



## Alabama Trust For Historic Preservation - ENews

**Vol. 2, Issue 2**

### ALERTS

#### **Underwater Cultural Resources Act Under Attack**

Alabama's Underwater Cultural Resources Act is under attack again. A new bill, Senate Bill 81, is being introduced when the Senate convenes on February 7. This bill will remove protection from all underwater artifacts located in Alabama waterways, with the exception of shipwrecks. This will leave all of our Native American sites, forts, human burial grounds, and other historic sites vulnerable to damage and looting for personal gain.

Proposed Senate Bill 81 is being introduced as a result of House Bill 104 being defeated this past spring. We are asking all preservationists, archaeologists, and concerned citizens to please contact their Senator and ask them to reject Senate Bill 81. Help us protect Alabama's history. Take action now. To access contact information for your senator, click here: <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/misc/zipsearch.html>

#### **Elyton School Under Threat of Destruction**

Birmingham's second oldest school, the Elyton School, circa 1908, is under threat of destruction. According to *The Birmingham News*, a newly constructed senior citizen apartment complex is being planned for the site. Vantage Development of DeKalb County is pushing for a zoning change for the Elyton School property from R4 to R6 to make way for the project. The City of Birmingham owns the historic school that was closed in 2003. Since Elyton School was shuttered, it has suffered from vandalism and neglect, which has led to a deterioration of the structure.

We will keep you posted on this situation as it begins to unfold. For now, public attention is being drawn to the plight of Elyton School. The potential loss of this historic structure should be a 'call to action' for Birmingham preservationists and neighborhood residents.

### NEWS

#### **Southern Mills Symposium to be held in Georgia**

The Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation (Georgia) will host *Southern Mills: Economically Smart/Socially Responsible* on Saturday, February 4. This one-day symposium on historic mill redevelopment will feature noted speakers Andrew Ham, Myrick Howard, Tom Liebel, and Don Rypkema. They will discuss the redevelopment of significant historic properties and how much these large-scale projects can economically impact a community and meet community needs. The symposium will bring attention to the abandoned 18-acre Southern Mills property located 1.2 miles from downtown Athens, Georgia.

The Southern Mills Symposium is partially funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Registration fee is \$75. For more information, visit [achf@bellsouth.net](mailto:achf@bellsouth.net) or call 706-353-1801.

### **Auburn University to Hold Public History Workshop**

On Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, Auburn University will hold a two-day symposium entitled *Intersections and Meeting Grounds: Public History and Community*. The sessions will explore the roles of community, institutional, and academic partners in public history collaborations. The symposium will bring together a diverse range of panelists working in Alabama and across the South to address strategies and approaches for sharing authority, making effective decisions, resolving conflict, and encouraging community engagement. For more information contact Dr. Evelyn D. Causey, 334-444-4490, or [causey@historymatters.net](mailto:causey@historymatters.net).

### **Call for ATHP Preservation Awards Nominations**

Deadline for nominations for the 2012 Preservation Awards from the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and the Black Heritage Council of Alabama (BHC) is February 15. For ATHP Preservation Award nomination forms, visit [www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info). For AHC and BHC nomination information and forms, call 334-230-2680.

### **Places in Peril Nominations Open**

The Alabama Trust and the Alabama Historical Commission are now accepting nominations for 2012 Alabama's Places in Peril List. Deadline for submission is March 1. To download a nomination form, please visit [www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info).

### **Endangered Properties Trust**

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation offers the Endangered Properties Trust for historic structures within our state. The mission of this grant program is to be a "lender of last resort" for historical properties of important significance facing exceptional threats when all other financial options have been exhausted. If your organization has a historic structure that is being threatened, you may qualify for this program. Past loans have been awarded to 501(c)3 preservation and community organizations, not to individuals.

The Endangered Properties Trust administers two funds: the Intervention Fund, a last-ditch source of loans, materials or services that will save imminently threatened historic buildings; and the Revolving Fund, which is utilized to transfer a historic property acquired through gift or option to purchase, to new, preservation-minded owners, with the proceeds returning to the fund for future projects.

