

# the LARK newsletter



LANDMARK  
PARK

Vol. XXXVI, Number 4

Winter 2016



Join Landmark Park on **December 11 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m.** for a Victorian Christmas celebration! Sip hot apple cider or hot chocolate while listening to Christmas carols and visiting with Santa. Enjoy old fashioned desserts, syrup making, arts and crafts, music, wagon rides and handmade decorations. A circuit riding preacher will deliver a holiday message in the Headland Presbyterian Church. Volunteers are invited to bake old fashioned desserts from old family recipes for Victorian Christmas. If you would like to bake something, please contact Landmark Park at 334-794-3452. Arts and crafts vendors are also still being accepted. Visit [www.landmarkparkdothan.com](http://www.landmarkparkdothan.com) for an application. Victorian Christmas is sponsored by The Joy 94.3 FM.

Admission to our Victorian Christmas is free, as a thank you to the community for your support during the year. Attendees are invited to bring nonperishable food items for donation to the Wiregrass United Way Area Food Bank.

## 40th Annual Membership Dinner

Landmark Park is celebrating 40 years in 2017! Join us for our 40th annual Membership Dinner on **January 30** in the Stokes Activity Barn. Over 1400 families are members of Landmark Park and each one has a say in the governance of the organization. We will enjoy a meal prepared by the Blue Plate Restaurant and after the meal you will have a chance to learn about what lies ahead for the park in 2017. We will recognize the winners of the 2017 Heritage Award and Volunteer Service Award. Also during the evening, Landmark Park will hold an election of new board members and we will announce the officers who will lead our organization in the upcoming year.

A special presentation about Landmark Park's 40th anniversary will also take place at the Membership Dinner. Landmark Park has come a long way in 40 years and we look forward to sharing information about our history and plans for the future.

Cost is \$15 per person and we hope you will attend! Invitations will be mailed at the first of the year. See you there!





# 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

**DECORATION WORKSHOP** December 4

**VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS** December 11

**BIRD WORKSHOPS** January 21, 28

**SEED SWAP** January 28

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER** January 30

**BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY** February 4

**FOLK ARTS WORKSHOP** February 11-12

**ASTRONOMY NIGHT** February 17

**QUILT RETREAT** February 24-25

**SPRING FAMILY PROGRAMS** March 27-31

## Bird Workshops

Landmark Park will offer two educational bird workshops this winter. Learn about these fascinating and lovely creatures of flight found in our local forest as well as in your own backyard. All workshops begin at 10 a.m., are free with paid gate admission and will be presented in the Interpretive Center auditorium at the park. Please call 334-794-3452 to register.

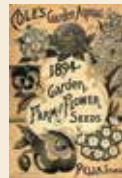
### BLUEBIRDS

Dr. Gary Manfready will be back to conduct the Bluebird Workshop on **January 21** featuring new and updated information based on the recent findings regarding bluebird populations in recent years. Dr. Manfready is a member of the North American Bluebird Society and has contributed two articles for publication in their quarterly journal. He currently maintains four bluebird trails in Houston and Dale County including the one at Landmark Park and has a total of 75 boxes. His main focus is on population numbers and successful fledgling numbers in diverse environmental habitats.

### HUMMINGBIRDS

On **January 28**, Fred Basset will present the popular program on Hummingbirds. Bassett is a licensed bird bander specializing in the banding of hummingbirds and is the president of Hummingbird Research. This is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of hummingbirds and neo-tropical migrants. Fred Bassett is known throughout the southeast for his work with the "jewels of the air." He will share his extensive knowledge of this little bird along with facts about nesting habits, food and caring for the feeders, as well as its migration pattern.

## Seed Swap



On **Saturday January 28, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.** the Wiregrass Master Gardeners will host a Seed Swap in the Ag Building. Similar to a potluck dinner, gardeners are encouraged to bring samples of their favorite heirloom seeds to exchange with others. Admission is free with paid gate fee (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids and free for members). A small portion of seeds distributed will be placed in our Seed Bank for future generations.

## Christmas Decorating Workshop

Spread some holiday cheer at Landmark Park at the Christmas 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).

## Quilt Retreat: Snowball Explosion



Snowball blocks use straight lines to make things appear round. At the Landmark Park Quilt Retreat we will learn how to make several kinds of snowball blocks and use them in many ways to make quilts. Several choices will be available. Accuquilt cutter will also be available to make your cutting a breeze. Call 334-794-3452 with your name and phone number to register for the retreat. Cost TBA.

