



# Singing River Electric Power Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Lee Hedegaard, General Manager & CEO  
Lorri Freeman, Manager of Communications  
Amanda Parker, Communications Specialist

For more information call 601-947-4211 / 288-497-1313 x2251 or visit our Web site at [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com)

## Proposed energy legislation will cost more than help



Lee Hedegaard, General Manager and CEO Singing River Electric

The President and the U.S. Congress have placed global warming near the top of their legislative agenda. They want to dramatically reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that American industries emit into the atmosphere because carbon dioxide is thought to be the main culprit behind global warming.

Fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas) are our most prevalent and most economical sources of energy, but they create the most carbon dioxide emissions. It might surprise you to learn, however, that the combined output of all of America's electric generating plants contribute only five of every million CO<sub>2</sub> molecules in the Earth's atmosphere.

Lowering our total emissions of car-

bon dioxide is going to cost a lot of money. Congress' plan for a "light switch tax" is their attempt to effectively reduce the use of fossil fuels by making them so expensive that consumers can no longer afford them. Depending on how it is implemented, the plan may add anywhere from 20 percent to 100 percent to your monthly energy bills.

The problem is that even if we meet the proposed mandates, we will only prevent a total of seven hundredths of one degree Celsius of warming over one hundred years.

The complexity of this topic and the far-ranging consequences of the proposed legislation should concern all of us. We are working to educate our legislators about the need to balance concern for our environment with availability of affordable power.

For more information about this subject, please visit [www.singingriver.com/climate.html](http://www.singingriver.com/climate.html) or [www.findabalancedsolution.com](http://www.findabalancedsolution.com).

## Power cost adjustment increase due to wholesale power costs

Singing River Electric will implement a power cost adjustment (PCA) increase of 2 mills or \$0.002 per kilowatt-hour beginning May 6, 2009. As a result, a member bill for 1,000 kilowatt-hours on the residential rate will increase \$2.00 or 1.7 percent.

This PCA increase is due to increased costs of wholesale power

from South Mississippi Electric Power Association. Wholesale power costs are a pass-through expense and the PCA is an increase or decrease, depending on the cost of generating and purchasing power.

"In 2008, wholesale power cost made up more than 77 percent of our annual expenditures," said general manager and CEO Lee Hedegaard.



## Electric service extension changes in new Area Coverage Policy

Singing River Electric's Area Coverage Policy states that the association will provide single phase overhead electric service to permanent residential dwellings and commercial buildings located less than 1,000 feet from the association's primary facilities with no aid to construction required.

Line extensions to permanent residential dwellings and small commercial buildings greater than 1,000 feet from the association's primary facilities require a non-refundable aid to construction contribution of \$2.50 per foot.

Singing River Electric will provide single phase overhead electric service to non-permanent residential dwellings and commercial buildings located less than 300 feet from the association's primary facilities with no aid to construction required. Non-permanent structures greater than 300 feet from the association's primary facilities and is accessible by association service and construction trucks requires an aid to construction contribution of \$3.50 per foot.

Non-permanent structures including but not limited to mobile homes, manufactured homes, barns, pumps, houseboats, hunting camps, recreational vehicles, meter poles, signs and seasonal loads. Homestead exemption may be used to determine if permanent dwelling is classified as primary or seasonal residence.

All members are required to furnish, at no cost, right-of-way easements over, under or across all property between the association's present facilities and the applicant's service location.

For single phase overhead service, a right of way of 30 feet is required. For three phase overhead service, a right of way of 40 feet is required.

It is the responsibility of the member to initially clear the right of way for the installation of electric service.

Underground charges have also been updated and will take effect in June.

For more information about line extensions, visit any Singing River Electric office or download the brochure at [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com).



**Visit [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com) and learn how to save energy while maintaining comfort!**

# Long-range planning and climate change legislation discussed at annual meeting



Singing River Electric Power Association held its 2009 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 18, in the George County High School Cafetorium.

