



The mission of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of present and future generations of Mississippians by conserving and improving our environment and fostering wise economic growth through focused research and responsible regulation.

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# Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Environmental News

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## Mississippi Restoration Summit

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will host the first Mississippi Restoration Summit on Tuesday, November 15, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi from 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Restoration Summit will be an opportunity to learn more about all aspects of restoration in Mississippi after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Included that day are presentations and exhibits about Mississippi's restoration efforts, an Open House, a Restoration Finance 101 class, Restoration Highlights, and a presentation about Mississippi's Restoration Game Plan.

"The summit will present an overview of all of the restoration efforts in Mississippi—a comprehensive explanation of where we've been, where we are, and where we are headed. In addition, we will explain how new and existing projects, from all the various funding streams, will work together to improve our natural resources and our quality of life for decades to come," said Gary C. Rikard, MDEQ Executive Director.



## Schedule of Events:

- Restoration Finance 101 | 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Learn about RESTORE Act, NFWF GEBF, and NRDA grants including who is eligible to receive a grant or sub-grant from MDEQ for restoration projects and programs.

- Open House | 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Learn about current and planned restoration activities. Join the Open House any time before or after the evening presentations.

- Summit | 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- ▶ Hear MDEQ Executive Director Gary Rikard discuss Mississippi's restoration efforts and the announcement of the slate of 2017 projects.
- ▶ Join MDEQ for presentations highlighting a few of the current restoration projects happening along the Mississippi Gulf Coast including Round Island, Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline, and an announcement of the Beach Outfalls Challenge.
- ▶ Learn about the Restoration Game Plan and how it is being implemented to sustain restoration efforts including how the various funding streams are being integrated to maximize ecosystem restoration. Details on the 2017 project announcements as well as leveraging and coordination of the projects will be described.

Attendance is free and open to the public. The best entrance for the Convention Center is the East Lobby door. For more information and a map of the facility, visit <http://www.restore.ms/restoration-summit>.

### **Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline**

The Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline has recently begun construction of nearly six miles of living shoreline. In addition, approximately 46 acres of marsh will be constructed to protect and enhance the existing shoreline, and 46 acres of subtidal oyster reef will be created in Heron Bay. This Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Early Restoration Project will cost approximately \$50 million.

The project will reduce shoreline erosion, create habitat for oysters, and protect and create marsh habitat. Construction of the subtidal reef began in August, and construction of the breakwater began in September.



### Turkey Creek Public Meeting

MDEQ will hold a public meeting regarding the restoration of Turkey Creek on Thursday, November 3, at the Good Deeds Community Center located at 15101 Madison Street in Gulfport. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

A project funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund is intended to conserve important habitat and enhance water quality in the 30,000-acre Turkey Creek watershed.

Restoration will include hydrological restoration of wetlands, riparian buffers, invasive species management, debris removal, and stream bank stabilization.

More information is available at: <http://www.restore.ms/nfwf-projects-2/>.

### NetDMR and NPDES e-reporting rule

On October 22, 2015, EPA promulgated the NPDES e-reporting rule that mandates the electronic submittal of all Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) after December 21, 2016. All permittees required to submit DMRs must comply with this rule.

If you have completed all required sampling in compliance with your permit before the above deadline, you may submit your DMRs via mail or you may submit your data using the NetDMR system. **After** the December 2016 deadline, all DMRs **must** be submitted electronically using NetDMR.

Several NetDMR training classes have been scheduled to help with the transition to electronic reporting. Visit MDEQ's website at <http://www.deq.state.ms.us/> for a complete list of classes and registration information. If you are unable to attend a class, a training video is also available on our website.

For questions or additional information, send an email to [netdmr-help@mdeq.ms.gov](mailto:netdmr-help@mdeq.ms.gov).



## Register for the MRC State Recycling Conference

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition (MRC) is hosting Mississippi's largest annual recycling meeting on November 1 and 2 at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi.

The conference draws representatives from local governments, state and federal agencies, universities and colleges, businesses, and non-profit organizations as well as recycling and solid waste professionals for two days of informative sessions and networking opportunities.