**Friday and Saturday February 24 and 25**  
5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday (includes supper)  
and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday  
(includes lunch)

## Photography Workshop

Landmark Park is excited to welcome back the Southeast Alabama Photography and Adventure Club for a beginning photography workshop on **February 4 from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.** This workshop will focus on BASIC camera and photographic techniques. Participants will have an opportunity to utilize the techniques in the field with help from SEAPAC members. Registration will start at 9 a.m. in the Interpretive Center Classroom and the fee to attend is \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Registration is limited to participants ages 12 and older, with a maximum

of 20 participants. Participants should bring: DSLR Camera (no "Point & Shoot" cameras), extra batteries, the camera's manual (read your manual before you come), a clean media card, tripod if you have one, umbrella, and a sacked lunch and drink for the day. With the nature of this basic course, participants will have to adjust the Shutter Speed, Aperture and ISO settings of their camera. Please call the park office at 334-794-3452 to register. A follow up intermediate photography workshop will be held on **March 4.**

## Folk Arts Weekend Workshop



Landmark Park is excited to announce the return of our 4th annual Folk Arts Weekend on **February 11-12** dedicated to introducing participants to a variety of folk crafts and skills. The weekend will include two sessions on Saturday and one session on Sunday. Participants will be able to choose a different topic of interest for each session. Each session will last up to three hours and a hands-on element will be included. Session topics will range in variety, and will include hearth cooking, dulcimer playing, quilting, sacred harp singing, Dutch oven cooking, gourd painting and more, with a final schedule posted on our website by the first of January. Participants will be able to sign up for individual sessions, and there will be an option to include lunch. Registration is required and can be made by calling the park office. Session prices will vary depending on supplies needed and will range from \$20-\$30 each.

## Spring Family Programs

Landmark Park will be buzzing with family-oriented activities the week of **March 27-31.** A variety of programs will be offered each morning beginning at 9 a.m. in the Interpretive Center. These 2-hour programs will feature activities such as constructing bluebird houses, how to make a sundae at the soda fountain (yum!), and more!

Planetarium shows will be offered each day at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Planetarium shows will feature what is visible in the current night sky or provide the opportunity to watch astronomy-related movies in 360 with the park's Digitarium digital projector.

Families will also enjoy the daily nature hikes along the nature trail and boardwalk to learn

about many of the birds, mammals and other critters that call Landmark Park home. Each afternoon, you can assist park staff as we feed the farm animals, help us gather eggs and meet our other farm animals that reside on the Wiregrass Farmstead. Nature hikes will begin at 2 p.m. and departs from the Interpretive Center and the farm animal feeding will take place at 4 p.m. in front of the barn on the Wiregrass Farmstead.

Mark the dates now on your calendar to spend time in the great outdoors here at Landmark Park! A detailed list of programs and registration information will be posted on the park's website by January 1.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### Volunteer Project: Virtual Guided Tour

Board members and park volunteers Bob Saunders and Marty Olliff have been hard at work putting together a virtual guided tour for Landmark Park. Using your smart phone, scan the QR code above to visit the web page with the tour introduction. From there, you can visit pages set up for the Martin Drugstore, Shelley General Store, Browns Crossroads School, Headland Presbyterian Church, Watson Cabin and Waddell House. The pages are complete with text about the history of the buildings, historical and modern photos and videos with audio. Coming soon, in each physical location at the park, visitors will find a tile with a QR code that can be scanned with your smart phone. These codes will take you to the appropriate pages on the park's website. This tour allows visitors to Landmark Park as well as website visitors to access the information.

Free QR Reader Apps are readily available at your App Store. We recommend i-nigma as it downloads quickly, keeps a history of your scans for later viewing, and is ad-free. Simply follow the instructions below.

1. From App Store: Download i-nigma from Apple App Store, Android Market, BlackBerry App World or WindowsPhone Marketplace.

2. From Mobile Web: Go to [www.i-nigma.mobi](http://www.i-nigma.mobi) on your mobile phone. i-nigma will automatically identify your handset type, download and install i-nigma.



By Anna Holman



## Harry Potter Sky

As we enter into the winter months, several of our winter sky constellations will become visible. Orion, the most prominent and well known of the winter sky constellations will become visible in late December. Throughout history, Orion has been seen as a hunter usually holding a club and either a shield or an animal skin. Orion has many bright stars, including Betelgeuse and Bellatrix at his shoulders and Rigel at his foot.

Thanks to the popularity of the Harry Potter franchise, many people now think of Bellatrix Lastrange when they hear the name Bellatrix. However, Bellatrix was not the only star name used by J. K. Rowling. Also visible in the winter sky is the constellation Canis Major, one of Orion's hunting dogs. Within this constellation is the star Sirius, known as the Dog Star and the brightest star in the night sky. It's not coincidence that Sirius Black could transform into a dog. But the astronomy references don't stop there. Sirius Black's brother, Regulus Black is named for the star Regulus which is the brightest star in the constellation Leo. Leo the lion will be visible in early February. Regulus Black's middle name was Arcturus which is also the name of... you guessed it, a star. Arcturus is the brightest star in the constellation Bootes, which will be visible in early March. Noticing a pattern here? All of this comes back to the constellation Orion in the Harry Potter world because the father of Regulus and Sirius Black was named Orion. Throughout the series, there are several other characters named after celestial objects, but these are the Harry Potter characters visible in the winter sky.