General manager and CEO Lee Hedegaard welcomed the largest crowd to date and highlighted the cooperative's progress in 2008.

and work items through 2012. **Automated meter reading (AMR)** More than 50,000 meters are currently read daily using AMR technology. Daily meter readings help energy consultants address member bill inquiries and explain why energy use may be higher one day than another.

Instead of sending a serviceman to

cap and trade program to be placed on all industries that emit CO<sub>2</sub>; the proposed tax is over a seven year span starting in 2012," explained Hedegaard. "Costs will likely hit customer bills earlier as utilities prepare in advance for its implementation."

In early 2010, Singing River Electric will redesign its monthly electric statements to include an environmental charge so members can see how much of the utility bill is affected by any environmental legislation.

Singing River Electric will begin a public paper hearing on the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) standards addressing topics such as rate design and smart grids. Residential rates may see a modest adjustment in the final quarter of this year as these federally mandated standards are reviewed and implemented.

**"Costs will likely hit customer bills earlier as utilities prepare in advance for (carbon tax) implementation," said Singing River Electric general manager and CEO Lee Hedegaard of the effects climate change legislation may have on electricity costs if implemented in 2012.**

**Planning for future growth** Singing River Electric ended 2008 in good financial standing and netted 999 new customers.

In an effort to meet the need for more electricity in the future, the cooperative's engineering staff completed and received Board approval for a long range plan projecting load and customer growth for the next 10 years as well as a construction work plan setting budget

obtain a reading after a member moves or sets up service, a customer service representative can retrieve a new reading in 15 seconds without ever leaving the office.

**Climate change and rates** Carbon tax and cap and trade bills to reduce emissions are being introduced into Congress. "President Obama's budget calls for \$650 billion in carbon taxes from a



**Singing River Electric manager of information technology David Miller (left) awards an attendance drawing prize to member Tonya Ferrill.**

- \$600 Proxy Prize Winner:** Rufus Dueitt of McLain
- \$200 Proxy Prize Winners:** Vernon Eugene Cooper of Lucedale, Dorothy Hester of Pascagoula, Bernard Martin of Gautier, Rhonda Crager of State Line, Bernice Brannon of Lucedale

**Thank you for returning your proxies and attending your annual meeting!!**

**Your participation ... that's the cooperative difference!**

**YOUR ANNUAL MEETING HELD APRIL 18, 2009**

## Singing River Electric Power Association NOTICE OF PURPA PROCEEDING

Singing River EPA (the "Association") is holding a proceeding to facilitate the consideration and determination of certain new standards established by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (hereinafter referred to as "PURPA").

The following new PURPA standards will be considered as part of this proceeding:

1. Integrated Resource Planning (26 U.S.C. § 2621 (d) (16)).
2. Rate Design Modifications (26 U.S.C. § 2621 (d) (17)).
3. Smart Grid Information (26 U.S.C. § 2621 (d) (17)).
4. Smart Grid Investments (26 U.S.C. § 2621 (d) (16)).

This proceeding is to be governed by the "Rules for Conducting Proceedings Required by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (as amended by the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005)." Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 2631 (1), the United States Secretary of Energy, any affected electric utility, and any electric consumer of an affected electric utility has a right to participate as a formal party to the proceeding.

In order to participate, Association members may submit a "Notice of Comment" form regarding any or all of the new PURPA standards by June 30, 2009. Notice of Comment forms, as well as other information pertaining to the proceeding and the respective PURPA standards, may be obtained on the Association's website or at any of the Association's offices.

Subsequent to receiving all public comment, the Association Board of Directors will deliberate and make a final determination by December 1, 2009 (prior to the PURPA deadline for such determination, which is December 19, 2009). This determination will be based upon all of the evidence and public comment in the official proceeding record as it supports the three purposes of PURPA: to encourage (i) conservation of energy supplied by electric utilities, (ii) optimal efficiency of electric utility facilities and resources, and (iii) equitable rates for electric consumers.

