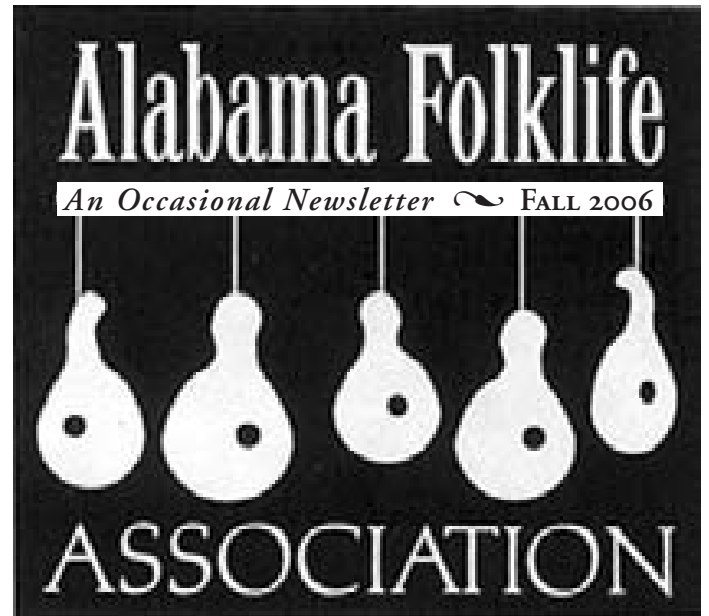


November 11 Gathering in Tuscaloosa Focuses on Cemetery Traditions

The Alabama Folklife Association's annual gathering will be held on the University of Alabama campus on November 11. Participants in the Alabama Community Scholars Institutes of 2004 and 2006 will gather for a reunion at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m. the public is invited to attend presentations by selected Community Scholars on the work they have done since the Institutes. Box lunches will be provided for all who make reservations by November 6. Afterward the AFA will meet briefly to elect new officers and report on the year's achievements

The afternoon sessions will focus on the topic of decoration days and cemetery traditions in Alabama. Alan Jabbour, former director of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, will speak on his fieldwork for the North Shore Cemetery Decoration Project in North Carolina. The incentive for his study was the need to determine the route for a road in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park that would connect cemeteries made inaccessible when the Tennessee Valley Authority created Fontana Lake. The new road was requested by those who wished to maintain these cemeteries through the traditional practice of holding decoration days. The results of his fieldwork and the fact that folkways can influence federal policy assure us that Jabbour's talk will be fascinating.

A panel discussion, "Learning from Alabama Cemeteries," will follow. Panelists will be Greg Jeane, Department of Geog-



raphy, Samford University; Keith Jacobi, Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama; and Joey Brackner, Folklife Program Manager, Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Afterward will be a performance by participants in the Blues in the Schools program of the Alabama Blues Project and a reception. Those wishing to have dinner together will be given a list of suggested restaurants.

The entire event is open to students, faculty, the general public, and all members and friends of the Alabama Folklife Association. It will take place in historic Smith Hall, the home of the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

New College of the University of Alabama is the sponsor of the event. Jim Hall, New College director, is an active AFA board member. He sees AFA's annual gathering as an opportunity for UA faculty and students to learn more about Alabama folklife and for AFA members to enjoy the scholars that New College is able to bring to campus.

Please make plans to join us for the Gathering in Tuscaloosa. See page 2 for detailed schedule of planned events.

