

the LARK newsletter



LANDMARK
PARK

Vol. XXXVI, Number 3

Fall 2016



On Saturday, October 15 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Landmark Park will host the annual Fall Farm Day. Enjoy the sights and sounds of an 1890s farmstead while volunteers demonstrate sugar cane grinding and syrup making, peanut picking, stacking and digging, an antique tractor pull and parade, household chores, a quilt show and more. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and active military, \$4 for kids, and free for children two and under and members. Concessions will be available and the Martin Drugstore and Shelley General Store will be open.

Landmark Park Quilt Show

Over 100 antique and contemporary quilts will be on display in the Stokes Activity Barn for the 2016 Landmark Park Quilt Show on October 14-16. Friday and Sunday will be from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. and Saturday will be in conjunction with Fall Farm Day from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Admission on Friday and Sunday is \$4 for adults, \$3 for kids and free for members. Admission on Saturday is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and active military and \$4 for kids. The Landmark Park Quilt Collection will also be on display.

The goal of the quilt show is to preserve our quilt heritage and promote the next generation of quilters. You are invited to share your quilts with the Wiregrass by entering them in the quilt show. There will also be a silent auction, vendors, and a chance to win the Opportunity Quilt (pictured right). Please call 334-794-3452 or visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com for entry forms.



DOTHAN LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

"The Lark" is published quarterly by Landmark Park for the members of Dothan Landmarks Foundation, P.O. Box 6362, Dothan, AL 36302.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

LANDMARK DULCIMERS First Saturdays

WOODTURNERS First Saturdays

REPTILE FEEDINGS Second Sundays

JOHNNY MACK BROWN FILM September 1 and 3

LOW COUNTRY BOIL September 15

SYRUP MAKING WORKSHOP September 24

TEACHER OPEN HOUSE September 24

CAR SHOW & DRAWING October 1

LANDMARK PARK QUILT SHOW October 14-16

FALL FARM DAY October 15

DECORATION WORKSHOP December 4

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS December 11

Landmark Park



Join Landmark Park for the annual benefit car show on October 1, 2016 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Over 100 collector cars, trucks and vehicles will be on display throughout the day. Trucks will be the featured vehicle. Trophies will be given for the top 50 cars. If you are interested in participating in the show, registration will take place the morning of the show from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. and the cost is \$10 (includes admission). The first 100 cars will receive dash plaques and goodie bags. General public admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids and free for members.

Begun in 1983, the car show has generated over \$100,000 for the operation and maintenance of the park during the past 33 years. This would not have been possible without the numerous volunteers, auto enthusiasts and local car clubs who have participated or helped host this event. For more information, please call the park office at 334-794-3452 or visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com.

You Could Win \$500!

Thank you to all the members of Dothan Landmarks Foundation for your support of Landmark Park. This fall, Landmark Park is giving YOU a chance to win \$500 cash! The drawing will be held on October 1 during the Landmark Park Benefit Car Show. You do not have to be present to win. You should have received 16 tickets by mail. If you would like to participate, please complete the ticket stubs with your name, address and phone number. Then, return the stubs, along with your check, in the enclosed envelope. If you need more tickets, please call 334-794-3452. Please pass along any unused tickets to your friends. Remember, each ticket you purchase or sell helps maintain Landmark Park. Thank you for your continued support and good luck!



The 17th annual Low Country Boil, Landmark Park's annual fall fundraiser, is scheduled for September 15 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. in the Stokes Activity Barn. This popular fundraiser features a one-pot dish of shrimp, sausage, corn, potatoes, onions and the chef's secret recipe of spices. When the cooking is complete, the meal is served out of wheelbarrows for a laid back feast. This year's event will include music by Brian Hart and a silent auction, plus hot dogs and wagon rides for the kids.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$500 for a reserved table of eight. Children ages 3-12 are \$5. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling 334-794-3452. Dress is casual and children are welcome. Proceeds benefit Landmark Park. Sponsors include William and Carroll Flowers, Steve and Angelia Stokes, Adams Beverages, U.S. Business Products, Blue Plate Restaurant, Dothan Printing and Litho, Nantze Springs, Jackson Thornton, Hunter and Whitney Green, WDFX Fox 34, Buffalo Rock Co., Blue Plate Restaurant, Dade Paper, Alabama Power Energizers, Pope Tent Rental, Sysco, and Copies 2 Go.

