

the LARK newsletter



LANDMARK
PARK

Vol. XXXX, Number 3

Fall 2020

New! Peanut Boil

On Saturday **September 26 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**, Landmark Park will hold its inaugural Peanut Boil! Admission is \$5 adults, \$4 children, and free for park members and children 2 and under. Smith Brothers will be boiling peanuts and your admission covers boiled peanuts and a souvenir cup. Larger amount of peanuts can be purchased from Smith Brothers to go. Visitors are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and picnics. There will be a peanut stacking demonstration at the Wiregrass Farmstead, and live bluegrass and country music will be spread around the park. The Alabama Peanut Producers Association will be handing out information and recipes, and the Martin Drugstore will be debuting the peanut butter milkshake. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the park after-hours, snack on delicious boiled peanuts, and socially distance across the park's 135 acres. This event is sponsored by Troy Bank and Trust, Davis Oil Co., and Alden Services. *Mask are required when indoors and when in large groups in close-quarters outdoors. Cooks and soda jerks will observe all necessary sanitation requirements due to COVID-19.*



Low Country Boil

Landmark Park's annual Low Country Boil will be held on Thursday, **October 29**. Please note the new date. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Low Country Boil event will be TAKE OUT ONLY. Shrimp, sausage, corn, potatoes and a blend of spices will simmer in a 60-gallon kettle for a mouth-watering dish. An online auction will feature items including trips, gift baskets, and more. Visit [www. landmarkparkdothan.com](http://www.landmarkparkdothan.com) for updates on items and to bid on October 29

Advance tickets are required and must be purchased by October 22. For more info or to purchase tickets, call 334-794-3452. This year's event is presented by William and Carroll Flowers and sponsored by Adams Beverages, Alden Services, Buffalo Rock, Dothan Printing and Litho, Hardwick and Son Printing, Imperial Dade, Martin Environmental, Nantze Springs, Playmaker Embroidery, Steve and Angelia Stokes, Sysco, The Blue Plate Restaurant, U. S. Business Products and WDFX Fox 34. Special Thanks to Jared Ward with Sysco for serving as our lead cook.

Landmark Park has been hit particularly hard by COVID-19 closures and restrictions. As you know, this year has required closures, mask mandates and canceled special events. Rentals and field trips have also suffered. The Low Country Boil can help the park continue during these difficult times. Thank you for your patience as we figure out how to best move forward with our events.



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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Clay Williams, President; Korey Long, Vice President; Ben Wallace, Treasurer; Jeanie Mann, Secretary; Paula Autrey; Bence Carter; Wes Crowley; Ronnie Davis; Michael Downing; Bruce Faulk; Chelsea Johnson; Barbara Jowers; Kenny Moss; Peter Ramsey; Leanne Richardson; Steve Stokes; Brandon Ziegenfelder

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DATES TO REMEMBER

REPTILE FEEDINGS First Sundays
WOODTURNER MEETINGS First Saturdays
DULCIMER CLUB JAM First Saturdays
PICKIN IN THE PARK Second Saturdays
LANDMARK SIT AND SEW Second Saturdays
BLACKSMITH DEMO First and Third Saturdays
PEANUT BOIL September 26
HALLOWEEN FUN FEST October 3
QUILT SHOW October 16-18
FALL FARM DAY October 17
LOW COUNTRY BOIL October 29
DECORATING WORKSHOP December 6

ONGOING Register online for field trips!

Visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com to register for programs and for more details.

new!

Halloween Fun Fest

On Saturday, **October 3 from 4 p.m.-8 p.m.** Landmark Park will hold a Halloween Fun Fest. A variety of activities will take place, giving kids and families a chance to enjoy fall in the outdoors while being socially distanced. Activities will include a corn maze, arts and crafts, a costume catwalk, games, Tractor Treat and the Alabama Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support Zombie Run. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for kids and free for park members, children 2 and under and those who preregister for the Zombie Run. *Masks will be required when inside buildings and when outdoors in a large, not socially-distanced group.*



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 3 during the Landmark Park Halloween Fun Fest. 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. Please pass along any unused tickets to your friends. To purchase more chances to win for \$2 per chance, give us a call at 334-794-3452. Remember, each ticket you purchase or sell helps maintain Landmark Park. COVID closures have hit us hard, so we especially appreciate your support at this time. Thank you for your continued support and good luck! *Yes, usually this event takes place at the Car Show. However, Car Clubs are not meeting at this time so the show will not take place in 2020. Instead, Halloween Fun Fest will take place on October 3 and the drawing will take place at it instead.*

