



November 2013

Volume 3 Number 12

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Alerts

Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation - Ballot for 2014 Board of Directors Online

Members of the ATHP have the opportunity to elect officers and new board members for 2013 by voting online December 1 - 15. Ballots can be cast (only one per ATHP member, please) at <http://www.alabamatrust.info/ballot.php>.

Alabama Preservation Conference for 2014 Announced - April 24 - 26

The Preservation Conference planning committee announces dates and location for the 2014 statewide conference to be held in the historic Florence, Muscle Shoals and Tusculumbia cites, Thursday, April 24 through Saturday, April 26. Mark these dates on your preservation calendar of events and watch for more information in the January issue of the Alabama Trust *Preservation E-newsletter*.

B.B. Comer Bridge Gaining Support - Funding Deadline Drawing Near

News from Scottsboro, the Jackson County Discretionary Fund Committee approved a \$3,500 award of TVA-In-Lieu-of-Tax funds to the Comer Bridge Foundation (CBF) in support a December site visit by bridge preservation experts. Matching funds from the CBF secured \$7,000 of the \$11,000 needed to underwrite the cost of the bridge consultant site visit. For more information, visit <http://comerbridge.org/>.

NEA Proposals Supporting Historic Venues for the Arts Deadline - January 14

Deadline is next month for Our Town proposals for projects revitalizing historic venues for projects that promote the arts. For preservation efforts or projects to revitalize historic downtowns with historic spaces re-adapted for arts venues, an opportunity exists under this NEA grant program. For more information, visit <http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town>.

Share the Spirit of Giving - Preserve Alabama's Historic Treasures

Share the spirit of giving with a holiday gift to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. To make a contribution to support Alabama's historic treasures, call 205-652-3497 or donate online at www.alabamatrust.info.

Events

The winter holiday season is a time when preservation organizations across the state dust-off and light-up their historic treasures with tours of historic buildings and festive events to benefit preservation efforts in their communities. Support the preservation of Alabama's historic sites by participating in one or more of these events.

BALDWIN COUNTY

Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 8, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Tour of Historic Bottle Creek Indian Mounds

Take a one-hour cruise up the Tensaw River led by Blakeley State Park crew to Bottle Creek, an 18 earthen mound site and the largest Mississippian chiefdom (AD 1200-1400) on the north-central Gulf coast. A pristine archaeological site on Mound Island in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, the island's walking tour includes climbing the largest mound standing at 45 feet. Walking tour led Dr. Greg Waselkov, Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies, University of South Alabama. *Dress warmly; wear hiking boots; bring cameras, binoculars, water, lunch and snacks. Seating capacity limited to 50, boat not readily handicapped accessible. Bug spray provided.* Departure Location: Lower Bryant's Landing, Hwy 225, near Stockton. For map and directions to Bryant's Landing, email bgums@southalabama.edu. Reservation Fee: Adults, \$35; Children 6 to 12 years, \$15. To make reservations or for more information, contact Blakeley State Park at 251-626-558.

CHAMBERS COUNTY

Friday, December 6 - Tuesday, December 24 - Historic Langdale Mill Christmas & Merry-Go-Round

A 57-year event, the City of Valley's Christmas and Merry-Go-Round started as a holiday gift for mill workers and their families from benefactor West Point Pepperell Manufacturing Company. The community tradition continues as the City of Valley's Cotton Mill Christmas. Location: Historic Langdale Mill, 6000 20th Avenue, Valley. Admission: Free, donations welcomed. Sponsor: City of Valley. For more information, call 334-756-5290 or 334-756-5220.

COLBERT COUNTY



Sunday, December 8, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - A Plantation Christmas at Belle Mont

Historic Belle Mont becomes the scene of a holiday party, its spacious rooms decked with traditional greenery and fruit. Period music and vintage ballroom dancers entertain as guests enjoy refreshments with the opulence and hospitality of the "Old South." Belle Mont Mansion (1828) is one of the few examples of Palladian-style houses in Alabama and the Deep South. The style derives

from the neoclassical architectural style of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. Location: Cook Lane, 3 miles south of intersection US 43 and US 72, Tuscumbia. Admission: Adults, \$6 adults; Children 6-12 years of age, \$3; Children 5 years or younger, free. Sponsor: For more information, call 256-383-0783.