Decorating a grave at Cable Branch Cemetery. Photo by Karen Singer Jabbour



Tributaries

Journal of the Alabama Folklife Association



ISSUE NO. 9, 2006

River Redhorse and the Seasonal Snaring Thereof in Alabama

Jim Brown

Heritage Gardening

Jason Powell

Southern Pineywoods Cattle

Charles M. Simon

Yakni—The Binding Force: Nature and Culture Among

the MOWA Choctaw of Alabama

Loretta A. Cormier, Jacqueline A. Matte, Reva Lee Reed, and Cedric Sunray

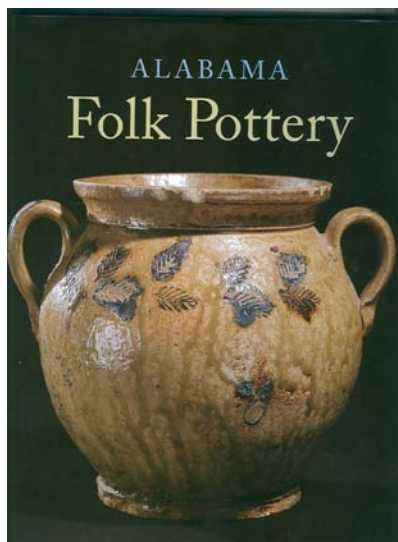
Remembering George Stritkus

Carole King

Coming Soon: *Tributaries* 9

Tributaries, the Journal of the Alabama Folklife Association, will be appearing in members' mailboxes and in Alabama public libraries in November. It will be for sale in AFA booths and at www.alabama-folklife.org. According to editor Joey Brackner, this thematic issue will focus on traditional practices and beliefs arising from nature. It will include the following articles: "River Redhorse and the Seasonal Snaring Thereof in Alabama" by Jim Brown, "Heritage Gardening" by Jason Powell, "Southern Pineywoods Cattle" by Charles M. Simon; "Yakni—The Binding Force: Nature and Culture Among the MOWA Choctaw of Alabama" by Loretta A. Cormier, Jacqueline A. Matte, Reva Lee Reed, and Cedric Sunray; "Remembering George Stritkus" by Carole King, plus three reviews.

Tributaries is a benefit of membership in the AFA. It is not too late to join the AFA and receive this significant issue.



November 11 Gathering Schedule

- All activities will be at Smith Hall, University of Alabama Campus, Tuscaloosa
- 9–10 a.m.: Community Scholars reunion (For ACSI participants only)
- 10–10:45 a.m.: Presentations by Community Scholars (Open to the public)
- Noon–1 p.m.: Lunch
- **To reserve a complimentary box lunch provided by New College, call Jackie Ely by November 6 at 334-343-4076 x. 234 or e-mail Jackie. Ely@arts.alabama.gov**
- 1–1:45 p.m.: AFA Board Meeting
- 2 p.m.: "Decoration Day Practices"—A lecture by Alan Jabbour
- 3:15–4:30: Panel—"Learning from Alabama Cemeteries"—Greg Jeane, Keith Jacobi, and Joey Brackner
- 4:30 p.m.: Reception featuring music from the Blues in the School project
- **Directions: Smith Hall** is located on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Capstone Drive on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa. From Highway 82 (McFarland Blvd), take the University Boulevard exit and proceed west to Sixth Avenue. If you are arriving on I-59, exit onto I-359 and take the University Boulevard exit to Sixth Avenue. Go north one block. There is a parking lot behind the building.

Folk Pottery Exhibition in Birmingham

The University of Alabama Press recently published Joey Brackner's large and wonderful book, *Alabama Folk Pottery*. Brackner is manager of the Folklife Program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, director of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, and a great friend of the AFA.

His work is being celebrated with an exhibition at the Birmingham

Museum of Art from October 1 through January 2, 2007.

Approximately 70 pieces of nineteenth- and twentieth-century pottery trace the evolution of the Alabama pottery tradition from the early historic period through the mid-twentieth century.

On September 30, the Museum hosted the *Southern Pottery Symposium*, a gathering of professionals and collectors from across the region.

We congratulate Joey on the excellent reviews his book and the exhibit are receiving and hope that friends and members of the AFA will take the opportunity to visit the BMA before January 7.

Cover of Brackner's new book.

2006 Alabama Community Scholars Institute Is a Success

Twenty-three people with strong interest in local culture took part in the AFA's second Alabama Community Scholars Institute in July. Meeting from 8:30 in the morning to 8:30 at night, they studied interviewing techniques, photography, documentary video-making, cultural tourism, grant writing and other aspects of folklore fieldwork.

Community Scholars came to ACSI with folklife projects in mind and, during the course of the 10-day institute, they refined their ideas and learned techniques for achieving them. They lived and studied on the campus of the University of North Alabama in Florence where the staff and facilities were terrific.

