

# parents & kids

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS for MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES

- Homepage
- Latest Issue
- Media Matters
- Mommy Quotes
- Online Exclusives
- Calendars
- Submit a Calendar Event
- Contests
- Parenting Resources
- Issue Archives
- Writer's Guidelines
- Advertise with Us
- Contact Us



Join Our Mailing List

Email:

Privacy by  SafeSubscribe<sup>SM</sup>



Check out our new [Online Exclusive articles](#): Living Graciously, Living Greenly, and Living Online.

Find the best after school activities for your children in our [2009 After School Resources guide](#).

Read articles from the latest issue of Parents & Kids Magazine, covering topics such as summer activity ideas, and handing down environmental values.



## Pick A Place

### Clinton Community Nature Center

By Jennifer Wigginton

March 2009 Edition

My family has discovered a hidden jewel in Clinton, and if you haven't been, you're really missing out! It's the Clinton Community Nature Center, a non-profit "labor of love" dedicated to offering you and your family 33 acres of pure nature to explore!

Established on land donated by the Price family in 1994, the center is located just off I-20 West near the center of Old Towne Clinton. Besides reminding me of walks I used to take in the woods behind my grandparents' house, our visit last week taught me things about coyotes, rabbit tracks and sassafras root I never learned in junior high. And when my 4-year-old requested his next birthday party be held at the Nature Center, I knew we had hit on a winner!

Our first stop was Price Hall, the center's main building. Built eight years ago of large cypress logs, it features an awesome gift shop in one room and a museum-type area in the next where the kids could see, and sometimes even touch, all kinds of artifacts, animal bones, and preserved wildlife tracks, and view both static and live mammal, fish and insect exhibits. It was in this room that Jerry Walls, the center's director, gave our group a 30-minute presentation that kept the attention of even our youngest listeners, provided a wonderfully interactive intro to science for my first grader and her friends, and proved more than challenging for the middle and junior high kids. Treating us to more than just your run-of-the-mill presentation, Mr. Walls fully engaged our students (and us parents) with questions, quizzes and guessing games. It was my favorite science teacher's class and a cool field trip all rolled into one!

[Article continues after advertisement:](#)

Flip through our latest issues online

Summer Camp 2010:



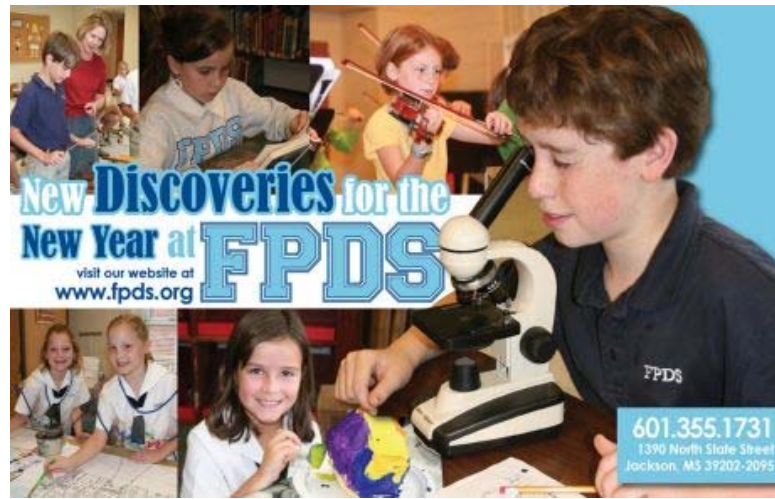
Central Mississippi issue:



Gulf Coast issue:



College Planner 2009:



After the presentation, Mr. Walls took us on a walk in the woods, where we searched for animal tracks and enjoyed sights and sounds most of us don't experience in our own backyards. Two-and-a-half miles of trails wind through the forest where 300 interpretive signs identify plants, trees and historic sites all along the way. Stone benches and fallen tree trunks provided us with a beautiful setting to capture some moments with our children on camera.

Besides being a great place for a field trip, the CCNC offers Saturday at the Center, a weekly program for families and aimed at children of all ages, along with periodic plant sales, an annual Nature Day and a nature lecture series for both individuals and families. There are just too many things to list! Visit the center's website at [www.clintonnaturecenter.org](http://www.clintonnaturecenter.org), then set aside some time to treat your family to one of the best nature reserves our state has to offer!

**Fast Facts:**

- Clinton Community Nature Center
- 617 Dunton Road, Clinton, Mississippi
- For information, call (601) 926-1104 or e-mail [ccnaturecenter@gmail.com](mailto:ccnaturecenter@gmail.com).
- Trails open 7am to sunset daily; Price Hall open 9am-5pm daily and 1-5pm on Sunday.
- CCNC is open to the public free-of-charge, but donations are accepted and appreciated! All donations are fully tax-deductible.
- Visit the Center's website at [www.clintonnaturecenter.org](http://www.clintonnaturecenter.org) for more information and for a schedule of upcoming events.

*JENNIFER WIGGINTON lives in Brandon with her husband and three kids and will be loading up the minivan for another trip to the nature center soon.*

[Homepage](#) | [Latest Issue](#) | [Online Exclusives](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Contests](#) | [Resources](#) | [Archives](#)  
[Writer's Guidelines](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 2007-2010 Parents & Kids Magazine. All rights reserved. Reproduction and/or distribution of material from [www.parents-kids.com](http://www.parents-kids.com) without the express permission of Parents & Kids Magazine is strictly prohibited.

