



May 2013

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# Alerts

### **Update on Alabama Historic Tax Credit Bills Pending - Take Action Now**

HB140 has passed the Alabama Senate's Committee on Finance and Taxation Education. The bill is now before the Rules Committee, which must place it on the Senate's special order calendar for a vote. Senators on Rules Committee should be contacted and encouraged to do so with an amendment to extend the Sunset of the HB140 from 3 years to 5 years. Three years is not sufficient time for most preservation projects to be completed and the benefits of the bill to be evaluated. Most likely HB140 will come before the full Senate for a vote next week. Act now and contact members of the Rules Committee: Chairperson, Waggoner; Vice Chairperson, Holley; Members: Beason, Bedford, Dial, Dunn, Figures, Glover, Irons, Orr, Pittman, Sanford, Scofield, and Bussman.

To voice support, visit the Legislature's website at <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLoginFire.asp>.

For more information, visit the Alabama Trust Advocacy website at [www.alabamatrust.info/public-policy-legislative-alert.php](http://www.alabamatrust.info/public-policy-legislative-alert.php).

### **Funding Opportunity for Historic Museums - Deadline July 1**

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is supported through a cooperative agreement between the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the American Association of Museums. It is designed to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses, and plan for the future. For more information visit, [www.ims.gov/applicants/detail.aspx?GrantId=10](http://www.ims.gov/applicants/detail.aspx?GrantId=10).

### **National Historic Preservation Month**

May is Preservation Month when the nation turns its attention to its historic treasures - those saved for future generations and those endangered of being lost to us all. Take a part in saving our nation's past by volunteering and making a contribution to local historic preservation groups and to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. To make a gift to the Alabama Trust call 205-652-3497, donate online at [www.alabamatrust.info/](http://www.alabamatrust.info/) or send a check to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, UWA - Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470.

### **Summer and Fall Preservation Lyceum Weekends Announced**

Mark calendars for the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation's quarterly Preservation Lyceums for the first weekends in August and November. On August 2 - 3, explore what's happening in restoring historic Livingston and Greensboro. November 1 - 2, explore the historic roots of Lee

and Macon counties sacred spaces and more. Watch the Alabama Trust's website at [www.alabamatrust.info/](http://www.alabamatrust.info/) for future postings on program details and registration information.

# Events

## COLBERT COUNTY



### **Wednesday, May 15, 8:30 - 3:30 p.m - Free Storytelling Workshop**

Workshop faculty Delores Hydock and Bill Huddleston. In the morning, explore the paintings of Norman Rockwell with Delores Hydock and learn how Norman Rockwell's paintings can teach how to paint stories with words. During the afternoon from Bill Huddleston, learn the methods of providing "safe" spaces where community and family stories can come to light and flourish. Morning Workshop Location: George S. Lindsey Theatre, University of North Alabama campus, Florence; Afternoon Workshop Location: Florence Lauderdale Public Library, 350 North Wood Avenue, Florence. Sponsor: University of North Alabama. For more information, visit [www.una.edu/storytelling](http://www.una.edu/storytelling) or call 256-765-4208.

### **Friday, May 17 - Saturday, May 18, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Front Porch Storytelling Festival**

Celebrate Alabama's long-standing oral history tradition listening to the state's best-of-the-best storytellers at the 3rd Annual Front Porch Festival. Guest storytellers include Rick Bragg, Donald Davis, Diane Ferlatte, Delores Hydock, Bill Lepp and Barbara McBride-Smith. Schedule includes special evening events from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. each day. Location: Guillot University Center, University of North Alabama, Florence. Admission: \$25 for 1-Day Ticket; \$40 for 2-Day Ticket; \$15 for Evening-Only Ticket. Sponsor: University of North Alabama. For more information, visit [www.una.edu/storytelling](http://www.una.edu/storytelling) or call 256-765-4208.