Trips to Big Spring Park in Tuscumbia, the Coon Dog Cemetery, the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and Jerry Brown's Pottery were both fun and instructive. In the final days of the Institute, Community Scholars interviewed tradition bearers in the Muscle Shoals area and presented reports on them using the various media they had studied.

Ranging in age from 16 to 75, they were a diligent and talented group of people. Among them were an anthropology professor, a professional storyteller, a professional song writer, a blues musician, the leader of a Mardi Gras brass band, two school teachers, a National Park employee, the AAFC archivist, a poet, and others.

The institute ended with dinner beside the Tennessee River and a program which showcased the various talents of the group.

Unknown to the staff and other participants, five of our scholars had been staying up late each night to make a video concerning various issues that came up during the week. Called "Folk Death" and spoofing various well-known



Alabama Community Scholars visit Jerry Brown's pottery shop. (Photo by Marty King)

horror movie themes, the surprise video was a clever and entertaining ending to the program.

Lesley Williams and Joyce Cauthen served as co-directors of the Institute, and the staff of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture taught several of the classes. Financial support for ACSI came from the National Endowment for the Arts and the "Support the Arts" Tag Committee.

A list of Community Scholars 2006 and their project follows:

Jake Fussell, Shoals area fieldwork; Karren Pell, Oral Histories in Capitol Heights neighborhood, Montgomery; Sheila Limerick, Role of the University of West Alabama in the Livingston Community; Janice McDaniel, Exhibit on NW Alabama traditions for Winfield's Mule Day; Evan Haarbauer, Research on John Henry, the steel driving man, in Alabama;

Mary Latimore, Exhibits for Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative; Annie Cooper, Research for reunion of all Colberts in Colbert County and vicinity;

Ellen Mussleman, Festival Community at Moundville Archaeological Park; Sara Sawyer, Creek Indian stomp dancing; Marcus Johnson, Brass band tradition in Mobile; Shirley Baxter and Willie Wilchie, Oral histories of the 1957 Tuskegee boycott; Mary Lou Mallette, Photo exhibit & documentation of Gulf Coast fishing industry;

Carolyn Brown-Perez, Video on 4th Avenue District in Birmingham; Wanda Johnson, Oral histories of African-American Catholics in Baldwin County;

Carole King, Documentation of quilts discovered in Alabama Quilt Project; William Allen, Folklife fieldwork in the Tennessee Valley; Trey Bunn, Development of Archive of Alabama Folk Culture;

Gail King, Documentation of "Black Dutch" in Northwest Alabama; Kaci Hildreth, Interviews with railroad workers for Railway Museum; Thomas Kersen, Intentional Communities in Alabama; Dewanna Banks, Labor lore of paper mill workers; Donna Hickman, Influence of local radio stations on the Shoals recording industry.

Membership Update

The AFA appreciates the support of the following people who have joined or renewed since our March newsletter:

Auburn: Mark McKenzie, Wayne Flynt

Birmingham: Tatum Preston, Sandra Marymor, Evan Haarbauer, Mary Latimore, Russ and Ann Chambliss, Martha Ann Stevenson, Olivia Robinson, C.O. Waguespack, Dianne Baer, Paulette Hayward, Daniel Wolk, Rachel Turner, Trudy Brower, Otto Carter, June Mays, Wayne and Lynda Bagwell,

Decatur: William Allen, Ashley Reynolds

Florence: Martha Beadle, Thomas Kersen, Wanda Robertson

Montgomery: Karren Pell, Carole King, Karon Bailey,

Barbara Bleecker, Ft. Payne; Barbara Hart, Cullman; Bill Martin, Gaylesville (June); Dennis George, Fyffe; Dewanna Banks, Grove Hill; Diane McWhorter, New York, NY; Doug Chapman, Athens; E. Cameron Hickman, Valdosta, GA; Jamey & Marla Browne, Dadeville; Janet Henderson, Somerville; Janice McDaniel, Winfield; Mr. & Mrs. Jim Byrum, Selma; Joseph Reddick, Trussville; Kathleen Bucher, Huntsville; Loretta S. Burns, Tuskegee; Lucy Mathews Heegaard, Minnetonka, MN; Lucy T. Osbourne, Prattville; Marcus Johnson, Mobile; Margaret Brown, Austin, TX (Patron); Mary Lou Mallette, Silverhill; Peggy Jones, Bessemer; Regina Ferguson, Tanner; Roy Turrentine, Normandy, TN; Sandie Scott, Smyrna, TN; Sara Sawyer, Walnut Hill, FL; Shawn Williams, St. Pete, FL; Sheila Limerick, Livingston; Steven D. Yates, Tuscaloosa; Wanda Johnson, Prichard; Will Hadaway, Sugar Grove, NC.