Landmark Park Receives Grants

The Wiregrass Foundation recently awarded Landmark Park a \$5,000 grant to partner with Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting to curate Landmark Park's existing collections of points, pottery and stone tools. Native American culture is often underrepresented and Landmark Park would like to remedy this situation in our own museum. By partnering with Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting, a local company, the artifacts in our collection will be treated with the care they deserve. While other Native American cultural sites and museums may exist in nearby areas, this would be a unique situation. Instead of being a museum that separates Native American history, Landmark Park will work to incorporate the many cultures that make up the Wiregrass region into one site. Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting will identify and sort the artifacts into the appropriate cultural periods: Paleoindian; Archaic; Woodland; Mississippian; Protohistoric; Historic. Written info will also be provided. Landmark Park will then use this information to design displays and additional educational programming. The completion of this project will allow Landmark Park to bring a multicultural approach to our study of Wiregrass history.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation awarded Landmark Park \$10,000 to offset revenue lost due to COVID-19 closures. This grant allowed the park to continue developing programs and operating even through we were closed.

Landmark Park sincerely appreciates the support shown by awarding these grants. This year has presented an unusual set of challenges but we are working hard to modify our existing programs and develop new activities for our community.

Fall Farm Day



On Saturday, **October 17 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, arts and crafts 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. Visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com for entry forms for the Tractor Pull and Parade.

Masks will be required when inside buildings and when outdoors in a large, not socially-distanced group.

Landmark Park Quilt Show



Antique and contemporary quilts will be on display in the Stokes Activity Barn for the annual Landmark Park Quilt Show on **October 16-19**. 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 theme for this year's show is A Century of Progress: Celebrating Women's Right to Vote. 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. Please call 334-794-3452 or visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com for entry forms.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Jonathan Beeson

Jonathan Beeson and his bride Karen joined our Wiregrass family in 1985, when he became manager of Jolly Fox, beside Ramada Inn on Ross Clark Circle. Then, he spent 26 years on the Dothan Police force, where his buddies called him Bob Vila for his knowledge of building.

Jonathan has built sets for Southeast Alabama Community Theater (SEACT) for many years. Recently, he was production designer for Second Samuel, a movie filmed locally. He enjoys singing and acting, too. His first SEACT role was as Ed in "You Can't Take It with You." His most recent was as Daniel in "Almost Maine," a virtual show produced over the summer on Zoom. He sang several roles in "Les Miserables" and sang baritone for five years with other police officers in the gospel group Apostle. Unsurprisingly, he writes a little and paints a little. Surprisingly, he's only been painting for four years. Fortunately, Landmark Park has been a recipient of his talent. He built new playground signs for our new playground. He painted "Hindsight" for conference held at the park in February. The painting was used on the program and t-shirts, and prints will be sold in the Alabama Agricultural Museum when it opens to the public. His latest park bestowal is a mural in the museum. He says his art is a nice way to give something.

"Selfishly," he said, "My name's going to be on this wall forever."

Jonathan and Karen have three grown sons and five grandbabies. They attend Westgate Church of Christ in Dothan. He currently has pieces exhibited at El Palacio and Rudd Art Center in Ozark. *To volunteer at Landmark Park, call the park office at (334) 794-3452 or email volunteer coordinator Celeste Conner at celeste@landmarkparkdothan.com.*

Decorating Workshop



Spread some holiday cheer at Landmark Park at the Holiday Decorating Workshop on **December 6 at 1 p.m.** Create wreaths, garlands and swags out of natural materials and decorate Landmark Park for Victorian Christmas (taking place on December 13) and make some decorations to take home! Refreshments will be provided. Guests are encouraged to bring gloves and wire pliers. Registration is required. Visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com to reserve your space. This event is supported by the Wiregrass Master Gardeners Association.