Below are descriptions of the new PURPA standards to be considered as required by the Energy Information and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). Note that the reference to "electric utility shall" means that the utility shall consider implementing the standard, and does not mean that the legislation requires the utility to implement the standard.

EISA Section 532, PURPA 111(d) (16) INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING. Each electric utility shall –  
(A) integrate energy efficiency resources into utility, State, and regional plans; and  
(B) adopt policies establishing cost-effective energy efficiency as a priority resource.

EISA Section 532, PURPA 111(d) (17) RATE DESIGN MODIFICATIONS TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS.  
(A) IN GENERAL.—The rates allowed to be charged by any electric utility shall—

- (i) align utility incentives with the delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency; and
  - (ii) promote energy efficiency investments.
- (B) POLICY OPTIONS.—In complying with subparagraph (A), each State regulatory authority and each

nonregulated utility shall consider—

- (i) removing the throughput incentive and other regulatory and management disincentives to energy efficiency;
- (ii) providing utility incentives for the successful management of energy efficiency programs;
- (iii) including the impact on adoption of energy efficiency as one of the goals of retail rate design, recognizing that energy efficiency must be balanced with other objectives;
- (iv) adopting rate designs that encourage energy efficiency for each customer class;
- (v) allowing timely recovery of energy efficiency-related costs; and
- (vi) offering home energy audits, offering demand response programs, publicizing the financial and environmental benefits associated with making home energy efficiency improvements, and educating homeowners about all existing Federal and State incentives, including the availability of low-cost loans, that make energy efficiency improvements more affordable.

EISA Section 1307, PURPA 111(d) (18) CONSIDERATION OF SMART GRID INVESTMENTS.  
(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall consider requiring that, prior to undertaking investments in non-advanced grid technologies, an electric utility of the State demonstrate to the State that the electric utility considered an investment in a qualified smart grid system based on appropriate factors, including—

- (i) total costs;
- (ii) cost-effectiveness;
- (iii) improved reliability;
- (iv) security;
- (v) system performance; and
- (vi) societal benefit.

EISA Section 1307, PURPA 111(d) (19) SMART GRID INFORMATION.  
(A) STANDARD.—All electricity purchasers shall be provided direct access, in written or electronic machine-readable form as appropriate, to information from their electricity provider as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) INFORMATION.—Information provided under this section, to the extent practicable, shall include:  
(i) PRICES.—Purchasers and other interested persons shall be provided with information on—  
(I) time-based electricity prices in the wholesale electricity market; and  
(II) time-based electricity retail prices or rates that are available to the purchasers.

(ii) USAGE.—Purchasers shall be provided with the number of electricity units, expressed in kwh, purchased by them.  
(iii) INTERVALS AND PROJECTIONS.—Updates of information on prices and usage shall be offered on not less than a daily basis, shall include hourly price and use information, where available, and shall include a day-ahead projection of such price information to the extent available.

(iv) SOURCES.—Purchasers and other interested persons shall be provided annually with written information on the sources of the power provided by the utility, to the extent it can be determined, by type of generation, including greenhouse gas emissions associated with each type of generation, for intervals during which such information is available on a cost-effective basis.

## Visit [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com) for PURPA information

In 2009, Singing River Electric Power Association is conducting a proceeding to consider and determine if certain new standards established by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) should be implemented. These standards include the following: integrated resource planning, rate design modifications, smart grid information and smart grid investments. A final determination on each of the standards must be completed by Dec. 19, 2009.

The official notification document, at left, is being provided to all members and is a complete notice of the PURPA proceeding and how it will be conducted. If a member would like to participate, he or she can obtain a "Notice of Comment" form from our offices or download it from our Web site at [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com). This form must be completed and submitted by June 30, 2009. The site includes all related information and documents.

