Delta Bear Affair is an outreach and education project of the Bear Education and Restoration Group of Mississippi .

Black Bear Habitat Restoration Program

Black bears were once plentiful in Mississippi, but hunting and habitat loss led to them being almost eradicated in the state. Now thanks to awareness efforts by organizations like the Bear Education and Restoration Group of MS (Bear), the state's bear population is coming back. A recent piece of legislation establishing a new landowner program for habitat restoration is also helping.

In January 2008, Mississippi was granted funding to restore 7,950 acres of critical black bear habitat in the Mississippi Delta through the SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. This program functions as a new CRP practice, but is tailored to specifically provide for the habitat needs of black bears. Proposed in a joint effort by The Nature Conservancy of Mississippi and the BEaR Group of Mississippi, the goal is to restore black bear habitat in areas identified as important zones for black bear recovery. Landowners interested in the SAFE program should contact their local FSA office.

Recently black bears in the state have been successful at reproducing and rearing cubs, showing signs that Mississippi's once abundant black bear population is rebounding.



Waterfowl Workshop to be held October 18 in Sharkey County

On Saturday, October 18, a waterfowl workshop will be held at Mallard Lodge in southern Sharkey County. The day long workshop will include discussions on waterfowl and wetland management, an afternoon field trip onto the property, and lunch.

The featured speaker for the 2008 Waterfowl Workshop will be Dr. Mickey Heitmeyer. With an extensive resume of professional accomplishment, Dr. Heitmeyer is considered one of today's foremost authorities in the fields of waterfowl and wetland ecology. His background includes over 30 years of education, research, management and consultation across multiple states and flyways. In addition to being on staff at two universities, Dr. Heitmeyer is a past Director of Research for both DU and California Waterfowl Association. He is currently the owner of Greenbrier Wetland Services in Advance, MO. Dr. Heitmeyer has been author and scientific advisor on over 100 wetland development and management plans for 20 state and federal resource agencies. He is also a consultant on over 100 private waterfowl hunting and conservation properties.

Whether you are a wetland manager or just a waterfowl enthusiast, come and join us as Dr. Mickey Heitmeyer shares his knowledge of plant and waterfowl ecology and moist-soil management in both classroom and field settings.

Wildlife Biologists and Enforcement personnel will be on hand to answer questions relating to management topics. There is a \$15.00 registration fee.

Hosted by : Mississippi River Trust and Natural Resources Conservation Service

Sponsored by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, MSU Extension Service, Natural Resource Enterprises, Wildlife Mississippi

Oct. 18 Waterfowl Workshop Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip; _____

Phone and Email: _____

Include the \$15.00 registration fee made payable to Mississippi River Trust, and mail to Mississippi River Trust, P.O. Box 15, Stoneville, MS 38766. phone 662.686.3375

Workshop set for Dec. 10 on wild hog management

Area producers and landowners will have the opportunity to attend a feral hog management workshop this December. "Managing Wild Hog Damage in the Mississippi Delta" will be held Wednesday, December 10 at the Rolling Fork Community Center from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Attendees will learn the foundations of wildlife damage management; wild hog history, biology and ecology; feral swine diseases, parasites and potential implications to humans and domestic livestock; wild hog trapping techniques, trap designs and removal methods; laws governing removal of animals and trap designs and techniques.

Registration is \$10 and is due by November 21. A lunch will be provided. The workshop is sponsored by the Mississippi State University Extension Service, USDA Wildlife Services, Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Auburn University, Alabama USDA Wildlife Services, Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources-Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Berryman Institute East and Delta Wildlife.

To register, send your name, address, phone number and email address, along with the \$10 registration fee, to Scott Messina, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 9690, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

For more information, please call 662-325-3174.

Birthday Party for President Theodore Roosevelt

Friday, October 24, 2008

299 South Third Street

Rolling Fork, Mississippi

6:00 p.m.



Silent Auction for 4'
Chainsaw carved Bear by
Dayton Scoggins

Early shopping at the
Bear Essentials Store and the
debut of Custom Bear
Pottery by Red Leaf Pottery

Featuring Case Hicks, Theodore Roosevelt Living Historian

Entertainment by Eden Brent

\$25.00/ticket

Call 662-873-6261 or 662-873-2080 for tickets