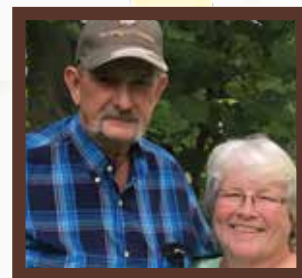
Happy Birthday Johnny Mack Brown!

Landmark Park is reportedly home to the largest collection of Johnny Mack Brown memorabilia in the world! To learn more about Dothan native and Western film star Johnny Mack Brown, be sure to visit our Johnny Mack Brown exhibit on display in the Interpretive Center lobby. We will also be holding a special showing of several of his movies in the Interpretive Center Auditorium in honor of Johnny Mack's birthday. On Thursday, September 1, what would be Johnny Mack's 112th birthday, we will be showing the movie *The Silver Bullet* (1942) at 10 a.m. We will also have cake and other refreshments for this showing. On Saturday, September 3, we will be showing serial *Fighting Kit Carson* (1933) at 10 a.m. and a double feature of *The Silver Bullet* (1942) and *Helltown* (1937) at 2 p.m. See page 5 for more info on Johnny Mack Brown.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Daphne Gautier



Mike and Susie Fleming

This quarter, Landmark Park would like to split the spotlight onto two treasured volunteers: Mike and Susie Fleming, from Defuniak Springs, FL. These dependable volunteers have been helping since 2005, however you may not recognize them without their mules and plows! The Flemings are known for sharing their plowing skills with the crowds during Spring Farm Day, Rural Heritage Day, Victorian Christmas, and many other events; but they also help with planting some of our crops, syrup making, and being great volunteers wherever needed.

One of their fondest memories at the park occurred during their favorite special event: Spring Farm Day. Kids were lined up to help Mike plow with their mule, Kate. A 5-year-old girl wanted to try, so with some assistance she began, but soon lost her footing and the mule started dragging her feet in the dirt! According to Mike and Susie, "when she finally stopped she said, 'I okay. I wanna go again!'".

When not working in the Landmark Park gardens, Mike and Susie relish finding old farm implements in flea markets and caring for their menagerie of farm animals, including three dogs, seven horses and mules. Susie enjoys photography, painting, and soap making. The Flemings are rarely seen without their trusty cohorts, Larry and Clyde Standland. One of their favorite experiences is reminiscing with some of the "old timers" about how times were when they were growing up. Mike and Susie say that volunteering here helps keep their heritage alive. They feel "kids these days don't understand how our food gets to the table or how difficult it was to feed a family at the turn-of-the-century." If you are interested in volunteering at Landmark Park, email daphne@landmarkparkdothan.com.

By Anna Holman

Harvest Moon

Many of us have heard the term “Harvest Moon,” but what is a Harvest Moon exactly? Other than something mentioned in a Neil Young song, the Harvest Moon is the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. Throughout the year, the moon rises 50 minutes later each night, but due to the ecliptic (the path the sun travels) at this time of year; the moon only rises 20-30 minutes later each night. This was important to farmers before the days of tractors and headlights. During the fall, or harvest time, the Harvest Moon allowed the farmers to work longer in the fields because there were not long period of darkness in between sunset and moon rise. Over time, the full moon that occurs near the autumn equinox became referred to as the Harvest Moon.

Throughout history, people have also referred to the full moon closest to the autumn equinox as the Full Corn Moon or the Blue Corn Moon. Having Disney flashbacks? Yes, for all you fellow 90’s kids out there, the mystery of what Pocahontas meant when she asked if you had ever “heard a wolf cry to the Blue Corn Moon” is finally answered! According to The Farmers Almanac, the Native Americans in particular called this moon the Full Corn Moon because it appeared around the time corn was harvested.

This year, the autumn equinox will occur on Thursday, September 22, however the 22nd is not when the moon will appear to be full. The closest full moon to the equinox will be the full moon that will occur on Friday, September 16, making this the “Harvest Moon.”

In the Planetarium

Shows will take place on Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and on Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Planetarium programs are \$2 per person and free for members. Visit our website for a full description of each program.

SEASONAL STARS AND STORIES:

Saturdays and Sundays, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
(not recommended for children under 5)

FULL-DOME MOVIES: GREAT FOR ALL AGES!