To learn more, visit [www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info).

### **Alabama Preservation Conference**

The Alabama Preservation Conference, *Lighting the Way for Preservation*, will be held Thursday, May 10 through Saturday, May 12 in Birmingham. Accommodations will be at the historic Tutwiler Hotel, with special conference room rates. Deadline for the conference rate is April 13. Call 205-322-2100 to make your hotel reservations. Ask for the ATHP block rate.

More conference details to come. Mark your calendar now. You don't want to miss this!

### **National Rosenwald School Conference to be Held in Tuskegee**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will host the *National Rosenwald School Conference: 100 Years of Pride, Progress & Preservation* in Tuskegee from Thursday, June 14 through Saturday, June 16. If your community has a Rosenwald School located in or near it, you will not want to miss this conference. For more details, visit [www.preservationnation.org/rosenwald](http://www.preservationnation.org/rosenwald).

### **ATHP Website Being Updated**

The website is being updated. Look for new information, a changed format, and expanded services. Our web address is [www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info).

### **History On Air**

Alabama Public Television is airing four history programs in February. *Jefferson County Sound*, a history of Black gospel quartets, produced by Alabama native Robert Clem, will air Monday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. The documentary features the Birmingham Sunlights and the Blind Boys of Alabama.

*Freedom Riders*, a re-broadcast of the American Experience documentary about the 1961 Freedom Bus Rides, will air Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

*Slavery By Another Name*, a Sundance Film Festival selection for 2012, is a documentary based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by *Wall Street Journal* senior writer Douglas A. Blackmon. The film explores the little-known story of the post-Emancipation era and the labor practices and laws that effectively created a new form of slavery in the South, which persisted into the 20th century. Blackmon examines the concept of “neoslavery,” which sentenced African-Americans to forced labor for violating an array of laws that criminalized their everyday behavior.

And, for children and adults alike, *Exploring Mount Vernon*, produced by Alabama Public Television, takes the viewer on a field trip to the home of the nation’s first president. The program includes interviews with living history re-enactors including Martha Washington, General Washington, and the plantation’s farmer and blacksmith, among others. Produced for Web and television broadcasts, historic interpreters will answer questions submitted online by Alabama’s school children and teachers. *Exploring Mount Vernon* will air Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and noon.

## **EVENTS**

### **BIRMINGHAM**

#### **Sunday, January 1 – Friday, February 17 - *Mapping Birmingham***

Chart the aspirations and growth of Birmingham from its founding to present day. The exhibition’s artifacts and maps of the city offer glimpses into Birmingham’s past and its vision for the future. See Frederick Law Olmsted’s vision of a unified park system for Birmingham and glimpses of yet-to-be-realized plans for Birmingham’s system of parks and revitalized historic districts. Location: Vulcan Park and Museum, 1701 Valley View Drive. Admission: Adults \$6; Seniors \$5; Youth \$4; Free under 4 yrs. For more information, call 205-933-1776 or email [info@visitvulcan.com](mailto:info@visitvulcan.com).

#### **Through March – *It Takes a Village***

Alabama Power Company’s exhibit, *It Takes a Village*, looks at life during Alabama Power Company’s expansion from 1912 to 1930 when six dams and two steam plants brought energy to the state’s cities, towns, and rural farms. This exhibit highlights Company Camps throughout the state. The exhibit is open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free. For tour information, contact Bill Tharpe at 205-257-2067 or [watharpe@southernco.com](mailto:watharpe@southernco.com).

