

## **RELEASE: Piney Woods Heritage Featured in Community Event**

**BARTH, MS** – The general public is invited to a community event and presentation next Saturday, March 19, on the heritage of the Piney Woods and the local timber industry. The event will be held at the Shaw Homestead property, a historic log cabin near the Wolf River in southeast Pearl River County.

The Shaw Homestead is a 120-year-old log cabin built entirely from longleaf pine. The Shaw family lived in the house until Hurricane Camille in 1969. In 2006, the family donated the property to the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain. The Land Trust has partially restored the property to its historic condition.

The Land Trust and Mississippi State University's Gulf Coast Community Design Studio are working together to host a series of these community events at the Shaw property. Two more will be held in April. Funding for the project comes from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The event will begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 19, 2011, with participants clearing trails through the forest to the historic garden and sheep dip. A picnic lunch will be served at 12:30, followed by a public presentation by a Piney Woods historian at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to join in and speak with local community members. In the event of rain, the event will be held on Sunday, March 20th at the same time.

The Piney Woods of southern Mississippi are intrinsically tied to the timber industry, and to the railroads and waterways that carried the logs down to the Coast for milling. Clearing the old-growth pine trees was the primary industry of the region until the late 1920s when most of the old stands had been cut out. The culture of the lumber camps, turpentine and charcoal production, and timber milling and shipbuilding had a strong impact on the entirety of southern Mississippi through to the present day.

Further detailed information, including historic photographs, maps, and narratives, will be presented to guests next Saturday at the event.

Two more upcoming events are scheduled: Saturday, April 2nd, the Homestead will host a spring planting and a presentation on Homestead Life, including gardening and food preservation; and Saturday, April 30th, the Homestead will host a demonstrative sheep shearing and a presentation on Livestock and the Open Range. All are welcome at these upcoming events as well.

### **TO GET THERE:**

Take Highway 53 North towards Poplarville. After crossing into Hancock County, take a right onto Crane Creek Road. At the four-way stop sign in Barth, take a right onto Barth Rd. The Homestead property is approximately 3.5 miles on the right.

For more information on the Land Trust:

<http://www.ltmcp.org/>

For more information on the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio:

<http://www.gccds.org/>

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