HALE COUNTY

Sunday, December 8, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Greensboro Porches and Parlors Holiday Tour

Experience Christmas in the Black Belt with visits to some of the regions finest historic homes. Tours include the historic Coleman-Pate House (early 20th century), Cothran-Smith House (1880s), Magnolia Grove (1840), Magnolia Hill (1855), Noel-Ramsey/Old French House (1822) and Oakhampton (1840). Visitors will enjoy the Mistletoe Market and musical performances throughout the afternoon in Greensboro's historic Presbyterian Church. Ticket Location: Greensboro Elementary Gymnasium at 1801 South Street. Advanced Ticket Sales: The Partridge Berry, 1305 Main Street. Tickets: Adults, \$20; Children 12 and under, \$5. Mistletoe Market Tickets: \$5. Sponsors: Greensboro Area Business and Tourism Association, Hale County Historical

Society and Historic Magnolia Grove. For more information, call or 334-624-8741 or 334-624-8618.

LAWRENCE COUNTY



Tuesday, December 3, 1:00 p.m. - Historic Pond Spring Heritage Wreath Making

Visit Confederate General "Fighting" Joe Wheeler's historic home for a winter afternoon of holiday wreath making. Visitors will make wreaths from heirloom boxwood cuttings from Miss Annie's Garden. Once home to prehistoric Native Americans, Pond Spring is the post-Civil War home of Gen. Joseph Wheeler, a Confederate major general, a U.S. congressman, and a Spanish-American War general. Following the Civil War, Wheeler became a national symbol for reunification and reconciliation. Wheeler's daughter, Miss Annie Wheeler, served in three wars as a Red Cross nurse. Location: 12280 Alabama Hwy 20, Hillsboro. Ticket: \$40. For more information, call 256-637-8513.

LIMESTONE COUNTY

Saturday, December 14 - Historic Mooresville Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner

Alabama's oldest continuing municipality, the Town of Mooresville, annually hosts its Holiday Progressive Dinner to benefit preservation efforts in the circa 1805 town. To the delight of visitors, traditional fresh greenery, berries, and fruit decorate the historic homes of Mooresville. Increasingly popular, two of three dinners are sold out. Act quickly for remaining reservations. Location: Mooresville, Exit 2, I-565. Meal and Tour Tickets: \$60. Tour Tickets Only: \$30. Sponsor: Historic Mooresville. For more information, visit <http://www.mooresvilleal.com/progressive-dinner/> or call 256-355-2683 or 256-350-7049.

LOWDNES COUNTY

Saturday, December 7 - Sunday, December 8, 10 a.m. - 4: p.m. - The Battle of Holy Ground/Creek War Bicentennial Event

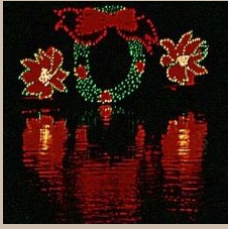
Period camps will be erected along the bluffs of the Alabama River. Displays will be open to the public both days with battle reenactments at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Park visitors may observe the battle from the overlook boardwalk in the park, as the warriors and soldiers fight in the woods beneath the bluff. In December 1813, the Battle of Holy Ground, between Alabama's Creek Indians led by Red Eagle and American forces under General Claiborne, with Pushmataha's Choctaws as allies, fought at the Creek village Econochaca on the Alabama River. American forces killed 21 Creeks and forced the rest into the Alabama River and surrounding swamps. Red Eagle was the last Creek to retreat by leaping his gray horse, Arrow, from a 12-foot bluff into the Alabama. Location: Holy Ground Battlefield Park, 300 Battlefield Rd, White Hall near Lowndesboro. Admission: Free to the public. Sponsor: US Army Corp of Engineers. For more information, call 334-875-6247.

MADISON COUNTY

Saturday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Spirit of Christmas Past and Luminaries Home Tour

Take a nostalgic walk down luminary lit streets and avenues in Huntsville's historic Twickenham District. Tour private residences, the Weeden House Museum and other historic buildings ornately decorated for the holidays. Musicians add to the festive holiday spirit! Admission: Adult, \$15; Children 12 or under, \$5. *Proceeds benefit the Weeden House Museum and projects in the historic district.* Tour Starts: Historic Weeden House, corner of Greene St. and Gates Ave, Twickenham Historic District, Huntsville. Sponsor: Twickenham Historic Tour Association. For more information, visit <http://weedenhousemuseum.com>.

