

Geocaching at Clinton Community Nature Center

By Guest Columnist Kelly Robinson

Have you heard? Have you tried? I am talking about geocaching. It is a real life, outdoor treasure hunt happening right now in Clinton, Mississippi, and all across the world. Geocaching began in 2000, when GPS technology no longer had selective availability. From that day forward, anyone with a GPS device could accurately pinpoint the location of a treasure left behind, and geocaching was born.

To date, there are millions of treasures, geocaches, around the world. There are 103 caches hiding within five miles of Clinton. Geocaching is a great event to get out and get active, because it combines treasure hunting, clue deciphering and can be slightly competitive when trying to find the more difficult caches. There are over a dozen different types of caches varying in size, difficulty level and contents. Geocaching was a favorite



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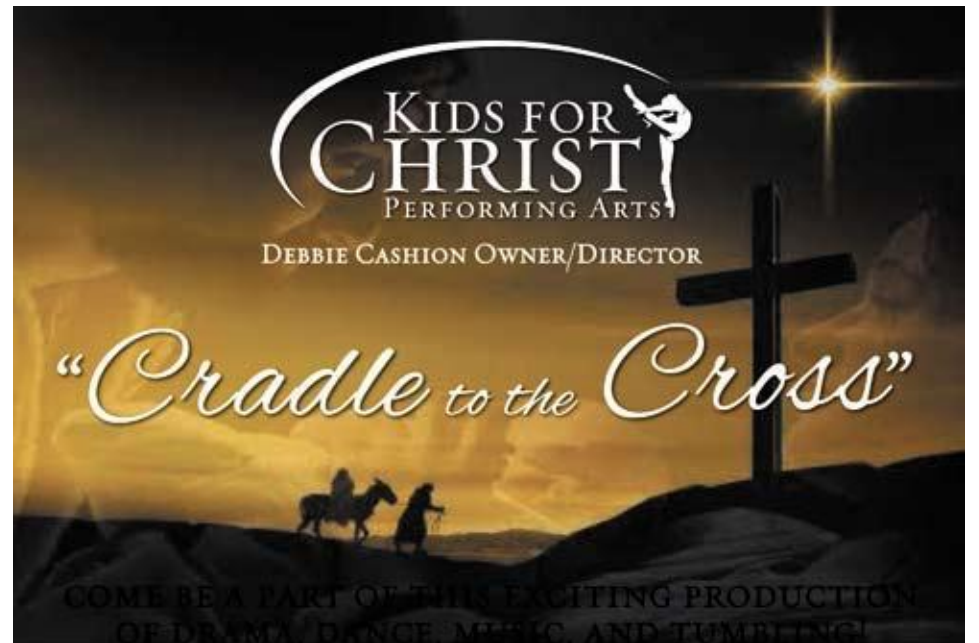
event at the Clinton Community Nature Center camp last summer. Youth took time to decode and reveal the location of one cache while using clues to find another. There are two caches in our thirty-two-acre nature preserve.

So, how do you get started? Visit geocaching.com and register for a free basic membership. Once registered, members are able to see the list of geocaches in Clinton. Geocaches are named and contain GPS coordinates. When you find the caches, sign the log, and replace it just as you found it before logging your experience online. Some caches contain "trackables," which are a sort of game piece that travels from location to location. You can follow its log online to see where it has been and where it's trying to go.

So, if you are looking for a new way to enjoy the Clinton Community Nature Center, or just enjoy a good treasure hunt, try geocaching!

For more information about the Clinton Community Nature Center and our programs, please call 601-926-1104. We are located at 617 Dunton Road in Clinton.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kelly Robinson is the education director for the Clinton Community Nature Center.



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