



May 2011

**In honor of national preservation month, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation offers this first issue of its e-news, a monthly electronic newsletter about preservation alerts, events and news from around the state.**

## ALERTS

### **Tornado Storm Damage to Historic Places – Your Eyes and Ears Needed!**

Last week's storms changed the lives of many Alabamians. We at the Alabama Trust send our heartfelt condolences to those who lost loved ones and best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who suffered injury or property damage.

As communities across the state begin the process of rebuilding, it will undoubtedly be discovered that many historic places have been damaged or destroyed. The Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, working with the support of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to assess what assistance is needed for affected historic properties and communities. The first step in the assessment is the compilation of a list of historic places that were damaged as well as those that were destroyed.

When circumstances permit, please send information about damaged or destroyed properties in your community to the AHP at [alabamatrust@uwa.edu](mailto:alabamatrust@uwa.edu). Include the name of the property, location, kind of damage, assistance needed (small grants, volunteer labor, etc.) and the name and phone number, or e-mail address, for a contact person.

### **Protect Alabama's Underwater Treasures**

Pending before the Alabama Senate is H.B. 104, to amend the Underwater Cultural Resources Act. By amending the current Underwater Cultural Resources Act by redefining the term "cultural resource" as shipwrecks only, the bill will open Alabama waterways to the unregulated looting of significant archaeological sites, including those eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historical Places or the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. Prehistoric remains, Native Alabamian and Civil War artifacts, and other historical cultural material would no longer be protected. For more legislative contact information, visit [www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info).

## EVENTS

### **ANNISTON**

#### **Tuesday, May 10, 6:00- 8:00 pm – PBS Documentary "Freedom Riders"**

Preview screening of the PBS/American Experience documentary Freedom Riders at the Anniston High School Auditorium, 1301 Woodstock Ave. Free Admission. Sponsored by Solutia.

#### **Thursday, May 12, 9 a.m. – Freedom Ride Mural and Historic Marker Unveiling**

Unveiling of murals and signage about the Freedom Bus Rides at the historic Greyhound and Trailways bus station buildings. (Greyhound -1031 Gurnee Ave; Trailways - 9th & Noble St.)

Sponsored by Spirit of Anniston.

#### **Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m. – Opening of "Courage Under Fire" Exhibition**

Public opening and reception for the "Courage Under Fire" exhibition featuring images captured during the May 1961 Freedom Rides bus burnings in Anniston by *Anniston Star* photographer Joseph Postiglione. Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County (108 E. 10 St.). Admission Free.

### **BIRMINGHAM**

#### **Saturday, May 7, 9:30 – 10:30 am – The Bungalows of Birmingham**

At Vulcan Park, lecture and discussion with author and restoration consultant Jane Powell. Sponsored by the

Historic Norwood Neighborhood Association. For more information and tickets, visit [www.historicnorwood.com](http://www.historicnorwood.com).

**Saturday, May 7, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm – Historic Norwood Hard Hat Tour II**

Home tour celebrating 100 years of the Historic Norwood Neighborhood. Visit homes restored and under restoration. Sponsored by the Norwood Neighborhood Association. Ticket and tour information available at [www.historicnorwood.com/2011hardhattour](http://www.historicnorwood.com/2011hardhattour).

**Thursday, May 12, 5:30 - Downtown Birmingham Architecture Tour**

Architectural walking tour of Birmingham's historic commercial district led by architectural historians Alice Bowsher and Phillip Morris. Social following tour at the architectural studio of Jeremy Erdreich. Reservations required. Sponsored by the Jr. Patrons of the Birmingham Museum of Art and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, e-mail [mgibson@artsbma.org](mailto:mgibson@artsbma.org).

**LIVINGSTON**

**Saturdays, May 21 and 28, 8:00 am – 10:00 am – Walking Tours of the Historic Black Land Prairie**

Guided walking tours of the historic Black Belt Black prairie area begin in late May and continue on Saturdays through mid-June, the peak bloom period for wildflowers. Restoration and walking tours of the prairie are sponsored by the Black Belt Conservation and Research Institute, University of West Alabama. For more information, contact the Center for the Study of the Black Belt at **205-652-3828** or [centerforblackbelt@uwa.edu](mailto:centerforblackbelt@uwa.edu).

**MOBILE**

**Friday, May 6, Noon - Church Street Graveyard Tour**

Conducted by John Sledge, architectural historian and author. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Mobile Historic Development Commission. For reservations, call **251-208-7281**.