Conference topics will include:

- Why Measurement Matters
- Expanding Community Recycling Efforts
- Updates from the Southeastern Recycling Development Council and EPA Region 4
- Special Materials Recycling
- Public Outreach and Education
- Institutional Recycling
- Organics Recycling

An agenda can be found [here](#).

In addition, MRC is offering a pre-conference Material Recovery Workshop the morning of November 1 led by [the Recycling Partnership](#), on "Addressing Contamination in Your Recycling Stream." Plans are also being made to offer a local area tour.

Registration, lodging, and additional program information are available on the conference [webpage](#) of the MRC [website](#). Conference updates and other recycling news and information are available on MRC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MSRecycles/>) and on Twitter ([@MSRecycles](#)).

For more information, please contact Jennifer Milner at 601-961-5739 or [jmilner@mdeq.ms.gov](mailto:jmilner@mdeq.ms.gov).

## Renew Our Rivers

MDEQ's Slater Smith and Joe McNamara participated in the Renew Our Rivers program on October 12 by helping to clean up Bernard Bayou. Renew Our Rivers is sponsored by Mississippi Power and partners corporate, national, regional, and community volunteers to clean up waterways in south Mississippi.



## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The next Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, will be October 22 nationwide. More information and local collection sites in Mississippi can be found at this link: [http://](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html)

[www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html).



The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. In addition, taking advantage of this opportunity keeps prescription medication out of the household waste stream and from being flushed down toilets.

## Geology Outreach

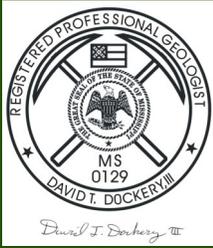
Students from the Wyatte Baptist Learning Center in Tate County recently visited the MDEQ offices in Jackson and learned about the importance of Mississippi Geology from James Starnes and David Dockery.

### Photos

Top: James Starnes discussed what fossils can be found in Mississippi.

Bottom: David Dockery used the students to demonstrate earthquake waves.





## National Fossil Day

David T. Dockery III, RPG, Office of Geology

Mississippi has much to celebrate on National Fossil Day, annually marked on the Wednesday of the second full week in October, and this year it was celebrated on October 12. An important piece of the puzzle in the knowledge of ancient climate, environment, and the history of life on earth, has come from fossil localities in the state. To further interest and research, MDEQ's Office of Geology has published a list of 173 significant fossil sites in Mississippi and two sites in Alabama.

In honor of National Fossil Day, the significance of one locality is mentioned here, Mississippi Geological Survey (MGS) Locality #1. This site, where the Late Eocene Moodys Branch Formation is exposed on Town Creek in south Jackson, has some of the best preserved Late Eocene seashells found anywhere in the world outside of the Paris Basin in France. English geologist Charles Lyell visited the site in 1846 and first placed the formation in his Eocene Epoch, the lower of three Tertiary divisions (Eocene, Miocene, Pliocene) he had described in Europe at this time. B. L. C. Wailes collected from the Town Creek site during his geologic survey of the State of Mississippi and published four plates of fossil shells in 1854 (Figure 1), and, these fossils were named in the same volume by Timothy A. Conrad, who had published the fossil shells of Vicksburg in 1848. In 1856, Conrad named the Jackson Group as a division of the Late Eocene and the Vicksburg Group as Oligocene in age, thus establishing the geologic framework of much of central Mississippi. Other major publications concerning the fossil shells of Town Creek include volume 30 of the *Bulletins of American Paleontology* by Harris and Palmer in 1946-1947 and volume 120 of the Mississippi Geological Survey bulletin series by Dockery in 1977.

In the transformation of seashells to fossil shells, one of the first attributes a shell loses is its color and color pattern, usually in the first million years or so. The fossil shells at Town Creek are placed at 38 million years old. Thus, they show no color patterns under natural light, but the color patterns of some species fluoresce under ultraviolet light.