## 101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures

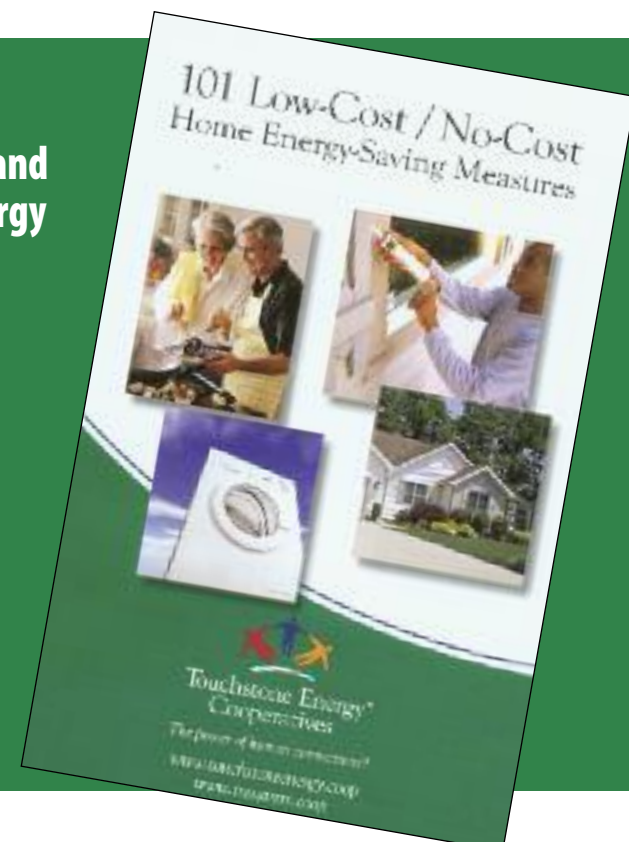
How about 101 ways to save energy that are low cost / no cost to you? Visit [www.singingriver.com/energyguide.html](http://www.singingriver.com/energyguide.html) and download our newest brochure.

The brochure walks you through your home and gives tips for saving energy on topics including water heating, laundry, kitchen, lighting, heating and air conditioning and more.

Tips include:

- Set water heater temperature no higher than 120°.
- Replace any light bulb that burns more than one hour per day with a compact fluorescent bulb (CFL).
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it for 78° in the summer. Set the thermostat to raise a couple of degrees when you leave home.

Download this brochure today and start saving energy at home!



[www.singingriver.com/energyguide.html](http://www.singingriver.com/energyguide.html)

# Think energy-efficiently when you plant and landscape this spring

Solar heat absorbed through windows and roofs makes your air conditioner work harder and gobble up more electricity. But incorporating shading concepts into your landscape design can help reduce this solar heat gain - and your cooling costs.

Shading from trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 9° F. Because cool air settles near the ground, air temperatures directly under trees can be as much as 25° F cooler than air temperatures above nearby blacktop.

Trees can be selected with appropriate sizes, densities and shapes for

**Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (leaves and branches) should be planted on the south side of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading.**

almost any shading application. To block solar heat in the summer but allow much of it in during winter, plant deciduous trees. To provide continuous shade or block heavy winds, use dense evergreen trees or shrubs.

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (leaves and branches) should be planted on the south side of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading. Trees with crowns lower to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles. Trees should not be planted on the southern sides of solar-heated homes in cold climates because branches will block some winter sun.

Although a slow-growing tree may take many years before it shades your roof, it will generally live longer than a fast-growing tree. Also, because slow-growing trees often have deeper roots and stronger branches, they are less prone to breakage by windstorms or heavy snow loads. Slow-growing trees can also be more drought resistant than



Above, this Singing River Electric Comfort Advantage Plus home was built in Gautier surrounded by mature oaks. Deciduous trees strategically located not only add beauty but also add shading and comfort to a home. Below, shrubs and bushes can also provide shade and block winds.

fast-growing trees.

A 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near your home will begin shading windows the first year. Depending on the species, the tree will shade the roof in five to 10 years. If you have an air conditioner, shading the unit can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent.

