



The Delta News

5 Rivers Delta Resource Center



Volume III, Issue XII

December '11

Your Delta Fun Fact for the Month:



The Yaupon Holly's red berries make wonderful holiday and winter decorations, but did you know that Native Americans used to make a tea from it? They sure did! Called "Black Drink," the tea was made from the leaves of the Yaupon Holly. However, after drinking the tea, Native Americans would vomit causing the Europeans to think it was toxic. In fact, the vomiting was a cleansing ritual and the plant's only "toxic" chemical is one you're probably familiar with: caffeine.

What's Up in the Delta this Month?



Winter is almost here and with the colder weather comes waterfowl season. Beginning December 3rd, hunters can try their hand at hunting ducks, mergansers, and geese. You must have a valid hunting license, which includes completion of the hunter's education safety course. To find out more about the rules and regulations or to sign up for the safety course, contact the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries at 251-626-5474.

Cypress Gift Shop Holiday Sale

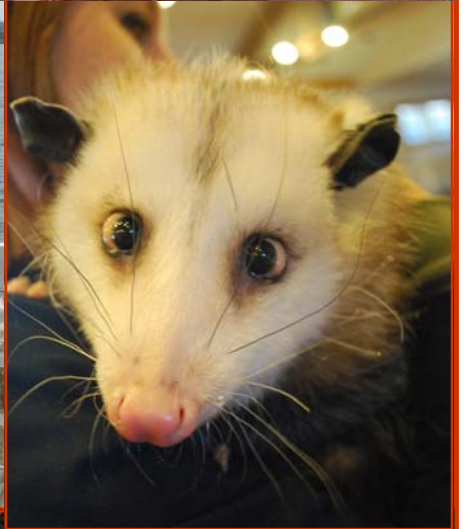
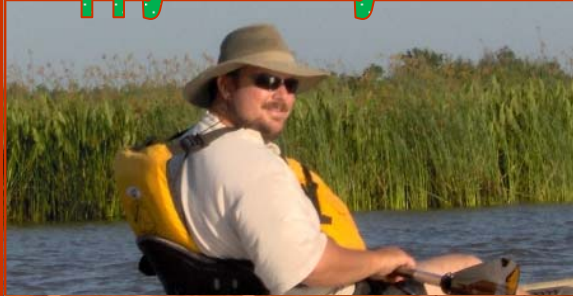
The holiday shopping season is upon us and what better place to find great, one-of-a-kind holiday gifts than at our very own Cypress Gift Shop. We are sure to have something for every type of nature lover on your list, and you might even find something for yourself! Now is the time to stop in and see us, especially if you haven't shopped with us before because our holiday sale is happening now. All of our Christmas ornaments and stockings are 20% off along with birdfeeders, decorative cups, plates, and napkin rings. Select beautiful, nature inspired jewelry is also on sale for 20% off. If you have a birdwatcher on your list, our birdhouses and the collectable



Audubon birds can be found for 30% off and make great gifts. And of course, we didn't forget about the kids! Children's toys that will inspire outdoor adventures can be found at up to 30% off. We are most excited to offer some of our beautiful local works of art on sale for 25% off. This includes pottery by John Rezner, hand-crafted wooden bowls by John Howell, paper bead necklaces by Judy Humphrey, and many more. These are only a few of the great finds that will be on sale through the Christmas holidays. In addition to finding that perfect holiday gift, each purchase made goes back into 5 Rivers helping to fund our education programs such as Growing Up Wild and Saturday Adventure classes and crafts. So make your plans to stop in and visit us and let us make your holiday shopping a breeze! The Cypress Gift Shop is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. If you would like more information on any of the sales or items mentioned, please give us a call at 251-621-0782.



Happy Holidays from the staff and critters of 5 Rivers!



DECEMBER EVENTS

Saturday Adventure Series: Learn and explore the natural resources Alabama has to offer, great for all ages!

- 12/10:** Saturday Crafts: Star Ornaments (1pm-3pm; Free; Everyone welcome)
- 12/17:** Saturday Crafts: Make and Take Holiday Gift Bags (1pm-3pm; Free; Everyone welcome)

Outdoor Adventure Night: Two Tuesdays a month, we host groups that can help you get outside and explore the delta! It's free and you don't have to be a member to come!

- 12/6:** Mobile Bay Canoe & Kayak Club (7pm)
Sierra Club (7pm)
- 12/13:** Gulf Coast Assn. of Reptile Keepers (6pm)
Mobile Bay Audubon Society (7pm)
Hunter's Education Course (6pm)

5 Rivers Road Show: Come and say hi to us as we take our show on the road!

- 12/3:** Spanish Fort's 5th Annual "Spirit of Christmas" Parade (9am; Eastern Shore Center)

Join the Jolly Old Elf at 5 Rivers!

On Thursday, December 15 at 7pm, 5 Rivers will host the City of Spanish Fort's annual reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Bring the little ones in their pajamas to gather round the fireplace for this magical story. They'll also have a chance to visit with Santa himself for those last minute Christmas wishes.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

StoryTime: Sit back and let us do the reading! 10am-11am. Arts and crafts follow the reading. This month's stories are:

- 12/6:** "Snow Party" by Harriet Zeifert
- 12/13:** "Bear Stays up for Christmas" by Karma Wilson
- 12/20:** "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss
- 12/27:** "The Sleepy Owl" by Marcus Pfister

Growing Up Wild: Encourages our preschoolers to begin thinking about things found in nature. 1-2pm. Free, Registration Required:

- 12/9:** Owl Pellets
- 12/16:** Looking at Leaves

Sunday Matinee: From 2-3pm every Sunday, step inside our Tensaw Theater and catch a free film that is sure to please the whole family! This month's features are:

- 12/4:** Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking
- 12/11:** Christmas in Yellowstone

5 Rivers Delta Safaris Eco-tours: Go on a boat tour aboard the *Pelican* and explore the lower delta! Daily tours by reservation. Charter tours and canoe/kayak rentals also available. Call 259-8531 to plan your adventure:

5 Rivers will be closed on Saturday December 24th and Sunday December 25th in observance of Christmas. We will reopen on Monday December 26th at 8am. We look forward to seeing you then!

Find us on Facebook! www.Alabama5Rivers.com 251-625-0814



CYPRESS GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL MICHAUD

Christmas time is the perfect time to give jewelry as a present, and at the Cypress Gift Shop you can find the perfect blend of beauty and nature with Michael Michaud's works of art. Each piece of his jewelry is handcrafted by taking a particular plant leaf such as juniper and placing them in a mold. The leaf is then burned away leaving not only the shape of the leaf, but all of its imperfections as well. The jewelry is painted in bronze, gold, and silver to finish it and give it a stunning, unique appearance. Our Cypress Gift Shop has a wide variety of his work and most of the pieces are of native plants. To find out more about Michael Michaud's jewelry, or for any other questions, give us a call at 251-621-0782. If you would like to stop in and see his work up close, the gift shop is open daily from 9am to 5pm.