*Continued on page 10*

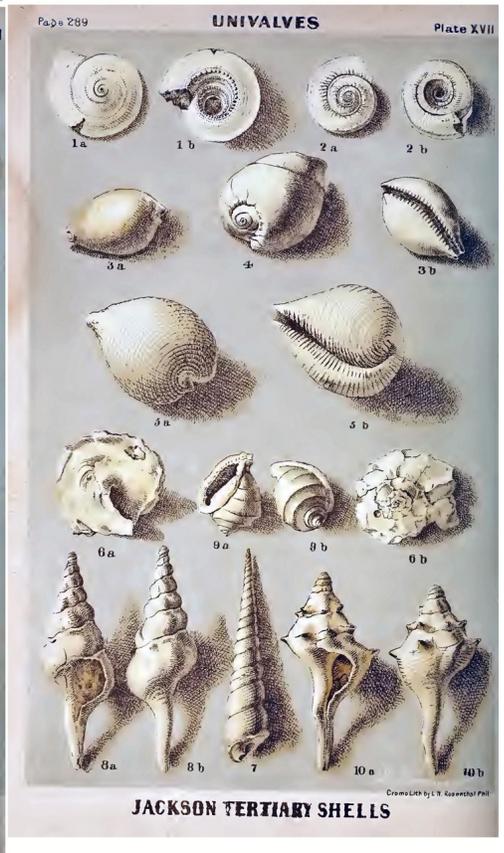


Figure 1. Moodys Branch Formation fossil shells from Town Creek in Jackson figured in 1854 publication by B.L.C. Wailes and named by T. A. Conrad in the same volume.

Figures 2 and 3 show fossil gastropod shells from Town Creek photographed under natural and ultraviolet light. The fluorescent color pattern is compared to that of a Recent Epoch relative. Figures 4 and 5 show fossil clam shells from Town Creek photographed under natural and ultraviolet light in the same manner. The color and color patterns of some living species may show considerable variation. However, the fossils from Town Creek show that, in some cases, related taxa of seashells have maintained the same color patterns over the last 38 million years.



Figure 2. *Platyoptera extenta*, natural light at top, ultraviolet light photograph showing color pattern at bottom left. The Recent strombid *Laevistrombus canarium* at bottom right, showing a similar color pattern.

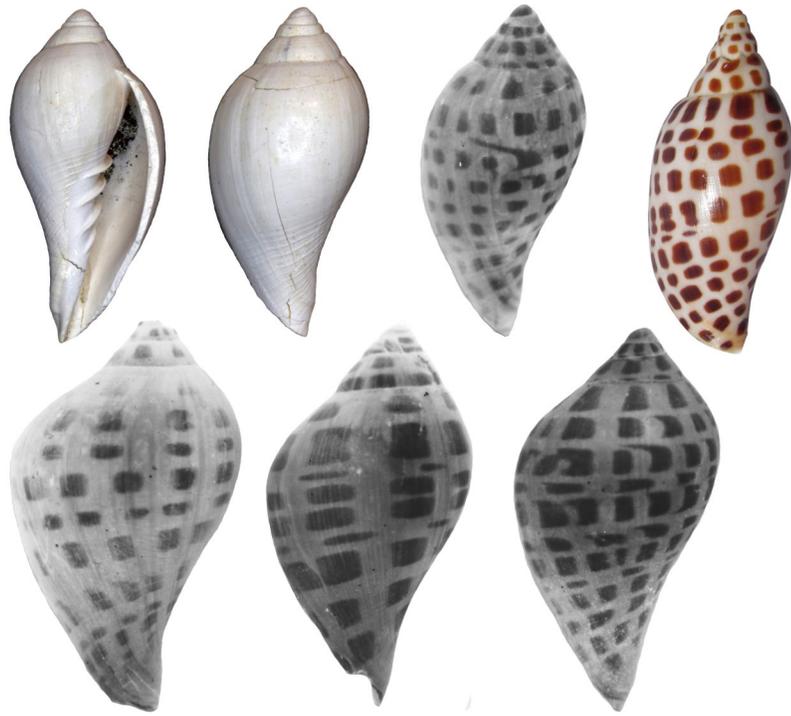


Figure 3. *Caricella polita* in natural and ultraviolet light at top left. Recent specimen of *Scaphella junonia*, the state shell of Alabama, with a similar color pattern at top right. *Caricella subangulata* in ultraviolet light at bottom.