## DALLAS COUNTY

### **Saturday, May 4 - Civil War Walking Tour of Old Cahawba**

Cahawba played a significant role in the Civil War. Walk with park experts and learn more about Alabama's first state capitol city. Location: Old Cahawba Archeological Park, 9518 Cahaba Road, Selma. For more information, call 334-872-8058.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

### **Wednesday, May 1 - Saturday, November 30 - Marching On: The Children's Movement at Fifty**

Exhibition telling the story of the 1963 Children's Crusade through the words of the foot soldiers who made it happen, the young people of that day, now adults, reflecting on the past. Location: Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, 520 16th Street North, Birmingham. Admission: Varies by age and exhibition. Sponsor: Southern Christian Leadership Conference. For more information, visit [www.bcri.org](http://www.bcri.org) or call 205-328-9696, x-234.

### **Wednesday, May 1 - Saturday, September 29 - A Place of Our Own: Birmingham's Fourth Avenue District**

Exhibit illustrating how Birmingham's Fourth Avenue business and entertainment district served as a haven and gathering place during the early 1900s for local African-American entrepreneurs, A.G. Gaston and William Pettford, and other professional leaders. The district's entertainment venues brought wealthy and middle-class African Americans in contact with counterparts in the working class - a connection that would later prove crucial to the success of the Civil Rights Movement. Location: Vulcan Park and Museum, 1701 Valley View Drive, Birmingham. Admission: Varies by age. For more information, times and specifics, visit [www.visitvulcan.com](http://www.visitvulcan.com).

### **Thursday, May 2, Noon - 1963 Children's March Re-Enactment**

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 Children's March for Civil Rights, 1,400 Jefferson County school children will pay tribute to the original Children's March participants by marching from the historic 16th Street Baptist Church, around Regions Field, to Railroad Park.

Location: Begins at 16th Street Baptist Church, corner of 16th Street and 6th Avenue N, Birmingham. Sponsors: Alagasco, Birmingham Barons, City of Birmingham, CoxMedia Group, Miles College, Railroad Park, Sweet Home Alabama and 16th Street Baptist Church. For more information, call 205-254-2498 or 205-908-7392.

#### LAWRENCE COUNTY

##### **Saturday, May 25 - Sunday, May 26 - Historic Joe Wheeler Home Farewell Tours**

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to tour Pond Spring, the home of Confederate General "Fighting" Joe Wheeler, with retiring Site Director, Melissa Beasley. Experience a "behind the scenes" look at the historic mansion and grounds. Saturday tours at 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday tours at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Location: Historic Pond Springs, Hillsboro. For more information, call 256-637-9291.

#### MADISON COUNTY

##### **Friday, May 17 - Saturday, May 18 - Historic Mooresville Tour Weekend**

Don't miss this May weekend in Alabama's oldest incorporated city (1818) of 53 residents. Weekend events include Friday's painting and culinary workshops, private home tours, dinner and concert by John McCutcheon. Saturday's schedule includes walking tours of Mooresville's historic tree-lined streets and historic buildings, traditional artisan and craft demonstrations and roving musicians. Please note that Mooresville streets will be closed to vehicular traffic. Parking is provided at the town entrance. Admission: Dependent upon choice of events and age. Location: Historic Mooresville, Exit 2, Mooresville Road, I-565. Sponsor: Historic Mooresville. Proceeds benefit Mooresville's historic preservation. For more information and reservations, visit <http://www.moorevilleal.com/>.

#### MOBILE COUNTY

##### **Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - 2nd Annual Oakleigh Porch Tour**

Enjoy this stroll of porches among some of Mobile's finest historic houses. Tour includes 12 homes. Location: Oakleigh Garden Historic District, Mobile. Admission: \$10. Proceeds benefit the Mobile Historic Preservation Society. Sponsor: Mobile Historic Preservation Society. For more information, visit [www.oakleighporches.com](http://www.oakleighporches.com).

##### **Thursday, May 9, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting of the Mobile Historic Preservation Society**

The annual meeting and preservation awards for Alabama's oldest historical society. Location: Athelstan Club, 170 St. Francis Street, Mobile. Admission: \$15. A cash bar will be available for libations. For reservations, call 251-432-6161.

