

From: Oxford Newcomers and Friends newcomers@oxfordms.com
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To: rosie@oxfordms.com



OXFORD NEWCOMERS *and Friends*



Will April showers bring May flowers? Too early to tell, but May certainly brings more ONC&F events for you to enjoy, including an informative **Educational Program** on May 12th where you'll learn what's new in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric at Ole Miss. Plus coffee and terrific books to read and discuss, and Master Gardener Karen Travillo and Debra Guyton's **Book Chat** group respectively offer great tips on gardening and summer reads! Enjoy!!

BETTER READ THAN DEAD will meet at the home of Nancy Muller, 214 Olde Castle Loop (Windsor Falls) on Thursday, May 27th, at 2:00 pm. The book for discussion will be *Sunrise in Florence* by Kathleen Reid. Rose Maning, passionate about the life of Michelangelo, flies to Florence, Italy to buy an apartment and pursue painting. She experiences her own personal renaissance abroad as she embraces everything Italian and meets Lyon, sophisticated and adventurous, challenging her to see herself in a new light. A mysterious discovery changes Rose's destiny by revealing the character of the men in her life. Dose Rose find something that will alter art history as we know it today? All are welcome! If you prefer virtual meetings, just email chair Nancy Muller at maytarie@att.net, and she will be sure Zoom coordinator Cathy Williamson sends you the meeting link prior to the gathering.

BOOK CHAT is the alternative to the traditional book club. Here, participants chat once a month to share *whatever* they have recently read, or would like to

suggest for others, be it fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or drama. All book lovers are invited! Discuss recent and favorite books or just listen in. Join us on Tuesday, May 25th at 10:00 am (our customary last Tuesday of the month) and share a favorite read! Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting or go to <https://Zoom.us> and enter the meeting ID: 846 3705 4608 Questions? Contact Debra Guyton at debraguyton@bellsouth.net

BOOK CLUB ONE: May's book selection is *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. It has been described as a fabulous glimpse into Indian culture of the 1950s as it portrays one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern. Book Club One will meet on Zoom on Thursday, May 20th (our customary 3rd Thursday of the month) at 2:00 pm. All Newcomers and friends are welcome! Click [here](#) to join us, or go to the Zoom website (<https://Zoom.us>) and enter the meeting ID: 839 5193 6511. Chair: Debra Guyton, (251) 490-6690 or debraguyton@bellsouth.net

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: Please plan to join us via Zoom on Wednesday, May 12th at 10:00 am when we will have three speakers talk with us about **Developments in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric at Ole Miss.** Professor Stephen Monroe, Department Chair, will describe the department, the new Rhetoric degree, and the support to be awarded to students this Spring. Instructor Susan Nicholas will discuss the Willie Morris Awards for Southern Writing, which she coordinates. Professor Don Unger will tell us about the efforts to advance writing as a civic responsibility. Click [here](#) to join us, or go to <https://Zoom.us> and enter the meeting ID: 824 5463 1576 and passcode: 298304. Questions? Ask chair Don Mason, dmason222@gmail.com

OXWINE will resume in June! Watch this space for details. We meet one Sunday afternoon a month to taste different wines; participants team up with friend or spouse and provide a snack and a bottle (of the type of wine being tasted) per each two people. Learn what you like by sipping a variety of different vintages and winemakers! If you're interested in hosting or learning more, contact chair Michelle Harvey at mmautheharvey@att.net

READING FAULKNER will meet on Monday, May 17th at 4:00 pm to complete *Absalom, Absalom!*, focusing on Chapters 8 & 9. We will take June and July off for a summer break and reconvene in August for our study of the Snopes Trilogy. The book for discussion for August will be *The Hamlet*. Please see the Zoom link below. Click [here](#) to join us on Zoom, or connect by going to the Zoom website (<https://Zoom.us>) and entering the meeting ID:873 7691 8797. If you would like to join this group or get more information about it, contact Chair Dianne Fergusson at (662) 236-4088 or sdsferg@bellsouth.net

WOMEN'S COFFEE meets virtually the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. Join us via Zoom at 9:00 am on Friday, May 7th and again on the 21st for

conversation and community. It's a great way to end the week – just join us from your kitchen or patio! Contact Jonell McGivern, jonell52@att.net or (205) 937-2888, and she'll make sure you get the Zoom details before each gathering. Chair: Nellanne Davis, nellanned@aol.com

MAY GARDENING TIPS: In spite of a few chilly mornings last month, it was a delightful time to be in the garden! In my opinion, this beautiful spring is the reward we all get to enjoy for enduring last winter, and I, for one, appreciate it more than ever. For gardeners, there is a therapeutic benefit from digging in the dirt and then watching your efforts come to fruition, and spring is one of the best times to enjoy those efforts.