### **HUNTSVILLE**

#### **Sunday, January 1 – Thursday, May 31, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – *100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey Exhibition***

Visit this exhibition commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wernher von Braun's birth in March 1912. Artifacts in the exhibit include not only items from his career as a rocket scientist, but also those that show a more personal side of the family man, musician, and pilot. Location: U.S. Space and Rocket Center, 1 Tranquility Base. Admission: Adult, \$20; Youth \$15; Children 3 and under, Free. For more information, call 1-800-63-SPACE or visit [www.ussrc.com](http://www.ussrc.com). (Note: Also in commemoration, "Missile To Moon", an APT-produced documentary about von Braun's and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's role in U.S.'s race into space, will air in March.)

## MOBILE

### **Thursday, February 16, 5:45 p.m. – An Evening In History**

Historic Mobile Preservation Society's *An Evening In History* will feature Patrick Fink of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Fink will present *NOAA Office of Coast Survey: Charting America's Course in Mobile Bay Since the Days of Thomas Jefferson*. *An Evening In History* will be held on Thursday evening, February 16 at the Oakleigh Historic Complex. Refreshments served at 5:45 p.m. and the program begins at 6:00 p.m. sharp. Admission is free to all HMPS members and \$10 for guests. For reservations, call 251-432-6161.

### **Friday and Saturday, March 16 & 17 – 2012 Mobile Historic Homes Tour**

Historic Mobile Preservation Society will hold their annual *Mobile Historic Homes Tour* on Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 in the DeTonti Square Historic District. Tour private homes in Mobile's oldest residential neighborhood. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and will close at 4:00 p.m. Supporting events include cemetery tours, events at the five historic house museums and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of and \$17 for groups of 10 or more. For more information, call 251-432-6161. Proceeds benefit the Historical Mobile Preservation Society and the Oakleigh Historic Complex.

## MONTGOMERY

### **Thursday, February 16, Noon - ArchiTreats**

The Alabama Department of Archives and History will host this month's *ArchiTreats: Food for Thought*, on Thursday, February 16 at noon. February's program will be *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts of Women in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee* by Gwen Patton. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks provided. *ArchiTreats* is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and is co-sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov) or call 334-353-4726.

## SELMA

### **Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 – Selma Pilgrimage**

The Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society will hold their annual Selma Pilgrimage on Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17. This longstanding spring event will feature some of Selma's most historic properties. Tickets are on sale at the Pilgrimage Headquarters, Vaughn-Smitherman Museum, 109 Union Street, or by calling 1-800-457-3562. For more information, visit [www.selmapilgrimage.org](http://www.selmapilgrimage.org).

## SHELBY COUNTY

### **Sunday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. – Shelby County Birthday Celebration**

The Shelby County Historical Society will be honoring the 194<sup>th</sup> birthday of the founding of Shelby County at the 1854 Old Courthouse in Columbiana. Special program guests include ADAH's Dr. Ed Bridges presenting

*The Birthing of a State*, Alabama Tourism Director Lee Sentell presenting *The Year of Alabama Food*, Porch Band of Creek Indians Cultural Director Robert Thrower, and U S Congressman Spencer Bachus.

## **WILCOX COUNTY**

### **Saturday, February 25, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. – Wilcox County Homes Tour**

The Wilcox Historical Society is sponsoring *Early Wilcox County Citizens and Their Homes* on Saturday, February 25 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Camden. This delightful tour will include a collection of private homes, historic structures, Black Belt Treasures and the Gee's Bend Ferry and Ferry Terminal. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and children under 6 are free. For advance ticket sales, contact Black Belt Treasures at 334-682-9878 or [info@blackbelttreasures.com](mailto:info@blackbelttreasures.com).

## **OTHER**

### **Share Preservation Statewide – Send Event Information and News Stories to the ATHP**

For the e-Newsletter, send submissions by the third Friday of each month for publication in the next month's issue. For the spring issue of *The Alabama Trustee* submit news and jpeg images by March 1st. Send submissions for both publications to [alabamatrust@uwa.edu](mailto:alabamatrust@uwa.edu)

### **Support Preservation In Alabama**

Share the spirit of giving. Make a beginning-of-the-year gift to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. To make a contribution in support of preservation, call **205-652-3497** or donate online at [www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info).