



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Purple Martin Workshop To Be Offered at Grand Bay NERR

BILOXI, Miss. –Learn how to build, maintain and winterize purple martin gourd houses during the Grand Bay NERR’s November “Adventure Quencher” event on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources’ Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Jackson County. Family members of all ages are welcome to attend.

It’s time to clean out your purple martin gourds and your blue bird houses so that you can winterize and preserve them for use next spring. Join Jennifer Buchanan, Education Coordinator for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, for a free introduction to the life history of the purple martin and learn how to attract them to your yard. Then stay, and learn how to preserve your gourds by helping winterize the Reserve’s colony of gourds for next year. Participants will also inspect the many blue bird houses located on the site to see if they have to be cleaned out or maintained in other ways.

The event will be held at the Coastal Resources Center located at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 6005 Bayou Heron Road in Jackson County. For directions, visit the website www.grandbaynerr.org . To sign up for this free event or for more information, call 228-475-7047 or email jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov .

The Grand Bay NERR is located in southeast Jackson County and includes wetlands and waterways from Bang’s Lake to the Alabama state line. The 18,000-acre reserve is home to several rare or endangered plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species. The Reserve is managed through state-federal partnership between the DMR and its local partners—Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi State University and the Nature Conservancy—and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

PHOTO CREDIT: Robert Smith



PHOTO CAPTION: Learn how to build, maintain and winterize purple martin gourd houses November 16 during a free “Adventure Quencher” workshop at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources’ Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Jackson County.

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