.....Now that the days are longer and warmer, it's time to finalize any plans you've made for changes to your landscape. At this point, in our yard, we've completed construction of new beds, transplanting, and thinning plants, and installing most of our annuals. I'm still looking for a few specific items that I haven't been able to locate at the nurseries yet, but I always enjoy spending time looking around and typically see something new to try. If you're planting annuals, be aware of the amount of sun they will receive in the location you've chosen. If you are planting in sunny locations, try periwinkle, zinnias, salvia, marigolds, petunias, begonias, and portulaca. Good perennials for sunny locations are verbena and lantana. Not only will they come back next year, but they have the added benefit of being deer resistant. If you're adding annuals to shady areas, try, impatiens, lobelia, annual dianthus, coleus, and sweet alyssum. Blooming this month are magnolias, buddleias, gardenias, abelia, some azaleas, especially Encore and the smaller gumbo variety, ranunculus, alyssum, irises, bleeding hearts, daisies, verbena, day lilies, sweet William, thrift, and vincas. Crepe myrtles will also begin to bloom in May.

.....If you are adding crepe myrtles in your landscape, purchase them when they're blooming and select the color you're wanting. However, you should be aware that crepe myrtle bark scale made its way to Mississippi several years ago and can create a real maintenance issue. If you currently have infected crepe myrtles, it is time to treat them by applying a soil drench of an imidacloprid product. These are sold under several names and are readily available at local hardware and big box stores. The best window for treatment and control is late April through May, but it can be applied as late as July.

.....Another area of maintenance to pay attention to in May is fertilizing. If you haven't already done so, all woody ornamental shrubs should be fertilized this month. It is recommended to use a fertilizer that has a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio. For example: a 12-4-8 fertilizer is a 3-1-2 ratio, and a 16-4-8 fertilizer is a 4-1-2 ratio. Azaleas should be fertilized after they've finished blooming using a fertilizer specifically formulated for them. You also want to fertilize your turfgrass after it has turned green and been mown twice. You can also purchase a commercial preparation. I recommend staying with one specific brand and following the schedule on the package. If you are having widespread issues with your lawn, you can get your soil analyzed through the Lafayette County Extension Service; they can make specific recommendations

Lafayette County Extension Service, they can make specific recommendations.May is the time to prune camelias, gardenias, and azaleas. You want to make sure to trim these after their flowers drop but before they set new buds in June. To maintain a natural shape to azaleas, I always look for long leggy stems and trim them back inside the plant. They really should not be trimmed into hedges or a specific shape.

.....If you enjoy vegetable gardening and haven't already planted, there is still time for cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, squash, peas, beans, eggplant, corn, okra, watermelons, and cantaloupes. We have been using grow boxes for several years now, and enjoy the easy preparation, minimal maintenance and bountiful produce! If you have limited space or mobility issues, these or raised beds may be a good option for you.

Happy Gardening, Karen Travillo, Master Gardener Lafayette County

MAY READING SUGGESTIONS: If you loved Ron Chernow's compelling biography, *Alexander Hamilton*, you might enjoy Stephanie Dray's and Laura Kamoie's *My Dear Hamilton: A Novel of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton*. It's an interesting story of the remarkable wife of Alexander Hamilton loosely based on historical documents. Another unforgettable historical tale of hope and courage is *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris, based on interviews with Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz tattooist Lale Sokolov.

.....Two memoirs that you might enjoy are Ty Seidule's *Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause*, a blend of history and memoir from a retired brigadier general and Professor Emeritus of History at West Point, and *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey, an unconventional memoir filled with raucous stories, outlaw wisdom, and lessons learned the hard way about living with greater satisfaction.