Saturdays at 11 a.m.

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket: September
Little Star that Could: October
Earth, Moon and Sun: November



Syrup Workshop

The Alabama Syrup-Makers' Association will be sponsoring a Syrup Making Workshop on September 24 at 8 a.m. at Landmark Park. Anyone that is interested in making old fashioned cane syrup is welcome. Each segment will be covered with hands-on experience from stripping the cane, cutting the cane, squeezing the cane, filtering the cane juice, cooking the cane juice and bottling the syrup. Lunch will be provided. Each person will receive a bottle of cane syrup for their labors. The fee to attend is \$25 for adults, and \$12 for children 12 and under. To register, please call President Earl Stokes or Vice President Thomas Moore at 334-494-3037.

Retired Military Appreciation Month

In appreciation for our military's service to our country and our community, Landmark Park is holding several special offers for retired military during the month of November.

Retired military who join Landmark Park during the month of November will receive \$10 off any membership level. In addition to the November membership discount, retired

military and their families are invited to visit Landmark Park November 11-13 and receive free admission. November 19 will feature free ice cream from the Martin Drugstore for retired military and their families, and free Digitarium Planetarium Programs on November 26 (show times are at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.) Must show military ID to receive discount.

Holiday Decorating Workshop

Spread some holiday cheer at Landmark Park at the Holiday Decorating Workshop on December 4 at 1 p.m. in the Interpretive Center Auditorium. Create wreaths, garlands and swags out of natural materials and decorate Landmark Park for Victorian Christmas and make some decorations to take home! Refreshments will be provided. Guests are encouraged to bring gloves and wire pliers. Call 334-794-3452 to reserve your space. (Victorian Christmas is December 11).



Call for Nominations

Dothan Landmarks Foundation is seeking nominations for the board of directors and for the 2017 Heritage Award. The board of directors is composed of 24 local citizens who have the responsibility of establishing policies that govern the operation and future direction of the Foundation. Any park member may submit a name to the nomination committee for consideration. Nominees must be current members of Dothan Landmarks Foundation and be willing to contribute time and talents to the Foundation for a three year term.

The Heritage Award is presented each year to a person, organization or business that has made a significant contribution towards preserving the heritage of our community.

Both the slate of nominees for board members and the Heritage Award will be presented at the Foundation's Annual Membership Dinner in January. Deadline for nominations is December 1. For a nomination form, call 334-794-3452.



Johnny Mack Brown

ABOVE Seated, Left to Right: Milton Sills, Doris Kenyon, Johnny Mack Brown, May Allison, and an unidentified male.

This photograph of Johnny Mack Brown was taken in Birmingham, Alabama during a University of Alabama football game in 1925. Known today for his career as a B-Western actor, Johnny Mack's career initially started in football. Nicknamed the "Dothan Antelope," Johnny Mack rose to recognition as a football player at Dothan High and then the University of Alabama. While playing a game in Birmingham, Alabama in 1925, Johnny Mack had the opportunity to meet some of Hollywood's elite who attended the game while in town filming the movie *Men of Steel*. One man in particular, George Fawcett, was crucial in establishing Johnny Mack as an actor and a household name. Impressed with Johnny Mack's charisma and good looks, Fawcett told Johnny Mack to contact him for a screen test if he was ever in California. As fate would have it, the first choice schools decided not to participate in the 1926 Rose Bowl, making the University of Alabama a contender and the first Southern team to compete. The University of Alabama won against heavily favored Washington 20-19 and papers predicted that Johnny Mack had earned a seat in the Football Hall of Fame with his outstanding performance during the game.

While in California for the 1926 Rose Bowl game, actor George Fawcett, who had met Johnny Mack in Birmingham during the game pictured above, contacted Johnny Mack and convinced him to participate in a screen test. Johnny Mack was immediately offered a contract by MGM, but declined the offer. He returned to the University of Alabama to play football and throughout the year, MGM continued to contact Johnny Mack about accepting their contract offer. After returning to California with the University of Alabama to play in the 1927 Rose Bowl game, Johnny Mack decided to accept MGM's offer and he and his wife Cynthia moved to California.