##### **Thursday, May 16, 5:45 - 7:00 p.m. - An Evening In History**

Mobile architect Ben Cummings will discuss the Cook's House Restoration Project. Program includes a Hammer & Nails tour of the cook's cottage. Wine uncorked at 5:45 p.m.; lecture begins at 6:00 p.m. Location: Oakleigh Historic Mansion, 350 Oakleigh Place, Mobile. Admission: Free to HMPS members; \$10 for non-members and guests. For more information, email [hmps@bellsouth.net](mailto:hmps@bellsouth.net) or call 251-432-6161.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

##### **Thursday, May 2, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - An Evening with Winston Groom**

Enjoy this spring gather with Alabama's New York Times, best seller- author Winston Groom. Meet the man behind *Forrest Gump*, *Shrouds of Glory* and *Shiloh, 1862*. Groom will speak about his Civil War ear books, which can purchased following the presentation. He also will be available to sign books. Refreshment and libation will served prior to Groom's presentation. Location: The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 315 Clanton Avenue, Montgomery. Admission: Free, donations are encouraged. Proceeds benefit the Relics Collection for the First Confederate White House. Sponsor: White House Association of Alabama. For more information, call 334-242-1861.

##### **Thursday, May 16, Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Architreats: Food for Thought**

Presentation *Longleaf Pine: The Tree that Made Alabama* by Bill Finch. The longleaf pine forest,

the continent's most diverse forest ecosystem, once was among the most widespread and extensive forests in North America. Few other states owe so much of their cultural and economic history to the longleaf forest. Finch is a long-time garden columnist for the *Mobile Press-Register* and *Alabama Gardening* magazine. His book *Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See* will be available for purchase following the program. Location: Farley Auditorium, Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery. Admission: Free. Sponsors: Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, visit [http://www.archives.alabama.gov/whatsnew/ATPR2013\\_05\\_16\\_Finch.pdf](http://www.archives.alabama.gov/whatsnew/ATPR2013_05_16_Finch.pdf) or call 334-353-4726.

### **Friday, May 17 -Road to Equality, The 1961 Freedom Bus Rides Exhibition**

New exhibition taken from Eric Etheridge's book *Breach of Peace*, the exhibit contrasts Freedom Rider's Mississippi mug shots with contemporary portraits and commentary. It offers deep insight into the young people who went to jail to end racial segregation in public transportation. Location: Freedom Rides Museum, 210 South Court Street, Montgomery. Museum Hours: Fridays and Saturdays, Noon - 4:00 p.m. and by appointment for 10 or more. For more information, call 334-242-3188.

### **Saturday, May 18, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. - Historic Cemetery Tour**

Enjoy an early morning walking tour of Montgomery's historic Oakwood Cemetery lead by historian Mary Ann Neeley. Join Neeley in a stroll through the cemetery as she recounts the life stories of a few of those entombed in Scott's Free Burying Ground, the Confederate Graves, the Land of Peace and much, much more. Comfortable walking shoes and bottled water recommended. Location: Entrance to Oakwood Cemetery, 829 Columbus Street, Montgomery. Admission: \$5. Sponsors: Old Alabama Town, Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery. For more information or to make reservations, call 334-240-4500.

## **SUMTER COUNTY**



### **Saturdays, May 18 through June 15, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Walking Tours of the Historic Black Land Prairie**

Guided walking tours of the historic Black Belt Black prairie area begin on Saturdays in 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. Location: Behind Tartt Baseball Field,

University of West Alabama campus, Livingston. Admission: Free. For more information, call the Center for the Study of the Black Belt at 205-652-3828 or visit [www.centerforblackbelt.org](http://www.centerforblackbelt.org).