Trees, shrubs, and ground cover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the home. This reduces heat radiation and cools the air before it reaches your home's walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area.

Vines can also shade walls during their first growing season. A lattice or trellis with climbing vines, or a planter box with trailing vines, shades a home's perimeter while admitting cooling breezes to the shaded area.

Shrubs planted close to the house will fill in rapidly and begin shading walls and windows within a few years.

However, avoid allowing dense foliage to grow immediately next to a home, since the resulting humidity will create maintenance-related problems. Well-landscaped homes in wet areas allow winds to flow around the home, keeping surrounding soil reasonably dry.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



## Types of trees that grow well in Mississippi

### Small trees:

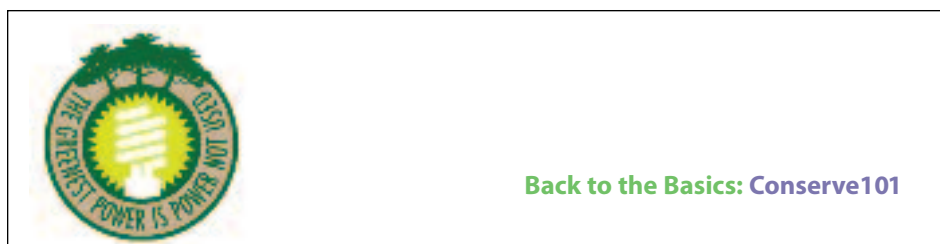
- Southern Wax Myrtle
- Japanese Red Maple
- Crepe Myrtle
- Dogwood

### Medium trees:

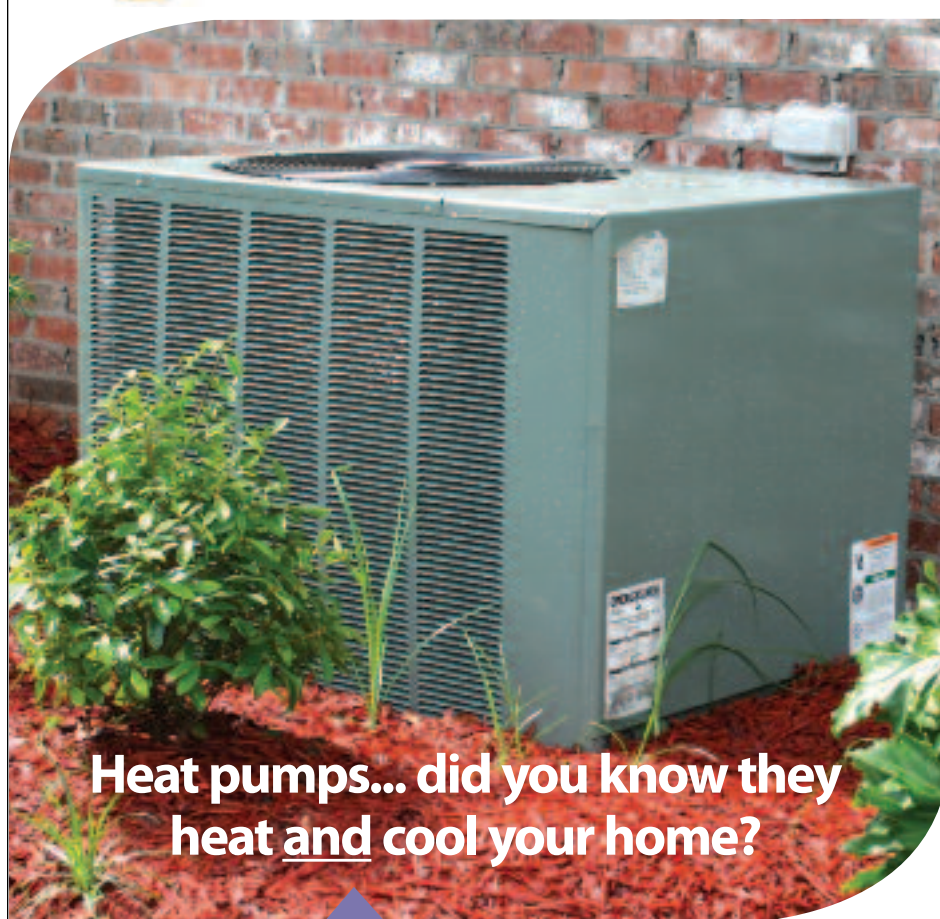
- Pear
- Ginko
- Oriental Magnolia
- English Oak