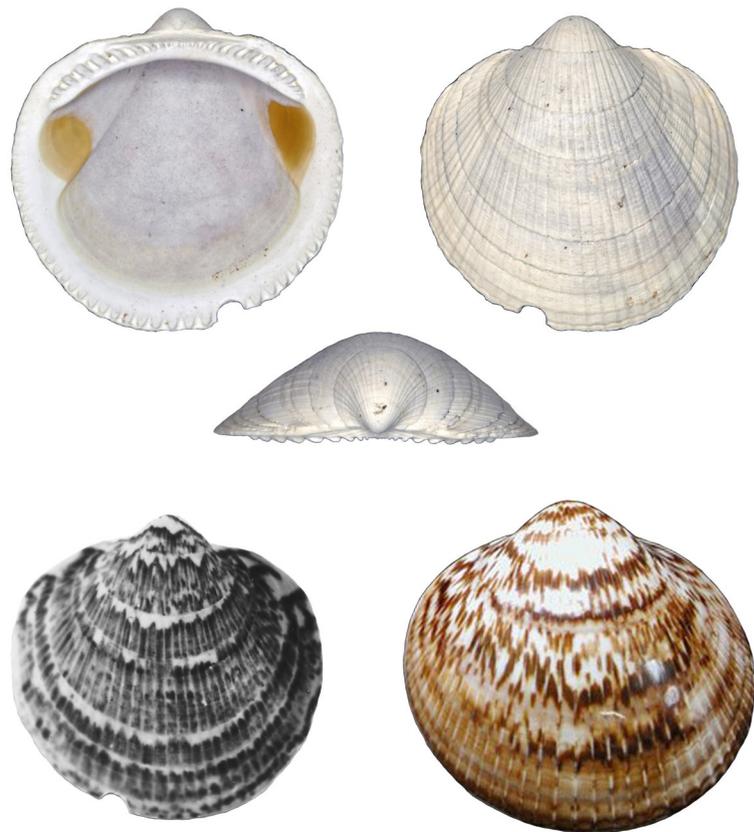


Figure 4. *Glycymeris filosa* in natural light at top and middle and ultraviolet light at bottom left. The Recent *Glycymeris glycymeris* with a similar color pattern.



Figure 5. *Callista annexa* in natural light at top and ultraviolet light at bottom left. The Recent *Callista multiradiata* at bottom right, showing a similar color pattern.

Again, this is just one location in the state taken from a list of significant sites. For more information about this site, or other fossil sites in Mississippi, please contact the MDEQ Office of Geology.



## MDEQ Environmental Action Links

- Draft permits currently at public notice, <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publicnotice.aspx>
- Environmental Permits Division Scheduled Public Hearings, <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publichearingheader.aspx>
- Geology Permit Application Public Notice, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/geology\\_public\\_notice.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/geology_public_notice.aspx)
- Permits and certificates issued in the last 90 days, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_permits.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_permits.aspx)
- General permit coverages issued in the last 90 days, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_gnp\\_issued.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_issued.aspx)
- Notices of Intent for coverage under a Statewide General permit received by the Environmental Permits Division, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_gnp\\_notice.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_notice.aspx)
- List of the 401 Water Quality Certifications currently at public notice, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_wqc\\_public\\_notice.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_wqc_public_notice.aspx)
- List of the compliance inspections recently conducted, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_eced\\_tasks.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_eced_tasks.aspx)
- Orders issued by the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_orders.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_orders.aspx)

**Connect with MDEQ**

**MDEQ Social Media**



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**Picture of the Month**

An abandoned mine site  
in Hinds County.

Taken by Mike Noone of  
the Solid Waste Division.