We especially thank our sustaining members Anton Haardt, Montgomery; NewSouth Books, Montgomery; and Amy Pierce, Memphis.

If you are not currently a member of the AFA, we hope you'll join or renew soon. We need all the help we can get.

AFA Activities Report

- **David Haynes** was elected to the AFA Board of Directors to take the place of Ray Cashman, who now teaches folklore at Ohio State University. Haynes is an award-winning professional photographer who lives and works in Blount Springs. He is currently doing a monthly feature in *Alabama Living* magazine called "Alabama Motorcycle Diaries" in which he travels by motorcycle to little-known places on Alabama's backroads to write and photograph these hidden treasures of the state.

- **Bullfrog Jumped:** The AFA recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to produce an on-line teacher's guide to *Bullfrog Jumped: Children's Folksongs from the Byron Arnold Collection*.



- **Mary Chapman**, who sang "Cornbread Crumbled in Gravy" for Byron Arnold in 1947 has been found! Producer Joyce Cauthen tried to locate her or her next of kin before releasing the CD but eventually had to issue *Bullfrog Jumped* without any information about Ms. Chapman. Afterward residents of Grove Hill were able to put Cauthen in touch with her. She was delighted with the CD. You can read about her in the Bullfrog Jumped section of www.alabamafolklife.org.

THE ALABAMA FOLKLIFE ASSOCIATION is a non-profit statewide organization whose purpose is to promote the appreciation of Alabama folklife through activities including festivals, conferences, fieldwork, videos, audio recordings and publications. Your membership supports these activities. In return you receive our journal *Tributaries*. To join, send the adjacent form, with check payable to the AFA, to Jackie Ely, Membership Coordinator, Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, 410 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

My check is enclosed for:

\$10 Student \$20 Regular

\$50 Patron \$100 (or more) Sustaining

Send c/o Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, 410 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104 • www.alabamafolklife.org

Archive of Alabama Folk Culture Now a Reality

It has been in the works since 2003, but now the Archive of Alabama Folk Culture (AAFC) is up and running. Folklorists in the state had long discussed the need for an archive which would store and make accessible to the public the research they have been doing since the 1970s in Alabama. When the AFA got the opportunity to apply for \$50,000 from the accumulated sales of "Support the Arts" car tags, it chose the archive as its project.

After getting the tag funds, AFA received a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the proposed archive.

The AAFC is a collaboration between the AFA, the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture and the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The AFA provides funding, the ACTC provides materials and support, and the ADAH houses the collection, and provides an office and studio for the folklife archivist as well as its extensive archival expertise.

Representatives from each organization sit on the AAFC advisory committee. In April 2006, the advisory committee members selected Trey Bunn to develop the archive and have been pleased with their choice.

Trey graduated from Augusta State University in 1996 with a degree in Communications and received his Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina in 2005. While at USC he worked in the Folklife Resource Center of the McKissick Museum where his duties were similar to those he now has at the AAFC.

Trey spent his first five months at the AAFC setting up a first-rate studio in which he will be able to transfer 78 and 33 rpm records, reel to reel tapes, cassette tapes, and other forms of yesterday's audio and video media to digital formats. Now he is processing collections of fieldwork done by Alabama Community Scholars in 2004 and 2006, and will soon begin work on materials from the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture.

The AAFC has recently developed a brochure which encourages the public to donate items such as recordings of fiddlers, shape-note singings, etc.; photos, baskets, quilts and other objects related to Alabama folklife.



AAFC archivist Trey Bunn.

We hope that members of the AFA will spread the word to acquaintances who have collections that should be preserved and made accessible to future generations.