.....Summer might be the perfect time for Anne Tyler's new novel, *Redhead by the Side of the Road*, a heartwarming tale about a cautious man whose life is thrown off kilter with very funny results. Even if you've seen the movie, you may want to read *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder. As an older seasonal worker, Bruder meets people from all walks of life trying to survive in a precarious economy.

.....On a lighter note, fans of cozy mysteries know that a trip to The Cookie Jar, Hannah Swenson's famous bakery, will always result in a delightfully page-turning whodunit. Two delicious ones are *The Coconut Layer Cake Murder* and *The Triple Chocolate Cheesecake Murder* by Joanna Fluke, complete with recipes.

ONC&F MAY 2021 CALENDAR

Saturday, May 1, Kentucky Derby

Friday, May 7, **Women's Coffee** 9:00 am

Sunday, May 9, Mother's Day

Wednesday, May 12, **Educational Program** 10:00 am

Monday, May 17, **Reading Faulkner** 4:00 pm
Thursday, May 20, **Book Club One** 2:00 pm
Friday, May 21, **Women's Coffee** 9:00 am
Tuesday, May 25, **Book Chat** 10:00 am
Thursday, May 27, **Better Read than Dead** 2:00 pm, 214 Olde Castle Loop
Monday, May 31, *Memorial Day*

MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE from the MS Dept of Health:
All Mississippians aged 16 or older are now eligible for vaccination. Those 18 and older may be vaccinated free of charge at MSDH drive-through sites; click here to [find a first-dose vaccination appointment](#) at no charge. Look for second-dose scheduling information in your appointment confirmation e-mail. Second dose appointments should be made 3-5 weeks (for Pfizer vaccine) or 4-6 weeks (Moderna) from your first vaccination. *For help with drive-through vaccination appointments, call 877-978-6453.* Click on the following link to [find a pharmacy or health clinic near you offering vaccinations](#) After you are vaccinated, the MSDH asks that you please continue to observe social distancing, mask use, and other protective steps to help prevent the possible transmission of COVID-19 to those who have not yet been vaccinated. [Click here for more about vaccination providers and vaccination appointments](#)
[Click here for the Mississippi COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#)



Leisure Lifestyles



2021 Summer Schedule

Exercise Classes

Yoga – Coach Howell

Room 106-107

STEVI SELF

10:30-11:30 A.M.

MON, WED

Cardio Fit –OAC Court 4

KELLY WAITE

9-10 A.M. TUE, THU

Dancing with a Twist

<p>BETSY BANNER 5:30-6:30 P.M. MON, THU 12:15-1:15 P.M. TUE, THU</p>	<p><u>OAC-Multi-purpose</u> LEIGH JURNEY 5:30-6:30 P.M. TUE, THU</p>
<p><u>Pilates—Coach Howell</u> <u>Room 106-107</u> MICHELLE COHEN 9-10 A.M. WED, FRI</p>	<p><u>Tai Chi – Coach Howell</u> <u>Room 106-107</u> CHRIS ALOIA 5-6:15 P.M. TUE 10-11:15 A.M. SAT</p>
<p>Classes will begin May 3 and run through July 31. Registration is available at oxfordparkcommission.com</p>	

MAY QUICK BITES are virtual talks offered through the Mississippi University State Extension Service on Thursdays from noon - 1:00 pm. Click on the titles to register and receive the Zoom link for each session.

- **[Flowers Just Like Mama Made](#)** May 6th at 12:00pm
 Lynette McDougald, Instructor, Plant and Soil Sciences, will take a nostalgic look at floral design this month. Everything from containers, mechanics, and collected flowers just like our Mom’s might have used.
- **[FireScaping Your Landscape](#)** May 13th at 12:00pm
 Holly Campbell, Public Service Assistant, Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, will talk about an advanced educational program on FireScaping. Holly will share how to teach others how to design a landscape that is fire safe. This program will serve as an introduction to determine additional interest in the topic.
- **[Let’s Make: A Marble Clay Dish](#)** May 27th at 12:00pm
 Jennifer Williams, Extension Agent II, Lincoln County, offers the perfect solution for something to hold all those knickknacks and jewelry! Not only is this project cute, but it’s budget friendly. Join us to learn how to make a marble clay dish. This project is fun, easy, and practical.

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Updates to share? Send to ONC&F Communications Chair
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