MARENGO COUNTY



Wednesday, December 4 - Saturday, December 7 - Christmas On The River/Holiday Tours of Historic Gaineswood Plantation Mansion

Enjoy the holidays on the Tombigbee River with tours of historic Demopolis, Nautical Parade, BBQ Cook-Off, fireworks and more. Don't miss the **Candlelight Evening Tour of Historic Gaineswood (1843) Plantation House**, December 6 or take a daylight tour on Saturday, December 7. The Greek Revival home will be festively decorated for the holiday season. Tours by the Gaineswood Belles. Historic Gaineswood Location: 805 S Cedar Ave, Demopolis. For more information regarding event times and locations,

visit <http://www.demopolischamber.com/COTR/cotr-calendar.asp>. For Historic Gaineswood information, call 334-289-4846.

MOBILE COUNTY

Friday, December 5, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Historic Oakleigh Candlelight Christmas

Visit Oakleigh in all its Christmas splendor for a candlelight tours of the historic house museum. Music will lift the spirits of guests and refreshments will add to their enjoyment. Location: Historic Oakleigh Mansion Complex, 350 Oakleigh Place, Mobile. Tickets: \$15. Sponsor: Historic Mobile Preservation Society. For more information, call the Oakleigh Gift Shop at 251-432-1281 or e-mail manager@historicoakleigh.org.

Saturday, December 6 - Saturday, December 28, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Christmas at Oakleigh

Enjoy the holiday season with a visit to Oakleigh decorated with period holiday touches. Experience a delightful tour of both the Historic Oakleigh Mansion and the Cox-Deasy Cottage. Last tour of the day begins at 3:00 p.m. Following each tour, guests are served spiced tea and refreshments. Location: Historic Oakleigh Mansion Complex, 350 Oakleigh Place, Mobile. Tickets: Adult, \$10; Children 3 to 12 years, \$5. Tickets for groups of 10 or more: \$7 per person. To schedule a tour, contact the Oakleigh Historic Complex at 251-432-1281 or email manager@historicoakleigh.org.



Sunday, December 8 - Bragg-Mitchell House Holiday Open House

The holiday season is right around the corner and it's time for the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion's annual Christmas Open House Fundraiser. Guests are invited to make this Christmas *A Southern Christmas* by spending an afternoon at the historic antebellum mansion decorated with traditional decorations, homemade refreshments and children's storytelling with seasonal and sacred music completing the experience. Location: 1906 Spring Hill Avenue, Mobile. Admission: Adults, \$8; Children, \$5. *All*

proceeds benefit the continuing preservation of Bragg-Mitchell Mansion. For tickets, go to www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information, call 251- 471-6364 or visit www.braggmitchellmansion.com.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Monday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Old Alabama Town Holiday Tours

Visit Old Alabama Town in December and celebrate the holiday season. OAT's house museums will be authentically decorated for the holidays. Enjoy a special exhibition in the Reception Center and individual self-guided tours of the OAT's historic structures. Guided tours for groups of 10 or more available by reservation only. Location: Old Alabama Town, 301 Columbus St, Montgomery. Admission: Free to the public. Sponsor: Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery. For more information, call 334-240-4500.

Monday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Ralph D. Abernathy Civil Rights Lecture Series

Lecture, *A Celebration of the 58th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott: Creating a New Vision in America* presented by the Rev. James Lawson, Pastor Emeritus; Holman United Methodist Church, Los Angeles. Location: Ballroom, J. Garrick Hardy Student Services Center, Alabama State University, Montgomery. Admission: Free to the public. For more information, call 334-229-4854.

Friday, December 5, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Old Alabama Town Holiday Open House & Musical Review

Celebrate the holidays early-Alabama style. Enjoy live holiday music and history, traditional pioneer crafts for children, storytelling and costumed guests with cookies and hot cider by the fire. Musical holiday revue by Karren Pell with special guests Tom House from Nashville, Marty Martin, Tim Henderson and Toni Wood. Location: Old Alabama Town, 301 Columbus Street, Montgomery. Admission: Free to the public. Sponsor: Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery. For more information, call 334-240-4500.

Monday, December 5, 12 and 19, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Holiday Tours of the Governor's Mansion

Governor and Mrs. Robert Bentley will open the Governor's Mansion and Farley-Hill House for Christmas candlelight tours for three Mondays in December. The public is invited to visit the Mansion and celebrate the holiday season. Enjoy the holiday decorations done by volunteers across the state. *Governor and Mrs. Bentley are collecting canned food to be donated to the Montgomery Area Food Bank. Visitors are asked to make a donation of a canned good.* Location: 1142 South Perry Street, Montgomery. Tickets: Free, available at the Governor's Mansion Gift Shop, 30 Finley Avenue, Montgomery.

