



The Delta News

5 Rivers Delta Resource Center



Volume VI, Issue V

September/October, 2014

Trick or Treat

October 25 - 11am-4pm



Hayrides 11am-4pm



Costume Contest 3PM



Join the staff and volunteers of 5 Rivers for the annual afternoon of hauntingly silly family adventure known simply as Trick or Treat!

Explore our haunted halls filled with lots of crafts and face painting, take a hayride through the Forbidden Forest in search of the elusive Skunk Ape, and register for our annual costume contest.

Respected around the world as the leading expert on Skunk Ape behavior and control, 5 Rivers' Legendary Hunter and Tracker has recently reminded us to keep our five senses on alert. As the mornings get crisp, the leaves begin to turn, and the days get shorter, the Skunk Ape is most active. This is the perfect season for spotting the elusive creature as it explores and searches for food prior to holing up for the winter.

All of this silly awesomeness is **FREE!** Put us on your calendar for October 25, 2014 from 11am until 4pm.

Free Family Fun! Crafts-n-Candy!



ALABAMA COASTAL BIRDFEST

Register now for the 11th Annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest, hosted by 5 Rivers October 2-4.

Details Inside!

ALABAMA COASTAL BIRDFEST

OCT 2-4



Eastern Bluebird

Every year during the fall, thousands of birds stop along the Gulf Coast to store up energy for the long journey south for the winter. And every year, Alabama Coastal BirdFest offers expertly guided trips to favorite birding spots along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. This year's event, held October 2-4, includes several new trips, including two sunset cruises (one in the Delta, one on Weeks Bay), and the popular Bottle Creek Indian Mounds Adventure. Trips are filling fast, so register NOW!

Boat Tours:

- Weeks Bay Reserve Cruise
- Lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta Cruise
- Upper Delta/Bottle Creek Mound Adventures
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab Cruise
- Lower Delta Kayak Tour

Land Tours:

- Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge
- Bayou La Batre / Grand Bay Savanna
- Backcountry Trail / Graham Creek Preserve
- Blakeley Island Mud Ponds
- Dauphin Island

If you haven't been to these places, BirdFest is a great opportunity for you. For more information about trips and to register, visit www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com.

FREE BIRDFEST EVENTS

In addition to the guided tours, there is something FREE to do each day during BirdFest:

Wednesday, October 1 — [America's Amazon](#)

First broadcast on Alabama Public Television in January 2014, this locally produced, award winning documentary film explores the beauty, richness, and fragility of Alabama's Delta ecosystem. Playing at 2pm and 4pm in 5 Rivers' Tensaw Theater.

Thursday, October 2 — [Alabama's Biodiversity](#)

Alabama is one of the most biologically rich states in our nation. Five Rivers' education staff will share knowledge about the abundance of our state's flora and fauna, and hold a meet and greet with several of our resident critters. Tensaw Theater, 3pm.

Friday, October 3 — [Raptors & Falconry](#)

Join Five Rivers' educator and licensed falconer Mark Wetzel for a free Raptors & Falconry presentation. Mark will explore the variety of raptors found in Alabama and will also describe the techniques and tradition associated with the sport of falconry. Tensaw Theater, 3pm.

Saturday, October 4 — [Bird and Conservation Expo](#) [Faulkner State Campus, Fairhope, 9am-4pm](#)

Each year, 5 Rivers and other Divisions of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources participate in the BirdFest Expo at Faulkner State Community College in Fairhope. This all-day FREE event features exhibits, vendors, artists, and hands-on activities, including:

* Birdhouse and bird feeder building fun * Alabama snakes show * Live raptor demonstrations * Bird feeder building and seed distribution * Sea creature touch tanks * Film Series * Grand Festival of Art & Books *

The Expo has fun and hands-on activities for all ages, so bring the whole family!

SOURCE: AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com



Great Blue Heron

The SKINNY

on BirdFest



Black-necked Stilt

- ◆ BirdFest guides are of some of the finest birders in Alabama.
- ◆ 422 Species of birds have been recorded on the Alabama Gulf Coast!
- ◆ The boat trips fill up fast! Make your reservations as early as possible.
- ◆ The Hummer Bird Study Group leads the bird-banding session at Fort Morgan. The staff will, at times, present the bird before spectators for photographs and explain facts about the particular species. This experience offers the best chance you'll probably ever have for close-up views of a variety of birds.
- ◆ Proceeds from BirdFest are used toward the purchase of land for preservation.
- ◆ A number of BirdFest activities are FREE, including presentations at Five Rivers and the Bird & Conservation Expo on Saturday.

Three new Exhibits Coming to 5 Rivers!

The Art of Douglas L. Howland 1920-1999



Common Gallinules

Just in time for BirdFest, Dale and Helen BeVier of Foley, AL bring a collection of bird paintings created by their late brother-in-law, Douglas L. Howland. Over a career spanning more than half a century, Doug Howland served as an exhibit designer at the New York State Museum and at the E.E. Bausch Museum of Arts and Science in New York. He illustrated bird plates for Collier's and Oxford American Encyclopedias, and playing cards for the United States Playing Card Co. His wildlife illustrations were also used in several children's books. The Apalachee Exhibit Hall will host this display through the end of the year.

