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LRMA presents Discovery Channel video series

Lauren Rogers Museum of Art invites the public to view *When We Left Earth: The NASA Missions* on consecutive Tuesdays June 18 and 25; July 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 2 p.m. in the LRMA Reading Room.

Public learns about trees

Experts conduct workshop at Laurel Train Depot

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Dr. Glenn Hughes with the Mississippi State Extension Service tells those attending a forestry workshop the importance of trees. Photo/Eloria Newell James

LAUREL — People from throughout the Pine Belt gathered in Laurel to learn about trees in the community.

A Southeast Mississippi Community Forestry Workshop titled “Trees in Our Community” attracted many to the City Beautiful.

The workshop, co-hosted by the City of Laurel and the Laurel Tree Board, was conducted at the Laurel Train Depot.

Arborists and forestry experts with the Mississippi Urban Forest Council conducted five sessions and provided attendees _ ranging from gardeners, homeowners, business owners, developers, foresters, arborists, city workers and city leaders _ with information concerning trees and managing land.

Donna Yowell, executive director of the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, said the workshops were designed to educate the public and those working with trees in this area.

“We wanted to come in and help Laurel advance it’s tree program,” she said. “We are here to

provide advice and help those working with trees.”

Dr. Glenn Hughes with the Mississippi State Extension Service told participants that selecting the right tree is a major part of the tree planting process.

“You want to make sure that you pick the right tree for the right space,” he said. “The more plants you see the better you become at identifying them. ... Everybody can learn to identify plants.”

Residents were also reminded about Mississippi 811 Program, which encourages residents to call before they dig: It’s the law.

Sandersville Mayor Buzz Jack said the workshop was informative.

“We learned a lot about trees and how they are environmentally safe,” the mayor said. “They are good on water supply and air supply.”

Jack said the workshop also showed different ways to plant trees and what not to do when planting trees.

“It was very beneficial,” he added. “It taught us a little about a lot of things.”

Jeff Solomon, a arborist from Hattiesburg, agreed.

“The workshop has been great,” Solomon said. “It was very informative about planting trees and certainly highlighted the benefits of trees.

“Naturally, the more people know about trees, the more people will appreciate them,” Solomon added. “The more we appreciate them, the better we will take care of our trees.”

The Mississippi Urban Forest Council is a statewide nonprofit organization assisting communities with implementing local tree programs. The council offers a variety of programs to educate volunteers and community leaders on every aspect of community forestry and provides assistance with grants for local projects.

Yowell said anyone wanting more information on community and urban forestry in Mississippi visit the Mississippi Urban Forest Council’s Website at www.msurbanforest.com

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