### Large trees:

- Red Maple
- Pecan
- Pin Oak
- Sycamore
- Pine



Back to the Basics: Conserve101



**Heat pumps... did you know they heat and cool your home?**

In cold weather, heat is pumped into your home making it nice and cozy. In hot weather, heat is pumped out of your home leaving you cool and comfortable. When buying a heat pump, a higher SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) means higher energy efficiency.

Look for ENERGY STAR® units which are 20 percent more efficient than other systems.



**Singing River Electric Power Association**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
www.singingriver.com

## Expert energy tip for members



**Member Services Rep.**  
**Jeff Gray**  
gray@  
singingriver.com

With the summer season upon us, your air conditioning system needs to be operating at 100 percent efficiency. Make sure the filters are changed regularly, and an annual check up may be needed if it hasn't been done in the past few years.

## Singing River NHN grant to Backpack Buddies



*(left to right:) Backpack Buddies co-chair persons Shirley Mullins and Suzanne Williams accept the NHN grant check from SRE communications specialist Amanda Parker with Backpack Buddies volunteer Joe Dempster. They will use grant funds to purchase a laptop computer and printer to maintain accurate records for the program's family data, food inventory and accounting matters. The organization works with the Pascagoula School District in providing weekend nutrition for identified students and their families.*

## Singing River NHN grant to College Park Elementary



*(left to right:) Singing River Electric manager of communications Lorri Freeman stands with excited students and College Park Elementary principal Suzanne Ros as they receive their Neighbors Helping Neighbors Grant check. The school will use grant funds to purchase four calisthenics stations for the school's playground area as part of the Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies project. The physical education teacher will incorporate the exercise equipment into the curriculum and use the stations to promote personal fitness and well-being.*

This check up may include cleaning the indoor and outdoor coils. Also, ensure that the freon level is at the correct pressure.

If you haven't done it already, install a programmable thermostat and set it to

78 degrees during the summer. We estimate every degree you lower your thermostat in the summer, you add five percent to your electric bill.



# Watts Happening

**MAY 7-9**  
**4TH ANNUAL BLUFF CREEK BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**  
Listen to bluegrass bands performing throughout the event. \$25 admission for three-day pass; Thursday only for \$5; Friday and Saturday for \$12 each day. Times: Thursday begins at 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: Noon-10 p.m. Location: Vancleave Multipurpose Arena, 5400 Ballpark Road in Vancleave Contact: 228-826-1179, 228-217-9688 or [www.bluffcreekbluegrass.com/festival.htm](http://www.bluffcreekbluegrass.com/festival.htm)

**MAY 8-9**  
**5TH ANNUAL SOUTH MISSISSIPPI PRO RODEO**  
Enjoy the excitement of bull riding, rode clowns and other entertainment. Admission charged. Times: Begins at 8 p.m. each night Location: Harrison County Fairgrounds, 15321 County Farm Road in Gulfport Contact: 225-978-2342

**MAY 9**  
**4TH ANNUAL VANCELEAVE PEBBLE BLUFF CREEK CAR SHOW**  
View antique cars and enjoy food, entertainment, 50's music, a yard sale and more. Spectators free. Sponsored by the Vancleave Merchants Association. Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Location: Vancleave High School, 12424 Highway 57 in Vancleave Contact: 228-826-5121 or [www.thevma.org](http://www.thevma.org)

