

# Stone County is full of *Drama*



Stone County student Ronda Labouche and Friends of the Library Sue Mason-Family Bonds Reading Program.

By Kathryn Lewis

When 125+ thespians from MS Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston Campus get together to celebrate 40 years of Perk Players touring companies, musicals and theatre - there are plenty of memories, lots of laughter and drama... and a few tears. Each year, the Perk Players Children's Touring Company averages 35 performances to thousands of children in South MS. In addition to the Children's Company the Players present musicals, dramas, workshops, and performing and art summer camps. The reunion held during MGCCC's Homecoming week-end Oct 15-16 attracted Perk Players from across the USA - TX, CA, NC, GA, FL and NY and included professional actors, film editors, college professors, school teachers, judges and doctors. From Oct-Dec the 2010 Perk Players toured with their production of *South MS, A-Z... U and Me* to more than 30 schools. The original script, based on the book *The Longleaf and Me... A-Z*, features Piney the Red Fox squirrel leading the audience down a trail- to discover this place we call "home". The performances also offered lesson plans, books and professional development opportunities for the schools and their teachers. The children had the chance to perform with Tank the armadillo and Buzzer the cicada; "I am a star" one child proudly stated. On the afternoon of January 29 the Perk Players and authors of the book will offer the performance, a book signing and arts activities for children in South MS.



Above Right: Dr. Rebecca Jernigan, professional storyteller visits Stone County for workshops and performance.



Stone County and the art of storytelling were celebrated in Los Angeles, CA - when *The Telling Trees* Project Director Kathryn Lewis received the National Service and Leadership Oracle Award representing the Southeast for exemplary leadership and service to the community through storytelling.

President of the Friends of Stone County Libraries Sue Mason shares Anansi with Stone County student Rhonda Labouche. In addition to this MS Humanities Family Bonds Reading Program, 18 volunteers from the



Friends organization celebrated the *Jumpstart* Reading Program-Read Across America. Real snow didn't fall in Stone County; however storytellers and children's imagination combined to "make snow" in the classrooms of Stone County through their participation in Jumpstart... presenting Ezra Keats *The Snowy Day* to more than 600 Stone County students.

The stories continue with Professional Storyteller Dr. Rebecca Jernigan conducting storytelling workshops and a performance to support the Telling Trees Project and Len Blackwell's newly published book - *The Perk Paperboy Stories*.

Books also tell stories and Stone County was excited to welcome Award Winning Nature Photographer Stephen Kirkpatrick for his inaugural book signing for his newest book

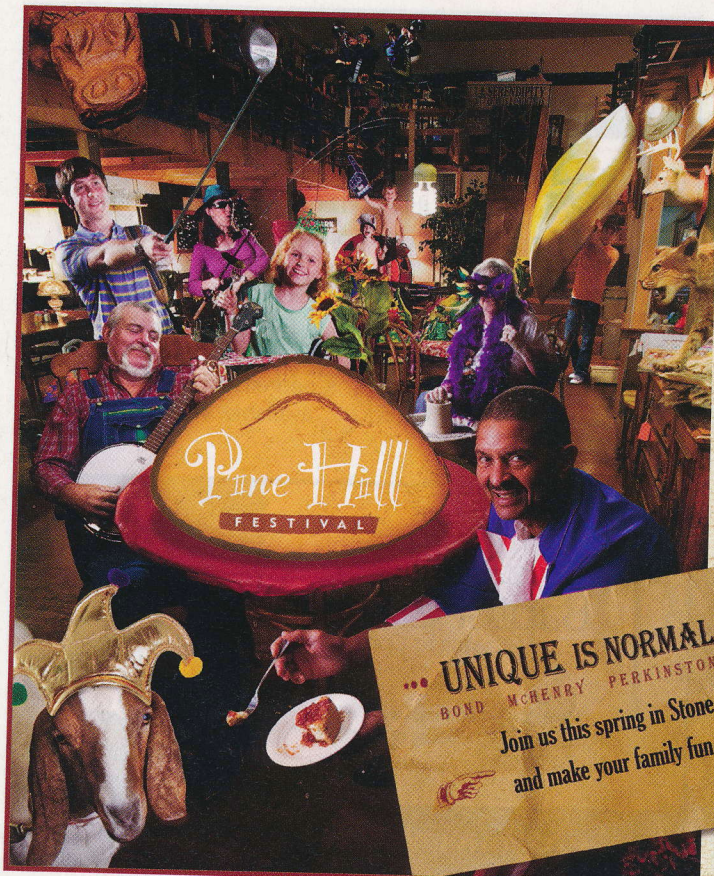
*Sanctuary* celebrating South MS and its ecosystems.

Stone County is full of the wonderful *drama* of life and its stories.



Above: Award Winning Nature Photographer Stephen Kirkpatrick signing his newest book "Sanctuary" at Over the Top Ice Cream Shop in Wiggins

Left: Oracle Award winner Kathryn Lewis.



Mardi Gras Parade in Downtown Wiggins  
on Saturday, March 5th at 11:00 am

Pine Hill Festival in Downtown Wiggins  
on Saturday, April 9th

5K run, 10K run, Kids Fun Run

Soapbox Derby

Art Pavilion

Food, Crafts and Vendors

Live Entertainment and local bands



Stone County Economic Development Partnership

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