

## Attachment - Nomination Form

### Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum, Leland, Mississippi

#### **Section 1 – Qualifications #1:**

The Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum reveals the wildlife in the southern Mississippi River area. There are many species of waterfowl with the river being located at the center of the Flyway during the annual migration of ducks and geese. The Museum talks about the generations of outdoorsmen that have hunted and fished along this part of the river.

Outdoor industry heavyweights, hunters, fishermen, outdoors-men & outdoors-women with their outdoors-kids, many curious entered the doors of the old Joe Turner Hardware Store at the main intersection in Leland, Mississippi, to see that elderly dark & dingy building turned into a bright new world of almost every joy the Great Outdoors has to offer at the Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum.

The Mississippi Outdoor Hall of Fame formally inducted the seventeen members who have so far been voted in – from former slave and bear hunter Holt Collier, born in 1846 to today's Mississippi films/camo/calls Kings trio of Toxey Haas, Ronnie "Cuz" Strickland, and Will Primos – with appropriate and deserved praise and even a little preaching! "God's Great Outdoors" was the theme of several honoree's remarks.

There are many ways that Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum offers Mississippi River-related experiences through the exhibits, programming and the character of our location. Many of these ties into one or more of the 11 designated themes including the river's role as a source of life and nourishment for people, plants, and animals; the influence of people on the river and the importance of conservation; folklife including literary, unique collections of Mississippi-made turkey and duck calls; American history; and historic river transportation.

One of Mississippi's best kept secrets is the Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum located in the small Delta town of Leland. It is located on the corner of Third and Broad in the historic Joe Turner Hardware building. The building is over 100 years old, and the curators maintained as much of the original building as possible. The hardwood floors are original to the building. The dozens of antique fishing lures are housed in bins that once held bolts, nuts and nails. Billy Johnson, the originator of the museum said that much of the original building was maintained and that native wood like cypress was used in any remodeling.

The museum is chock full of hunting and fishing memorabilia. There are three large rooms holding hundreds of exhibits. Tours are encouraged. A visit to the Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum is a perfect outing for sportsmen and women, church groups, school groups, scouts, or a family outing.

### **Section 1 - Qualifications #3:**

The Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Foundation works to preserve the history, heritage, and traditions of hunting, fishing, and the great outdoors in Mississippi. The Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum's purpose is to honor the people that have been a part of it, and to educate the public on the vast natural resources of the great state of Mississippi. The museum will chronicle the evolution of hunting and fishing in our state as well as the outdoor photographers and artists that have portrayed it. The museum contains over 3000 vintage photos, firearms, fishing rods, and pieces of outdoor equipment. A special section in the museum will feature our state's duck and turkey call makers. Text panels reflect the many aspects of life on the Mississippi River. Visitors will appreciate an impressive collection of vintage hunting and fishing memorabilia as well as Mississippi's bowhunter's deer collection on display.

Throughout the year, the Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum hosts many educational and interpretive exhibits. The Museum features "A Great Flood Exhibit" with photos and items, to commemorate the greatest natural disaster in American history with the anniversary of the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927. The Museum hosts the Smithsonian Institution's Hometown Teams Traveling Exhibit during the month of September. The Museum arranges the exhibits, trophies, pictures, and artifacts during the winter and spring to showcase local wildlife, the great outdoors, and river life.

The Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum has a large collection of boats from Indian dugout canoes to cypress boats that have been used on the river for many years as well as old and modern outdoor motors. Also have a large collection of river fossils such as mastodon tusks and bison skulls are displayed at the Museum.