The Complete Alabama Waterfowl Stamp Collection 1979-present

In 1979, the State of Alabama established an annual competition whereby Alabama artists would submit their works to be used on the annual Alabama Waterfowl (Duck) Stamp. That first year, Mrs. Helen Thurber of Mobile County, AL purchased both a print of the artwork and an original waterfowl stamp and framed them together as a gift to her husband, Cooper. This started a tradition that Mrs. Thurber continues to this day. Beginning in September, her complete collection of the 35 Alabama waterfowl stamps will be on display at 5 Rivers. We hope that this exhibit will serve as a beautiful reminder that the purchase of duck stamps supports conservation of waterfowl habitat.



Pintails by John Denney,
OutdoorAlabama.com

"A Coastal Walk" An exploratory show of the flora and fauna along the coast



Blue Heron - Juli Day

October 3rd-5th, the Apalachee Exhibit Hall will also feature works of photography, painting, and assemblage by 4 coastal Alabama Artists: Juli Day, Carol Furman, Anjie Gonzalez, and Nancy Milford. The beauty of coastal Alabama has long

inspired these four ladies, who are always likely to be found in a kayak searching the backwaters of Alabama looking for their next inspiration. This 3-day show and sale will feature their perspectives on the plants and animals of Alabama and beyond. Come meet the artists and see their beautiful work.



Brown Pelican
Carol Furman

Special Events:**5 Rivers & Community events:**

- 9/7, 9/21** **Animal Ambassadors, 1st & 3rd Sundays at & 12/5, 2pm:** Alabama has one of the highest plant and animal diversities in the United States. Join a member of our human education staff and meet one of the local critter inhabitants of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and beyond.
- 9/14** **5 Rivers Growing Up Wild: "Raptors" 1pm-2:30pm, Grades K-2.** Registration Required, Free.
- 9/20** **27th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup – 8am-Noon**
Show your support and concern for Alabama's waterways by participating in the 27th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup scheduled for **Saturday, September 20th, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. until noon.** You or your organization can make a difference by volunteering to clean up our cherished coastal area. See www.alcoastalcleanup.com/ for more information on how to sign up.
- 9/25-9/27** **5 Rivers on the Road at the Baldwin Co Fair.** Stop by our corner at the fairgrounds in Robertsdale and say hello to our 2, 4 or no-legged staff. For information on hours and ticket pricing, visit www.baldwincofair.com
- 10/1** **5 Rivers Tensaw Theater- America's Amazon: The Mobile-Tensaw Delta. 1pm, 2pm, 4pm**
This award-winning documentary film, first broadcast in January 2014, explores the beauty, richness, and fragility of Alabama's delta ecosystem
- 10/2—10/4** **11th Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal Birdfest.** See pages 2 and 3 for details!
- 10/2** **Presentation: Alabama's Biodiversity, 2pm**
Did you know Alabama is one of the most biologically rich states in our nation? Join 5 Rivers' education staff to explore the abundance of our state's flora and fauna. Presentation will include a meet and greet with several of our resident critters.
- 10/3** **Presentation: Raptors and Falconry**
Mark Wetzel, a 5 Rivers educator, will explore the variety of raptors found in Alabama. A licensed falconer, Mark will also describe the techniques and tradition associated with the sport of falconry and will introduce you to some of the amazing birds he works with.
- 10/4** **Bird and Conservation Expo, Fairhope**
Exhibits, vendors, artists, hands-on activities for all ages, live raptor demonstrations, sea creature touch tanks, and lots more!
- 10/25** **5 Rivers Halloween Celebration! See page 1**
- 11/1** **5 Rivers on the Road at Stockton Sawmill Days: 9am-4pm**
Drop by to see us in Stockton at the Second Annual Sawmill Days. Adults \$10, under 6 free.
<http://stocktonsaumilldays.org> for more details.

Sunday Matinee Day:

Every Sunday throughout the day, step inside our Tensaw Theater and catch a free film that is sure to please the whole family! So what's playing?

- 9/07:** "More Than Honey"
9/14: "Life of Birds: Meat Eaters"
9/21: "Last Call at the Oasis"
9/28: "The Inexplicable Universe"
10/05: "Crane Song"
10/12: "Is That Skunk"
10/19: "Addicted to Plastic"
10/26: "Murder of Crows"

StoryTime:

The first and third Tuesday of each month, you're invited to bring your child for StoryTime. Beginning at 10am, the story will be followed by arts and crafts.

- 9/02:** "The Three Little Gators" by Helen Ketteman
9/16: "Wow! Said the Owl!" by Tim Hopgood
10/07: "My Five Senses" by Alikei
10/21: "The Little Squeegy Bug" by Michael Sampson

5 Rivers Delta Safaris Eco-tours: Hop aboard the Osprey or rent a canoe & explore the lower delta! Delta Safaris offers a variety of tours every day. To make a reservation call 251-259-8531 or visit www.5RDS.com.

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

9/2 & 10/7: First Tuesday

- Mobile Bay Canoe & Kayak Club (7pm)
baykayaker.blogspot.com
- Sierra Club (7pm)
alabama.sierraclub.org/mobilebay/

9/9 & 10/14:

- Alabama Hiking Trails Society
hikealabama.org
- Mobile Bay Audubon Society
mobilebayaudubon.org

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