Thursday, December 19, Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Architreats: Food for Thought Lecture

Presentation, *Alabama's Got the Boll Weevil Blues* by James C. Giesen. Location: Farley Auditorium, Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery. Admission: Free. Sponsors: Friends of the Alabama Archives and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, call 334-353-4726 or visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

SUMTER COUNTY



Friday, December 20, 7:00 p.m. - Surcarnochee Revue: A Joyful Christmas

Enjoy this live performance of blues, bluegrass, country, and gospel musical traditions rooted in the history and legacy of the Black Belt. A syndicated radio and television show, the *Sucarnochee Revue* is taped live at the University of West Alabama. Location: Bibb Graves Hall, University of West Alabama, Livingston. Admission: \$10. Sponsor: Center for the Study of the Black Belt.

For more information, call 205-652-3828.

News

Alabama Humanities Foundation Brings *MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET*

The Smithsonian's *The Way We Worked* exhibition is on tour through six Alabama towns. The exhibition, which opened its tour during the summer in Red Bay, can be seen in Ashland through Christmas Day. Exhibition stops for 2014 include Andalusia, Fairhope, Northport and Wetumpka. The exhibit focuses on how Alabamians worked over time and place and highlight the work experiences of Americans as part of the nation's story.

The Way We Worked, with its one-month stops, gives Alabama residents and students in small or rural communities of 8,000 people an opportunity to experience programs and activities in conjunction with the exhibit. Dr. John F. Kvach, assistant professor of history, University of Alabama in Huntsville, is visiting host towns as a key figure in the program. Kvach will supplement the traveling exhibit with teacher workshops and public lectures as well as an oral history project that will record the voices of state residents.

An oral history part of the exhibition trains public school teachers and high school students how to conduct interviews with local residents. The oral history component of the exhibit and the exhibit itself will allow students to engage in documenting their history of their local community while encouraging the public to help preserve Alabama's historical legacy.

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation salutes the Alabama Humanities Foundation for bringing the *Museum on Main Street* program to Alabama and supporting the state's historic culture. The *Museum on Main Street* exhibition is a gift to the people of Alabama.

WHY HISTORIC PRESERVATION MATTERS

Birmingham's Historic Norwood Neighborhood Garners National Recognition by *This Old House*

The historic Norwood neighborhood has been listed among the nation's best historic neighborhoods by a familiar name in home preservation and restoration. *This Old House Online*, the companion website to the long-running PBS television show and magazine, cited Norwood for its easy commute and bargain prices for the historic homes. Categories to make the list include best bargains, best for first-time homeowners, best for retirees, easy commute and best city living. To read more, visit this website at http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2013/11/birminghams_norwood_neighborhood.html.

Historic Dallas County House Finds New Home in the Interest of Preservation

What happens when history collides with FEMA regulations on the banks of the Alabama River? In Dallas County, troubled waters cut a new course in preserving the historic Molette House (1825) thanks to Eleanor and David Chetham, who moved the house several miles to avoid compromising its structural integrity. William Molette, the original owner of the house, moved to the Alabama Territory in 1817, before statehood was granted. Family lore has it the house was built the same year, while the American Historical Buildings Survey officially lists 1825. To read more, visit the following site at www.selmatimesjournal.com/2013/11/06/19th-century-home-moved-renovations-planned/#ixzz2lsO4cH3D

NOTICES

ATHP Office Holiday Schedule

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation office, located on the University of West Alabama campus in Livingston, will be closed from Tuesday, December 18 through Monday, January 7, 2014. The office will resume regular business hours on Tuesday, January 8, 2014. Correspondence during the office closure can be sent via email to alabamatrust@athp.org.

Rikards Grist Mill Closed for the Winter

Rikard's Mill Historical Park, located in Beatrice, is closed for the winter following its annual Cane Syrup Makin' Day. Holiday gifts of syrup, grits and cornmeal are available at the Bird's Nest Gift Shop, Old Courthouse Museum on the Square in Monroeville. For additional information, contact the Monroe County Heritage Museum at 251-575-7433 or mchm@frontiernet.net.

To make a contribution to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, visit www.alabamatrust.info or call 205-652-3497 or send a check to ATHP, Station 45, UWA, Livingston, AL 35470.

SHARE PRESERVATION NEWS AND STORIES STATEWIDE

To send EVENT information and NEWS stories for November issue of the Preservation E-newsletter by November 20. Email alabamatrust@athp.org. Please flag for Preservation E-News.

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