The Education Department is excited to announce that registration for school programs for the 2020-2021 school year is now open!! We know that safety is the number one thing on everyone's mind this school year. Can't come to us and/or we can't travel to you? No problem! Landmark Park has added a virtual field trip option so we can engage your students from their own desks. Wish your students could have a hand-on learning adventure? Landmark Park and staff are also doing their part to keep our park sanitized and clean for students to still be able to experience life over a hundred years ago on our Wiregrass Farmstead, take a look at Alabama's beautiful forests and wildlife on our boardwalk, and so much more adventure to be had! For more information, check out our website www.landmarkparkdothan.com and click on the Education tab. You may also contact the Park office at 334-794-3452 or email Tabitha Shumaker at tabitha@landmarkparkdothan.com.

Due to COVID-19 regulations and the inability to fully socially distance 6 feet, the Planetarium will be closed until further notice.

Don't Forget About These Regularly Scheduled Events

The **Wiregrass Woodturners** host a club meeting and woodturning demo every **first Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m.** The public is invited to visit and learn how to make beautiful wooden items turned on a lathe. Free with your paid gate admission (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids, free for park members). Wiregrass Woodturner members get in free. Club meets in the Interpretive Center Classroom.



The **Landmark Dulcimer Club** has a jam and practice session every **first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m.** You do not have to know how to read music! We prefer you bring your own Mountain Dulcimer but we do have a few practice dulcimers you can borrow if you want to give it a try. Free with your paid gate admission (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids, free for park members). Show your instrument and get in for free! Club meets in the Interpretive Center.

Wiregrass Forge member Brent Clark will present a **Blacksmithing Demo** every **first and third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.** Watch as metal is heated and shaped into a variety of items. Free with your paid gate admission (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids, free for park members).



Landmark Park hosts a public **Reptile Feeding** every **first Sunday at 4 p.m.** Meet our snakes and turtles and learn why these animals are so important to the environment. Interpretive Center Lobby. Free with your paid gate admission (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids, free for park members).

Pickin in the Park takes place every **second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.** Join musicians for a bluegrass, country and gospel jam session. Visitors are welcome to listen or participate. Free with your paid gate admission (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids, free for park members). Show your instrument at the gate to receive free admission. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

New! **Landmark Park Sit and Sew** takes place every **second Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** Join the Evening Star Quilt Guild with your textile-based crafts for an informal sewing circle. Free with paid gate admission (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids, free for park members) and for Quilt Guild members. Space is limited, first come first served. Interpretive Center Auditorium.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lester Killebrew, President; Senator Gerald Allen; Representative Paul Lee; Robert Hensarling; George Jeffcoat; Bob Plaster; Ryan Blocker; Ronnie Davis; Dr. Gary Lemme

STAFF

Laura Stakelum, Executive Director; Kari Barley, Curator; Jay Sayre, Bookkeeper



Landmark Park, home to Alabama's Official Museum of Agriculture, will receive a one-time appropriation of \$400,000 from the state of Alabama for the next fiscal year. The Alabama Agricultural Museum has undergone many changes over the years and this funding will allow the building to expand to include classrooms, new interactive exhibits and more storage and display space for artifacts. A new exhibit is being built, and will open at Landmark Park's Fall Farm Day on October 17.

Artifact Exploration

Western Electric Wooden Case Wall Mount Telephone, Donated by Mr. & Mrs. William W. Gregory, Jr.



Remembering Yesteryear

One of Dothan's early "filling stations." In 1919, O.S. Story put in a gasoline tank and pump in front of his grocery store on West Main Street in what is now the Southeast corner of Cherokee Avenue and Main Street.

Landmark Park maintains an archive of historic photos. Please let us know if you have photos that could be scanned into our archives. You keep your originals. Call Laura at 334-794-3452 or email laurav@landmarkparkdothan.com.



NEW MEMBERS



A special welcome to our new members who joined from May 15 to August 15. To all our previous members who renewed since our last newsletter, a sincere thank you.

Mrs. Ann Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Collier
Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Collins
Ms. Amber Crost and Christian
Mr. and Mrs. Colin Cusack
Mr. and Mrs. Scotty Debose
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dellafiora
Ms. Paige Deshazo
Ms. Kimberly Dodson
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Downey
Ms. Natali Fields
Father Patrick Gallagher
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Gray
Mr. and Mrs. Torey Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hirtriter
Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Loucks
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mims
Ms. Shannon Meuleman
Ms. Sadie Nelson
Ms. Jennifer Steelman
Mr. and Mrs. Joey Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Walls
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Woody
Lynn and Beth Caylor
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shoemaker

CORPORATE MEMBERS



Special thanks to the following businesses who have either joined or renewed from May 15 to August 15.