**Wednesday, May 18, Noon - African American Heritage Trail Walking Tour**

Stroll through downtown Mobile visiting eight key landmarks along the Trail. Tour begins and concludes at Cathedral Square. Admission is free. Sponsored by the African American Heritage Trail and the Mobile Historic Development Commission. For more information, call **251-208-7281**.

**Tuesday, May 24, 5:30 p.m. - Old Shell Road Tour of Homes**

Visit five homes along Old Shell Road: 1015, 1116, 1204, and 1250. All homes have been stabilized by Restore Mobile and are for sale. Admission is free. Sponsored by Restore Mobile and the Mobile Historic Development Commission. For more information, call **251-208-7281**.

**Thursday, May 26, 5:30 p.m. - Doing Dauphin**

An architectural walking tour of Mobile's premier commercial thoroughfare conducted by Cart Blackwell, architectural historian. Tour begins at the Van Antwerp Building and concludes at Wintzell's. Admission is free. Sponsored by Mobile Historic Development Commission. For more information, call **251-208-7281**.

**MONTGOMERY**

**Friday, May 20, 9:30 am – Freedom Rides Museum Opening**

Opening of new Freedom Rides Museum at the former Greyhound Bus Station commemorating the Freedom Bus Rides of 1961. Tours and book signing from 11:00 am – 4 pm on Friday and Saturday. Sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission. For more information, visit [www.preserveala.org/calendar/](http://www.preserveala.org/calendar/).

**SELMA**

**Saturday, May 7, 10:00 – 11:00 am – Civil War Walking Tour of Old Cahawba**

Known as Alabama's first state capitol, Cahawba played a significant role in the Civil War. Guided tour the the Old Cahawba archeological site. For walking tour information, call **334-872-8058**.

## NEWS

### **Historic Huntsville Foundation Celebrates Preservation Month with Grant Awards**

The Historic Huntsville Foundation (HHF) will celebrate national preservation month by awarding more than \$60,000 in grant funds to worthy preservation projects in the Huntsville/Madison County community. HHF's Through the Garden Gate Grant program is funded through sales of *Through the Garden Gate: The Gardens of Historic Huntsville*, a coffee-table style book that showcases gardens in three downtown historic districts of the city.

Since its publication in 2005, the *Through the Garden Gate* book has sold more than 4,000 copies. Bruce Walker, chairman of the Historic Huntsville Foundation, credits Donna Castellano, book author and project manager; Charlie Seifried, photographer; and Betty Altherr-Howard, graphic designer, with "...producing a book that so beautifully illustrates the appeal of historic neighborhoods. It is so appropriate that money raised through showcasing the successes of historic preservation should go back into our community to aid other preservation projects."

For more information about the Through the Garden Gate Grant program or to order a copy of *Through the Garden Gate: The Gardens of Historic Huntsville*, contact the Historic Huntsville Foundation at **256-539-0097** or email [preserve@hiwaay.net](mailto:preserve@hiwaay.net).

### **Brun Takes Leadership of Historic Chattahoochee Commission**

Mike Bunn, Curator of History at The Columbus Museum in Columbus, Georgia, will assume duties as executive director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) on May 23rd. He replaces outgoing executive director Doug Purcell who has served in this capacity for almost 39 years.

Prior to assuming the position of Curator of History at The Columbus Museum in 2004, Bunn was Assistant Curator of Exhibits at the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. He has served as Volunteer Special Projects Coordinator with the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society and as a Research Assistant at the Birmingham Historical Society. His preservation leadership includes work with the Chattahoochee Trace region of Alabama and Georgia, including RiverWay South, Historic Westville and the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, and serves as co-chair of the Chattahoochee Valley Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Planning Committee. As chair of the HCC's board of directors he served as Commissioner of the Alabama Historical Commission.

Organized in 1970, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission is a joint-state agency of Alabama and Georgia for heritage tourism program of work. For information about the HCC, call **877-766-2443** or e-mail [trace@eufaula.rr.com](mailto:trace@eufaula.rr.com).

## **SUPPORT THE ALABAMA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

### ***Historic Places Make Life Better!***

To join the ATHP, renew your membership or send a contribution, call **205-652-3497** or donate online at [www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info).

Send events and news submissions for the ATHP e-newsletter to the [alabamatrust@uwa.edu](mailto:alabamatrust@uwa.edu). Deadline for submissions is the third Friday each month for distribution the following month.

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