**MAY 15-17**  
**OUR LADY OF FATIMA INTERNATIONAL SPRING FESTIVAL**  
Take time to taste ethnic foods, seafood and sweet shop items while visiting the antique car show, golf and tennis tournaments, plant and arts and craft booths, children's activities and more. Times: Friday: 4 p.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Location: Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 2090 Pass Road in Biloxi Contact: 228-388-3887 or <http://fatima-biloxi.com>

**MAY 16**  
**3RD ANNUAL MAYFEST**  
Enjoy this food, music and arts festival featuring bands, arts and crafts and food from around the world. Time: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Location: Government Street in Downtown Ocean Springs Contact: 228-369-4582 or [www.oceanspringschamber.com](http://www.oceanspringschamber.com)

**MAY 16**  
**17TH ANNUAL DEBORAH WASHINGTON MEMORIAL SOAP BOX DERBY**  
See the Moss Point Soap Box Derby where children ages 8-17 race homemade engineless cars through downtown Moss Point. Spectators free. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Riverfront Park in Downtown Moss Point Contact: 228-623-0005

**MAY 16-17**  
**14TH ANNUAL BILLY CREEL MEMORIAL GULF COAST WOODEN BOAT SHOW**  
View historic, antique, classic and contemporary wood boats as well as exhibits, demonstrations, music, food, children's activities and more. Admission charged. Times: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Location: Schooner Pier Complex, 367 Beach Blvd. in Biloxi Contact: 228-435-6320 or [www.maritimemuseum.org](http://www.maritimemuseum.org)

**MAY 23**  
**31ST ANNUAL "MAY SHOW" - COAST ANTIQUE AUTO AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW**  
The Antique Auto and Engine Club of Mississippi hosts this event featuring hundreds of antique cars and motorcycles. Food and music also offered. Spectators free. Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Location: D'Iberville City Hall, Automall Parkway in D'Iberville Contact: 228-224-2256

**MAY 24**  
**SOUNDS BY THE SEA - JACKSON COUNTY**  
Bring lawn chairs and listen to a free concert by the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra. Arrive early to reserve your spot. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Beach Park in Pascagoula Contact: 228-896-4276 or [www.gulfcoastsymphony.net](http://www.gulfcoastsymphony.net)

**JUNE 4-14**  
**23RD ANNUAL COAST COLISEUM SUMMER FAIR**  
Rides, shows, live music and food and drink are all here. Parking is charged. Pay-one-price for rides is available at certain times each day. Times: Vary each day. Call or visit Web site for times and schedules. Location: Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. in Biloxi Contact: 228-594-3700 or [www.mscoastcoliseum.com](http://www.mscoastcoliseum.com)

**JUNE 6**  
**4TH ANNUAL RED, WHITE AND BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL**  
Come enjoy blueberry products as well as fresh produce, antiques, crafts and the many downtown businesses. Spectators free. Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Location: Downtown Ocean Springs Contact: 228-875-4424 or [www.oceanspringschamber.com](http://www.oceanspringschamber.com)

**JUNE 6**  
**80TH ANNUAL GREAT BILOXI SCHOONER RACE**  
Watch as the famous Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum's Biloxi Schooners race along the Mississippi Gulf Coast shoreline under full sail. The race is held in conjunction with the Blessing of the Fleet. Viewing is free. Time: 10 a.m. Location: Mississippi Gulf Coast's Biloxi Channel between the Lighthouse and the Schooner Pier Complex, on the beach in Biloxi Contact: 228-435-6320 or [www.maritimemuseum.org](http://www.maritimemuseum.org)

**JUNE 6-7**  
**80TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET**  
Saturday events include the Fais Do-Do with live entertainment, craft vendors and seafood as well as the Coronation of the Shrimp King and Queen. Sunday features the actual Blessing of the Fleet and ceremonial wreath dropping. Times: Saturday: Fais Do-Do from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m.; Sunday: Blessing at 2 p.m. Location: Biloxi Channel Contact: 228-435-6339 or [www.biloxiblessing.com](http://www.biloxiblessing.com)