Those who have material to offer should contact the Registrar of the Alabama Department of Archives and History (334-353-4726) or the Alabama Folklife Association (205-822-0505).

Perhaps the happiest news about the AAFC is that the Department of Archives and History has committed to continuing the folklife archivist position after AFA funds have been spent. Look for the Alabama Archive of Folk Culture to be around for a long time.



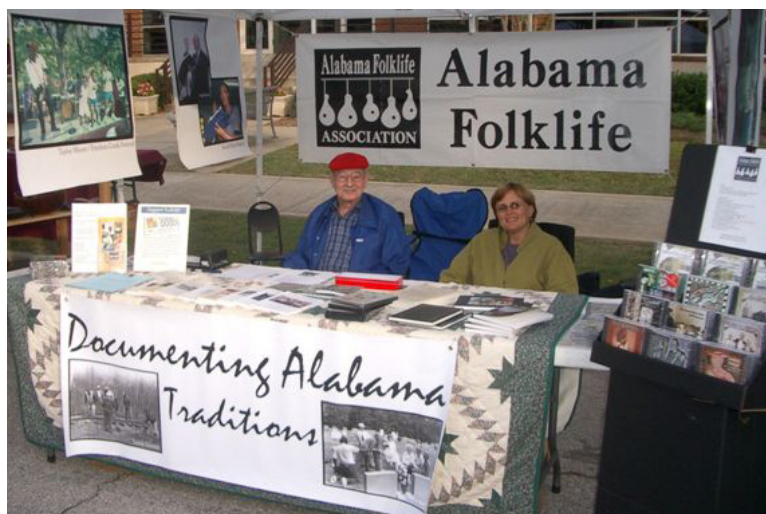
**You can help!
Put a "Support the
Arts" tag on your
vehicle. Details are
at www.arts.state.**

AFA Booth Visible at Public Events

The AFA Booth has been seen in public places lately. In August it was part of "All Things Alabama" at the big barbecue cook-off at Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham. Tatum Preston (ACSI 2004) was the volunteer of the day for that event. On September 23 it visited the Boom Days celebration in Fort Payne. This was a wonderful heritage festival directed by AFA Board Member Russell Gulley. Russell saved us

a space next to a very "happening" tent occupied by the Gee's Bend quilters. Jim and Joyce Cauthen and Peggy Jones sold a good quantity of books and CDs and gained 9 new members.

Before our next appearance on September 30 at Pepper Place Farmer's Market in Birmingham we developed five new banners with large color photos that would "speak a thousand words" about



Al Thomas and Trudy Brower at Pepper Place Farmer's Market

the mission of the AFA. Volunteers Trudy Brower (ACSI 2004) and Al Thomas (past president, AFA) said that the banners drew large numbers of visitors. Many people purchased our products and eight people became members.

The following weekend we took the booth to the Tennessee Valley Old-Time Fiddlers' Convention in Athens. It was staffed by Bill Allen (ACSI 2006), Wanda

Robertson (ACSI 2004), and members Peggy Jones and Wayne and Lynda Bagwell, who gained 6 new members for the AFA and sold a lot of books, CDs and *Tributaries*.

On October 21 the booth will be hosted by the Kentuck Festival of the Arts in Northport and staffed by Alice Harp (ex-officio member of the Board); Anne

Kimzey (Alabama Center for Traditional Culture), two 2004 Community Scholars, Ana Shuber and Fannie Smith and Ellen Mussleman (ACSI 2006).

Proceeds from memberships and products sold fund more research and create new books, CDs and videos on Alabama's traditional culture. We greatly appreciate our volunteers who make the booth possible.



c/o Alabama Center
for Traditional Culture
410 North Hull Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.alabamafolklife.org

THE AFA NEWSLETTER is edited by Joyce Cauthen, with design and production by Randall Williams. It is published when there is enough news to make it worthwhile. Please mail announcements of events, publications or other items of interest to AFA members to Joyce Cauthen, 2169 Shadybrook Lane, Birmingham, AL 35226, or email joycecauthen@bellsouth.net, or call (205) 822-0505. The AFA is supported in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts.