



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

NEWS RELEASE

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Classrooms Statewide Can Take Free Trip To Horn Island and Walter Anderson Museum

(Jackson)- School Administrators and Teachers across the state have a unique opportunity to take their students on a free trip this Earth Day. Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) is hosting an Electronic Field Trip to Horn Island and the Walter Anderson Museum of Art beginning at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 (rebroadcast Friday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m.).

“We are excited to be able to offer this unique experience to students in classrooms from Batesville to Bay Springs and Magnolia to Meridian,” said MPB Operations Director Gene Edwards. “Students will experience the natural beauty and learn about the history of the barrier island that inspired wonderful watercolor works of art and journal writings of Mississippi artist Walter Anderson.”

The hosts for the electronic field trip are Edwards, who will be live from the Walter Anderson Museum of Art, and Mississippi artist Bill Dunlap, who will be live from Horn Island. Edwards and Dunlap will welcome scientists and artists to the hour-long live televised broadcast that explores the relationship between the barrier island and the drawings of the artist.

“This interactive broadcast focuses on how Horn Island inspired the artworks and journals of Walter Inglis Anderson, who was a true “naturalist,”” said Marilyn Lyons, Executive Director of the Walter Anderson Museum of Art (WAMA) in Ocean Springs. “His use of vivid color and fluidity of pattern illustrate the life and movement of the island and its flora and fauna.”

WAMA Curator Dr. Pat Pinson emphasized Anderson’s strong commitment to “community” and his natural environment. “Anderson was unique as an artist in that he heavily identified with a ‘sense of place’—a theme he celebrated in his paintings and writings in *Horn Island Logs*. He believed man could only come to “realize” his own existence through nature and how he fit into his surroundings,” she said.

(more)

Connie Moran is Project Coordinator for this project for WAMA. “It is very exciting to have so many specialists in this broadcast to explain Walter Anderson’s art and love for Horn Island from a natural science perspective,” she said. “We have a remote sensing scientist from NASA, an oceanographer, botanists, marine science experts, and park rangers who have interesting facts to share with the students. I know I have learned a lot of new things myself already!”

The MPB electronic field trip is made possible in part with funding from the Mississippi Coastal Impact Assistance Program, administered by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.

“We hope this program will inspire students to follow Walter Anderson’s lead – to learn about the special places in their own community and to express the beauty and natural history of those places in creative ways. The biological diversity of Horn Island has been protected in large part because of Walter Anderson’s art, journals and how he lived his life,” said Charles Chisolm, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. “This is another example of how the Mississippi CIAP dollars are being used to improve the coastal ecology through education and awareness.”

Students and teachers can submit questions to be answered by the hosts and guests during the live broadcast. Questions can be faxed or emailed before or during the broadcast to:

Fax: (228) 875-4494

E-mail: director@walterandersonmuseum.org

Additionally, the Mississippi Department of Education has developed a website titled “The Horn Island Project” that includes lesson plans, graphics, video clips, and additional classroom resources. The information can be viewed at www.mde.k12.ms.us/hornisland.

The live, one-hour electronic field trip from Horn Island and the Walter Anderson Museum of Art can be viewed on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Television beginning at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 and rebroadcast on Friday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. on the following stations:

Biloxi	WMAH Channel 19	Booneville	WMAE Channel 12
Bude	WMAU Channel 17	Greenwood	WMAO Channel 23
Jackson	WMPN Channel 29	Meridian	WMAW Channel 14
Mississippi State	WMAB Channel 2		
Oxford-University	WMAV Channel 18		
Columbia Translator	W45AA Channel 45		
Hattiesburg Translator	W47BP Channel 47		

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