Throughout his highly successful career as an actor, Johnny Mack Brown started in 168 films and TV series, 110 of those being B-Westerns. Johnny Mack Brown was one of the first actors to be honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the first inductee into the Gun Spinning Hall of Fame.

NEW MEMBERS



A special welcome to our new members. To all our previous members who renewed since our last newsletter, a sincere thank you.

Mr. & Mrs. Donny Anderson
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Barrett
 Ms. Mary Burden
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Cook
 Mr. & Mrs. Jessie Cothorn
 Mr. & Mrs. Todd Creel
 Mr. & Mrs. Lane Floyd
 Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Fox
 Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Fuller
 Mr. Wesley Godwin
 Ms. Felicia Goolsby
 Ms. Willadean Hall
 Mr. & Mrs. Josh Hilson
 Mr. Stephen Holland
 Mr. & Mrs. Kent Kendrick
 Mr. & Mrs. Grant Kumsomboone
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Messer
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Owens
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Palmer
 Mr. Arthur Quinn
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Reid
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rich
 Mr. & Mrs. Bradford Riley
 Ms. Cindy Roney
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Sevec
 Ms. Katie Simpkins
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sislo
 Mr. Bob Taylor
 Mr. Nathan Taylor
 Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Wallace
 Ms. Sierra Wilkerson
 Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Willmott
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Wood

CORPORATE MEMBERS



Special thanks to the following businesses who have either joined or renewed since our last newsletter

BankSouth
 Buds 'N Blossoms
 Clarion Inn & Suites
 Dale County Farmers Federation
 Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
 HNB First Bank
 McDaniel & Associates, P.C.
 MidSouth Bank
 Servis 1st Bank
 Slingluff United Insurance
 Smith's, Inc. of Dothan
 Wiregrass Construction

Thank You

Bill Thompson for the donation of a 1965 Ford pickup

Jimmy Jones for baling hay and helping with our row crops

The kids and adults from WIRED who volunteered at the park in June

Trey Crook for installing our new bat house

MONETARY DONATIONS

(Bold indicates \$1,000 or more)

Cathy Corbitt, Terry & Barbara Everett, **Georgia Pacific, Kohl's, Larry and Patti Puckett**, Edith Stark, George & Deanna Tatom, **Wells Fargo**

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Lois Roehrs

TRIBUTE FUND

In memory of John T. Ard

By: William & Tammi Holman

In memory of Jerry Dowling

By: Ricky & Mary Ball

In memory of Harold Griffin

By: Bill & Hilda Church,

Andrea Granger,

The Wayne Griffin Family,

William and Tammi Holman

In memory of Harry Howell

By: Dothan Houston County Rotary,

Bill & Hilda Church

In memory of George O'Mary

By: Ricky & Mary Ball

ANIMAL TALES

Amy Bowers

BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

Army Aviation Federal Credit Union

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Sonia Crutchfield, Karen Jackson, Karen Mann, Ashley Savoy

HERITAGE FORUMS

Dale Cox, Ned Jenkins, Robin O'Sullivan, Robert Saunders

HONEY EXTRACTION

Wiregrass Beekeepers Association, Philip Carter, David and Renee Eldridge

MUSIC BY MOONLIGHT

Crossfire of the 98th Army Band, Tri State Community Orchestra, Troy Dothan Community Band

OFFICE PROJECTS

Helon Kirkby, Jim and Mary Lou Mooney

OUTDOOR PROJECTS

Roy Cooley, Harold Glover, Russel Goolsby, Earl Suggs

SUMMER CAMP

Sara Grace Smith, Brooke Phillips, Kayla Cole, Maggie Jones, Caroline Holman, Jacob Hawkins, Sierra Hollowell, Cheyenne Hollowell, Marie Rasmussen

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary, John Ross Helms, Stacy Lush, Jimmy Stiles, Tim Ward, Paige Whatley

WATERMELON TASTING

William Birdsong, Tom Boyle, Katie Eubanks, Alabama Watermelon Association

WIREGRASS COMMON HERITAGE PROJECT

Dana Chandler, Marty Olliff, Robert S. Saunders, Wiregrass Archives, Troy Dothan University Campus Department of History and Philosophy, Dothan Houston County Library System, National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage Program

Congratulations William!

Congratulations to Landmark Park Executive Director William Holman! Holman was recognized in August by the Henry County Historical Group for his work to help preserve the history of the Wiregrass region.