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Martin Environmental Services
Michelin

WISH LIST

New or gently used
refrigerator

Thank You

IN KIND DONATIONS

Ben Ferguson, Cook Museum

MONETARY DONATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Top Bishop, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Cy Butler, Mrs. Dorothy Clark, Ms. Cathy Corbitt, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Everett, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Headland, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lisec, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Patton, Mr. and Mrs. James Porlier, Ms. Margaret Slingluff

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Carole Ball, Irene Tucker, Wiregrass Master Naturalists

KITCHEN GARDEN GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Wiregrass Master Gardeners Association

OUTDOOR PROJECTS

Jimmy Jones, Tom Boyle, David Baker, Brent Clark, Abby Harris, Mike Roberts, Jay Morris, Leticia and Jeff Avera, Carolann Roussin, Sara Jo Adams, Yon and Steve Smith, Bruce Turberville

TEACHING APIARY MAINTENANCE AND HONEY EXTRACTION

Bill Miller, Dwayne Sanders, Steve Loveland, Wiregrass Beekeepers Association, Wiregrass RC&D

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

Amy Golden, Jay Morris, Abby Harris, the Master Gardener's Club. And to those who were prepared to lead summer camps. Although they were canceled, we appreciate your willingness and flexibility this summer!

WATERMELON TASTING

Wiregrass Master Gardeners, Birdsong Farms, Tom Boyle, Jan Shirley, Wiregrass RC&D

ALABAMA AG MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Mike Roberts, Bruce Turberville

TRIBUTE FUND

In Honor Of Colton Register
By Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Register

ANIMAL ADVENTURES PRESENTERS

Jatin Patel, Jimmy Stiles, Rosalyn Horton, John Morse, Sheila Andreasen, Abby Taylor, Brooke Williams, Ken Weathers, Tim Ward, Stacy Lush, Page Whatley

MUSIC BY MOONLIGHT

Oddly Enough, Tri State Community Orchestra, The Byrd family, Mama Try'ed, WOOF Radio

WACKY WEDNESDAY PRESENTERS

Valerie Wise, Zack Webber and WTVY, the Nature Gallery Yoga Studio

BLUE STAR MUSEUM SPONSORSHIP

All In Credit Union

HERITAGE FORUMS

Cantor Neil Schwartz, Dale Cox, Rachael Conrad, Dr. Hayden McDaniel



Our Gift Shop is now carrying the Scout, from Omussee Creek Bows, handmade by Eugene Conner! www.omusseecreekbows.com



Thank you to Mia Foster for donating several Plymouth Rock hens to help increase our flock of heritage breed chickens at the Wiregrass Farmstead!



Bridal Suite Almost Complete

Landmark Park is working to make your rental even more special! A bridal changing suite is being added to the Stokes Activity Barn. This large room, complete with sinks and its own private bathroom stall, should be ready for use by mid-September.

Landmark Park is a great place for a wedding, corporate event or party. Visit our website, www.landmarkparkdothan.com, for details on how we can help you plan your own event.

Give the Gift of Landmark Park!



Gift the gift of Landmark Park! Not only do family memberships make great gifts, now Landmark Park is offering gift cards that can be used for anything at Landmark Park!

The gift cards work just like a credit card. Simply purchase and load with money. The recipient may then use the gift card for whatever they choose...memberships, gift shop, treats from the drugstore, rental fees and more!

To purchase a gift card, call Landmark Park's office at 334-794-3452 or visit our Gift Shop at the park.



The Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama Troop 9885 recently built and donated a bench to Landmark Park for their Silver Award project. Pictured are Landmark Park Executive Director Laura Stakelum, with girl scouts Kaitlyn Herrington, Olivia Delpho and Tricia Rhodes. Make sure to visit the Barnyard Playground at Landmark Park and check it out.

Call for Nominations

Dothan Landmarks Foundation is seeking nominations for the board of directors and for the 2020 Heritage Award. The board of directors is composed of 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.

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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.

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

Occasion: Birthday Anniversary Memorial Other

Donor’s Name: _____

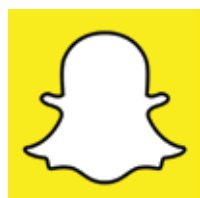
Address: _____

Please Notify: _____

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