



HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

MARCH 2023

A Word from Lisa

Hello everyone!

It's the month of March and that means Certified Local Government (CLG) grants are due! Local governments can strengthen their historic preservation efforts by achieving CLG status by the National Park Service and receive grants for preservation efforts in their community. More information on becoming a CLG and applying for the CLG grant can be found [here](#) or contact Paige Thomas at 334-230-2643.

The Commission voted to adopt the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee at the February quarterly meeting. Officers for the year are Dr. Jim Day, Chairman; T.C. Coley, Vice-Chair; Eddie Griffith, Treasurer; and David Breland, Secretary. The officers will serve for a one year term.

AHC celebrated Black History Month by participating in events throughout the state including the unveiling of the Memory Keeper sculpture at the Africatown Heritage House Museum. The sculpture represents the past, present and future of Africatown as it shares the story of the enslaved West Africans and their descendants. AHC staff also traveled across state lines. The Freedom Rides Museum bus made an appearance at the John R. Lewis Legacy Institute's Inaugural Gala in tribute to Congressman John Lewis in Atlanta, Georgia, and was given special thanks and recognition.

As the weather starts to warm up, AHC is preparing for a wide variety of outdoor events this spring including a special guided tour with John Weaver at Fort Morgan, a bird walk through Old Cahawba, a living history experience at Fort Toulouse Fort Jackson, and more. Additional information on AHC events can be found [here](#).

Best regards,

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Save the DATE!

March 16
Special Tour w/ John Weaver
Fort Morgan

March 18
Bird Walk for Beginners
Old Cahawba

March 18
Living History
Fort Toulouse

March 20
Speaker Series - David Barr
Pond Spring

April 1
POW Memorial Service
Old Cahawba



National Park Service Hosts Cemetery Preservation Training

In February, AHC Cemetery Program Coordinator Leanne Waller-Trupp and AHC African American Heritage & Black Heritage Council Coordinator Theo Moore participated in a cemetery preservation workshop in Selma and Tuskegee sponsored by the National Park Service. Jason Church, chief of Technical Services at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, led the workshop. After the workshop, staff participated in hands-on training of special techniques in preserving and cleaning cemetery headstones.

The Alabama Historical Commission's cemetery program provides assistance in identifying, documenting, registering, and protecting Alabama's historic cemeteries. Workshops like these continue to further the growth and expertise the AHC staff has in preservation efforts.

For more information on AHC's cemetery program or how to preserve a headstone, please contact Leanne Waller-Trupp at Leanne.Trupp@ahc.alabama.gov or visit our [page](#).



Cemetery Preservation Workshop February 2023 (Selma/Tuskegee)



The Hickman Cabin at [Pond Spring](#), The General Joe Wheeler home, is ready to face another 200 years after having deteriorated logs and flooring replaced, receiving a new roof and a fresh coat of whitewash. The cabin is the oldest structure at Pond Spring and was built in 1818.

BIRD WALK
for Beginners (& History Buffs!)

Saturday | 8-10 AM
March 18 | AM

Old Cahawba Archaeological Park

Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased on site or ahead by calling 334-872-8058.

A Conversation with Dr. LaFayette Jr.



In January, BHC Member Debra Love organized a Conversation with a Freedom Rider event featuring Freedom Rider Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. for the Association of Partners in Christian Education conference. The conference had over 600 attendees and was held in Birmingham.

Left to Right: Freedom Rides Director Dorothy Walker, Mrs. LaFayette, BHC Debra Love. Seated: Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Check out the new faces at AHC!



Andrew Parker

Alabama Preservation Tax Incentives Coordinator

John Teaches OLLI Program at UA Tuscaloosa

Cultural Resources Specialist at Fort Toulouse Fort Jackson John Gurner taught a three-part lecture series for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Alabama. The lecture included much of the French colonial history in Alabama before 1819.



Alexander Visits Chambers Co. Library Valley

Assistant Site Director of the Freedom Rides Museum Alexander Strickland spoke at the Chambers County Library for their special program on Black History Month. Alexander talked about the major role the Freedom Riders played in the Civil Rights movement in 1961.



AHC Brings Passion to AUM's Black History Celebration Montgomery

Site Director of the Freedom Rides Museum Dorothy Walker spoke to students at AUM about the Freedom Riders story with an on-site experience including interpretive panels and the Freedom Rides Greyhound bus. See the video [here!](#)



Stacye Presents at AL Author's Day Spanish Fort

State Archaeologist Stacye Hathorn spoke at the annual Alabama Author's Day at Historic Blakely State Park on the book "Clotilda" and the archaeological investigations that identified the ship.



Eric and Amanda Meet at Arnica Bay Orange Beach

Assistant State Archaeologist Eric Sipes and Environmental Review Coordinator Amanda McBride attended a meeting with Corps of Engineers and EcoSolutions, Inc. regarding a proposed living shoreline on Arnica Bay resulting in saving homeowners time and money and preserving the site.



Happy Retirement, Ned!



Since November of 1984, Ned Jenkins has served the state in many facets. As site director for Fort Toulouse Fort Jackson Archaeological Park, he started Alabama Frontier Days, one of the state's premier educational events for students. Through his work as senior archaeologist for the AHC, Ned has made significant contributions to our knowledge of the cultural history of the state. He has also published important work on the history and archaeology of French Colonial Alabama. Congratulations, Ned!

Join us for a retirement reception at Fort Toulouse Fort Jackson pavilion on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 3 pm.