## **News**

### **Historic Stage Coach Inn Endangered - Alabama Historic Treasure Needs New Home**

Robert (Bob) Gamble, Alabama Historical Commission's senior architectural historian, names this 19th century structure, which is located convenient to Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, as one of Alabama's buildings in the "too important to lose" category. Thanks to the work of David Schneider, ATHP's senior director for preservation services, with support from the Endangered Properties Trust, the owner of this two-story nineteenth stage coach inn, has agreed to hold off demolition for a short period of time in order to explore alternatives. Interested parties should contact Schneider directly at [dbschneider@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbschneider@bellsouth.net) or call 256-310-6320. If interested, act now.

### **Spirit of Anniston Welcomes New Executive Director**

Anniston's Main Street *Spirit of Anniston* program announces its new executive director, Dianna Michaels. Michaels joined the *Spirit* program in April with more than 20 years of experience in non-profit management, marketing, media, and fundraising. Committed to working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street model, she will focus on the revitalization of downtown Anniston using historic preservation as an economic tool to draw businesses to the city's historic core. The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation welcomes the *Spirit of Anniston's*

new executive director.

# Why Historic Preservation Matters

## **Alabama's Historical Landscape**

The preservation of Alabama's historical sites tells the story of Alabama, its people and the places that define what it means to be an Alabamian. It's why historic preservation matters.

## **2014th Year Anniversary - The United States Flag Unfurls Over Alabama**

May 5, 1799 - Taking possession of Fort St. Stephens from the Spanish, U. S. Lt. John McClary raises the first U.S. flag over land that would become the first capitol of the Alabama Territory. Today, Old St. Stephens Historical Park is preserved and, through archeological excavations, uncovers the early history of Alabama. The park is open to the public.

## **193rd Year Anniversary - The High Court of Alabama Is Born**

May 8, 1820 - The Alabama Supreme Court convenes for the first time in Cahaba, Alabama's first state capital city. Today, Old Cahawba Archeological Park is preserved as a historic site to interpret the early history of the state. The park is operated by the Alabama Historical Commission and is open to the public.

## **185th Year Anniversary - U.S. Arsenal Established**

May 28, 1828 - The federal government arsenal at Alabama's Mt. Vernon is established at General Claiborne's headquarters during the Creek War of 1813-1814. In 1873, the arsenal became a federal barracks and later housed Apache Indian prisoners including Geronimo. By the end of the century, the land was conveyed to the State of Alabama and became the site of Mt. Vernon Hospital, a mental institution for Alabama's African-American mentally ill. Today, the status of the grounds and buildings now known as Searcy Hospital are unclear. Closed as a state facility, the historic site is listed on the Alabama Places in Perils as an endangered historic asset.

## **103rd Year Anniversary - Alabama Joins the History of Aviation**

May 25, 1910 - The first night flight of an airplane occurs near Montgomery from Orville Wright's flying school. Described by the Montgomery Advertiser as "glinting now and then in the moonlight," Alabama earned a place in the history of flight. Today, the site of Wright's school is Maxwell Air Force Base.

## **52nd Year Anniversary - Civil Rights Freedom Riders Arrive in Montgomery**

May 20, 1961 - Civil Rights Freedom Riders arrive in the city to be met by angry segregation proponents at the Greyhound Bus Station. Arrest and harassment of Freedom Bus riders would lead to the Interstate Commerce Commission ruling to prohibit segregated facilities for interstate travel. Today, the Greyhound bus station is preserved as the Freedom Rides Museum, operated by the Alabama Historical Commission as a public facility interpreting the importance of that historical event.

## **50th Year Anniversary - The Birmingham Children's March Becomes an Iconic Image**

May 3, 1963 - Birmingham's school children march in a non-violent demonstration for equal rights for African-Americans. Photographs of the white resistance with its fire hoses and police dogs became iconic images of Alabama's resistance to a changing nation. These images, in turn, would catalyze federal legislation ensuring equal rights. Today, the site of that event, Kelly Ingram Park, is preserved as a historic site for public education and discourse.

## **SHARE PRESERVATION NEWS AND STORIES STATEWIDE**

To send EVENT information and NEWS stories for Preservation e-newsletter by March 20. Email [alabamatrust@athp.org](mailto:alabamatrust@athp.org). Flag for Preservation E-News.



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