While in Greek Mythology, these constellations are not connected and related in the way they are in the Harry Potter series, it is always fun to find mythology pop up again in modern stories.

## Astronomy Night



Join Landmark Park for an evening of stargazing on **February 17 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.** Astronomy Night is an exciting and informative program that gives visitors a view of several stars and planets as well as the Orion nebula through telescopes and binoculars on the Gazebo lawn. Staff members will help point out winter constellations and visitors will even get the chance to experience a "starry" hayride and campfire. Nightwalks will take place on the boardwalk. Warm up in the Interpretive Center after stargazing and enjoy snacks and a program in the planetarium where you will get the chance to learn more about the night sky. Planetarium programs are not recommended for children under 5.

Space for the event is limited. Reservations are required. Admission is \$4 for members, \$5 for scouts and their leaders in uniform and \$7 for nonmembers and free for children 5 and under.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are welcome. Astronomy Night meets several requirements for the Astronomy Badge. Reservations are required.

## 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 \$3 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.

December: Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

January: Astronomy, 3,000 Years of Stargazing

February: Two Small Pieces of Glass

## Welcome Cori



Cori Shiver, our new instructor, is a Wiregrass native who currently resides in Headland. She graduated from Troy University with a degree in Environmental Science. After graduation, Cori worked with the Wiregrass Experiment Station in Headland and worked on various research projects with Troy University as a graduate student. She enjoys working with children and has taught tumbling/gymnastics in Dothan and Headland. Cori is looking forward to sharing her knowledge and to the new experiences Landmark Park will deliver. Cori can be reached at [cori@landmarkparkdothan.com](mailto:cori@landmarkparkdothan.com).



## The Martin Drugstore

One of the largest and most frequently used artifacts here at Landmark Park is our soda fountain. Housed in the Martin Drugstore, the soda fountain provides visitors with cool, refreshing ice cream and soda treats.

When Landmark Park purchased the Martin Drugstore and all of its contents in 1997, the soda fountain was one of the more unique items within the drugstore. At the time of purchase, the soda fountain had been sitting unused, yet still full of ice creams and syrups, since 1983 when Mr. Leon B. Martin walked out of the Enterprise landmark one day and never came back. Because of its state of disrepair, Landmark Park had the soda fountain shipped off to Chicago, Illinois to be fully restored. This soda fountain is actually the third soda fountain of the Martin Drugstore and is a 1950s Liquid Carbonic.

Soda fountains have been around since the mid-1800s, but became significantly more popular in the 1920s with the start of Prohibition. Drugstores became a place where hard working Americans could take a break and enjoy their favorite soda or ice cream, despite the previous reputation of drugstores as vendors of whiskey and addictive drugs. In the early 1940s, they became increasingly popular with young people as a meeting place and after school hang out.

R. B. Martin, like many druggists of the early 1920s, was a prohibitionist who sought to make his drugstore a replacement for saloons and worked to make his soda fountain as elegant and attractive as saloons. He replaced his original fountain and back bar around 1920 with a far more elaborate model boasting a marble service counter and a refrigerated cooler. Some thirty years later, Leon Martin installed a modern fountain, the one in the Martin Drugstore today, but retained the back bar. Be sure to stop by the Martin Drugstore for a refreshing treat! The Drugstore hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Want more information about the items in Landmark Park's collection? Check out our blog at [landmarkpark-artifacts.tumblr.com](http://landmarkpark-artifacts.tumblr.com)



## A close-up photograph of a bird's nest, likely made of twigs and dried grass, containing two speckled eggs. The nest is positioned on a wooden surface.

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Abraham, Mr. & Mrs. Stevie Anderson, Mr. Fred Aplin, Mr. & Mrs. David Arndt, Ms. Billie Jo Ball, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bancroft, Mr. & Mrs. Brooks Barnes, Ms. Ashley Billings, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Bourasso, Mr. & Mrs. Rickey Callahan, Ms. Bernice Crossley, Mr. & Mrs. Eddie DeShazo, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Dickerson, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Dixon, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Farmer, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gautney, Ms. Sarah Goodridge, Mr. & Mrs. Micheal Gorland, Mr. Joe Steve Gowan, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Ham, Mr. Eric Hammond, Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Hanners, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Harden, Ms. Trish Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Kelley, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Lane, Mr. & Mrs. Roane Lawler, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lollan, Mr. & Mrs. Jason Mellinger, Ms. Hannah Motes, Mr. & Mrs. Sean Parker, Mr. Bill Perkins, Ms. Betty Peters, Mr. & Mrs. William Porter, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Richards, Mr. Doug Shiver, Mr. & Mrs. William Smith, Ms. Melanie Tighe, Mr. & Mrs. Skip Wilkerson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Wyatt, Mr. & Mrs. Rex Yance