According to Holman, "The hard work is not so hard when you love your job! It is also a lot easier with a great staff and supportive family."



School Program Registration



The Education Department is excited to announce that registration for school programs for the 2016-2017 school year is now open!! We have worked hard over the past couple of months to revamp the entire Education Department and we are excited about the changes we have made and new programs we have added.

For more information about school programming, be sure to check out our website www.landmarkparkdothan.com and click on "Field Trips" under the "Education" tab at the top of the home page. You may also contact the Park office via phone (334-794-3452) or via email (anna@landmarkparkdothan.com, daphne@landmarkparkdothan.com) if you have any questions.

Teacher Open House

You're invited to our Teacher Open House! We have made a lot of exciting changes in the Education Department and we would like to share those changes with you. On Saturday, September 24 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., we will have our teacher open house in the Interpretive Center Auditorium. Our Education Department staff will be on hand to answer questions and help you find the program that is right for you and your students. We will also have free materials for your classroom, while supplies last! Call 334-794-3452 to register.

Summer Interns



Landmark Park was blessed with the presence of two college interns this summer who helped us tackle two important projects.

Lauren Saunders (above left) spent several weeks scanning documents and photos in our effort to digitize our photo collection and to create a digital copy of all our important organizational documents to be kept off site. Lauren is a junior at Auburn University majoring in journalism with an emphasis on digital media. Lauren has her sights set on becoming a writer.

Lillian West (above right) also spent several weeks assisting us in our ongoing project of cataloging and labeling artifacts. Lillian is a senior Art History major attending Birmingham-Southern College. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school for a Masters Degree in Art History or Museum Studies. Lillian's future career goal is to work as a museum curator.

Many thanks to both of these young women for sharing their time and talents with the park!

NATURALIST NOTES



By Daphne Gautier

White Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

White-tailed deer are recognized and revered from Alabama to Canada. The name stems from the fur beneath their tails, which is colored white and flashed at predators in an attempt to confuse and distract them.

White-tails have two seasonal coats: a summer coat consisting of short, thin, reddish-brown hairs which is molted in August-September, and a winter coat of longer, hollow, grayish-brown hairs over a short woolly undercoat. Male deer, or bucks, are easily recognized by their antlers, which begin growth in April-May and reach their peak in September—just in time for mating season. Antlers are shed in March, but regrow every year with more points, or tines.

The mating season, also called "the rut," can occur from October through January. During this time, bucks go through hormonal changes that cause more aggressive and territorial behavior as they look for a mate. In May or June, female deer, called does, give birth to one to three fawns after a gestation period of seven months. Fawns wear hundreds of white spots over their reddish-brown coat to conceal themselves from predators in the forest. However, deer are fast, with a max of 47 mph!

Mothers will often leave their fawns in tall grasses and thickets as they search for food—sometimes hunting for several hours. Many times, people will find the fawns during this period and fear the mother has abandoned her fawn—however this usually is not the case! If the fawn is not crying, check back in 12-24 hours. If still no sign of the mother, call your local wildlife rehabilitator or Fish and Game.

Deer tracks are often spotted in the park, especially in the corn field. So on your next trip to the park, you might be rewarded with the sight of a white-tailed deer.

www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Odocoileus_virginianus/

www.animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/white-tailed-deer/

www.outdooralabama.com/white-tailed-deer-0

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LANDMARK PARK TRIBUTE FUND

To Honor or Remember Family, Friends and Loved Ones

As a special tribute to family and friends for important occasions throughout the year—a birthday, an anniversary, graduation, a “get-well” wish, or expression of sympathy—a gift to Landmark Park’s TRIBUTE FUND is a very meaningful and personal gift. Contributions are fully tax-deductible and are placed in the park’s trust fund, thereby providing an unending gift to Landmark Park that will also serve as a lasting tribute to the person you wish to honor. Personal acknowledgment is sent to the individual honored, without reference to the size of the gift, and your tribute is listed in the park’s newsletter, “The Lark.”

I wish to contribute \$_____ to Landmark Park.

I wish my gift to be in memory/honor of _____

Occasion: Birthday Anniversary Memorial Other

Donor’s Name: _____

Address: _____

Please Notify: _____

Address: _____

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