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: the gift that lasts all year. :

# Thank You

- John Aplin of Aplin Farms for ear corn
- Ralph Byram for the donation of a garden tiller
- Jimmy Jones for the donation of hay
- AAA Cooper Transportation for shipping pumpkins
- Dwight Deal and Boyd Pierce for cooking for our volunteers
- Dr. Robert Syfrett for veterinary services on farm animals
- Craig Snellgrove for a generous donation
- Penny Smith for the donation of a refrigerator and freezer
- Joe Todd of Todd Syrup Farm for cane juice
- Chris Bradshaw for the donation of a refrigerator

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Dr. Larry Brown, Cherokee Garden Club, Cathy Corbitt, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Sue Poole, Gary and Barbara Meredith, Tracy and Ellen Newell, Craig Snellgrove, Edith Stark, Wiregrass Foundation, Wiregrass Master Gardeners Association

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##### **In memory of Harold Griffin**

By: William Holman

By: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Liddon

##### **In memory of Virginia Hill**

By: Mr. & Mrs. Al Saliba

##### **In memory of Charles Griffin**

By: Richard and Kathy Roberts

##### **In honor of Liam Jackson's Second Birthday**

By: Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Smith



## Congratulations \$500 Drawing Winners!

Congratulations to longtime members Barbara and Gary Meredith, winners of the \$500 drawing at the Landmark Park Benefit Car Show! Pictured with Membership Coordinator Janis Lepley. This drawing is held annually at the Landmark Park Benefit Car Show in October. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets! Proceeds benefit Landmark Park.

## Happy Retirement, Janis!

This month we say goodbye to membership coordinator Janis Lepley as she retires from Landmark Park. Janis started at the park as office manager and then moved to membership coordinator. Janis enjoyed handling money, doing data entry and exercising her fine eye for detail in her clerical work. She also had a great time participating in events such as the Membership Dinner and Victorian Christmas. "I also love to see the children's faces when they get off the buses," Janis says. Janis has learned a lot about Alabama history and nature while working at Landmark Park for the past 16 years. After her retirement, Janis plans to work part time for a local accounting firm. She is looking forward to having more time to spend with her two daughters and seven grandchildren. Janis, we will miss you!!



## Annual Fund Drive

Donations above and beyond your membership support are a very important part of Landmark Park. These donations allow us to reach our operating budget. Please consider giving a tax-deductible gift to the Park during our Annual Fund Drive. You will receive an invitation to give in early December. Thank you for your participation!

## NATURALIST NOTES



### Mistletoe

The holiday season is here yet again and one doesn't have to look very far to find the usual Christmas decorations of trees, wreaths and of course...mistletoe. Few other holiday decorations hold quite as much romantic appeal as mistletoe. Traditionally hung from the ceiling, it is the spot where two kiss and exchange goodwill as a sign of friendship during the Christmas season. While some sources believe "kissing under the mistletoe" to be an English tradition, it actually dates back to Norse mythology. Frigga, the goddess of love and beauty was so overprotective of her son, Balder, she requested that all things that originated from the elements of fire, water, air and earth never harm him. Loki, an evil spirit found an exception to that rule in the form of mistletoe. He carved an arrow from the branch of mistletoe and killed Balder. Frigga was so sad, her tears became the plant's white berries and Balder was brought back to life. Frigga was overjoyed and decided mistletoe would no longer be an offensive plant, but instead one of love and promise and whoever traveled beneath it would get a kiss.

However, the English tradition of hanging mistletoe at Christmas probably came from several sources. Druid priests in ancient Britain were impressed with mistletoe's ability to grow without planting roots in the ground and considered it sacred. Eventually whenever enemies met under mistletoe in the forest, they had to lay down their weapons and observe a truce until morning. From this came our Christmas slogan of "peace and joy unto all the earth."

Botanically speaking, mistletoe is actually a partially parasitic plant. As a parasite, mistletoe will actually penetrate the trunk of a tree and absorb nutrients. However, mistletoe is also capable of growing on its own like other plants producing its food by photosynthesis. The common name of mistletoe is derived from the belief that mistletoe was propagated from bird droppings. In fact, "mistle" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for "dung" and the word "toe" comes from the word for "twig". So, actually the word mistletoe could be translated to mean "dung on a twig". Try thinking of that the next time you meet your loved one under the mistletoe.



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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.

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