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# THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland  
P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 32, No. 5

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2013

## RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL TO FEATURE MANY AREA ARTISTS ...

The 2013 Rhododendron Festival will have many returning artists from our past festivals as well as new presenters. Cloud Farrow, who captures scenes of our area, will return with new works and prints of his well-known depictions of Mentone and the surrounding counties. His drawing of the Mentone Inn, the Wedding Chapel and the Mentone Springs Hotel are favorites among local art collectors. Local author Greg Starnes will be selling his just published collection of ghost stories: "Hollers from the Hollows" which highlights stories from our area. It is a thriller, and he will sign copies of the book. Dandelion Pie (The Clintons) will have a new collection of their handmade patchwork clothes and hats, as well as gypsy jewelry. Karen Duke will feature dolls, folk art and jewels.

A past favorite is jewelry maker Danielle Chandler whose brand is "Ferd and Bird". Her works are made of vintage jewels redesigned with a modern twist. Joy Walker sells genuine

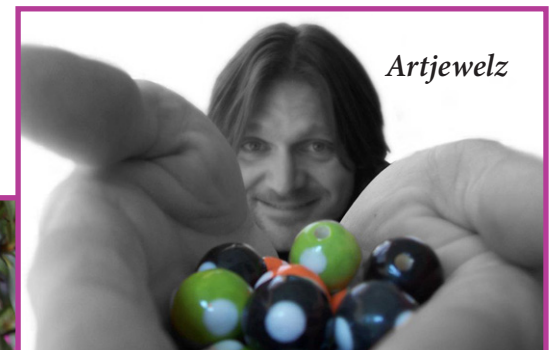
gem stone jewelry; Deborah Robison makes wire wrapped jewelry; Jewelry artists Lori Rhodes and Chris Patterson of "Artjewelz" will



Pottery by Shannon MacMichael also have booths of treasures for sale. Chelley Walker

Davis is known for metal working and vintage silverware jewelry.

Pottery will be displayed by Carolyn Burke and Carol Roden (also fused glass), and



Shannon McMicheal will have functional pottery. Arlene McGowan returns this year with her unique artful baskets and gourds. Kathy Quinn has oil paintings, knit and crochet items and scarfs. LaLoni Cramer is known for her baby quilts; so bring your list of baby showers that need to be attended.

Linda Crowe Jarvis will have a good selection of her oil paintings. Trevor Hill is an acrylic painter and he will participate in this festival.

Carol Killian, Rene Lyons and Patty Shelton will have an eclectic assortment of items from glass art, baskets and photos. This trio of artists are certain to have something to strike your fancy in their booth. Charles Holcomb makes aluminum can airplanes, and he is always a hit at the show.

## AND MUSICIANS

The festival committee has extended the theme of Mountain Traditions to the musical offerings. Starting things off Saturday morning the 18th at 9:30 and running til about 2:30 will be an authentic Sacred Harp singing you can visit during your festival rounds. This singing will be much like the ones that have happened in our county since 1844. Only the fashions have changed! Seventh generation singers and new singers alike welcome all,

especially those whose grandparents sang this music. You are welcome to sing or just listen and you may come and go at will. The singing will be in the sanctuary of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. behind the Mentone Inn with a lunch break from 12-1.

During the day you can hear performances by Chris Hale playing an old time banjo. Jean Ann Moon and the RSVP Dulcimer group

(cont'd on page 2)



Dan Landrum



## THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387  
Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation.



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## From The Editor

It's May! May flowers, May pole, Mayday, Mother, May I? No matter how you look at it, Mentone's exciting in May! The whole town is a'bubble with plans for the upcoming 31st annual Rhododendron Festival. So many people's time and talent are going into creating this festival for your enjoyment. You will enjoy the special efforts towards presenting authentic mountain music, crafts, skills, food and activities. Especially of note is an authentic Sacred Harp Singing to be held at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church just off the town square. For authenticity's sake, instead of a demonstration, you may drop in and experience the real singing whenever you like between 9:30-12:00 and 1-2:30. Come learn the basics of Sacred Harp singing Wed, May 15th, 6:30pm, Rock Ridge Retreat Center, Valley Head. All are encouraged to experience this rich local heritage which has now gained international acclaim.

Mother Nature is busy popping peonies out of the ground and sending shooting star columbines clamoring up the rocky hillsides. All around us Green has taken control! Every



shade is creeping through the understory mirroring the canopy above. Skies are blue, temperatures are pleasantly variable and life is happening. The waters of The Little River are crystal clear and beckoning though still too cold for most to explore. The native azealas are making a fine display in the woods and the irises in the beds. Lilies of the valley are fragrantly wafting their hypnotic loveliness and our precious lady's slipper orchid is in full sail above the piney duff.

Best, Susan

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Just wanted you to know your paper is improving all the time. I enjoy the articles about people in the area and especially the "Chicken Lady." I, too, have chickens and am learning from her. Keep up the good work.

Brenda Roberts

## Mentone's Cookin'

The Festival committee turned to the local chefs to embellish this year's culinary treats in "A Taste of Mentone." Chef Ben Keener of J. Spencer's will offer his sushi "Zen bites" at the brow along with Hardware Cafe chefs Jessie Goggans and Thad Stevenson who will offer "backyard grill fare". The fire department will offer BBQ and the Mentone Market will have sandwiches. At the children's area in Mason Park the Valley Head Athletics will have kiddie offerings. On Friday night in the pavilion behind the Mentone Inn, One World Adventure will offer a fund-raiser fish fry with slaw and hush puppies and desert. The bonfire will be lit after dinner and Curtis Strange will play guitar

## By Susan Cherones

and sing, and then folks are encouraged to break out their instruments for a picking. On Saturday night, The Wildflower Cafe will host a pig roast with music, also in the pavilion. Be sure to visit our local eating establishments as well.



### Musicians (cont'd from page 1)

will play mountain dulcimers and there will also be a special presentation of hammered dulcimer music by the editor of Dulcimer Player News Magazine, Dan Landrum, whom we are honored to host. The Moon Lake Elementary Chorus will sing and 4 in Accord will offer gospel singing. Barry Crow will oversee a community hymn singing. Glen Fletcher of Dalton will play bluegrass. Bramble Rose is a mixed old time string ensemble featuring mandolin, dulcimer and guitar. Pickett's

Charge, the award winning Fyffe High School String Band, will knock your socks off Saturday afternoon at 4 on the brow and the festival will close Sunday afternoon with the Lookout Mountain Strummers, our own Mentone dulcimer players. Throughout the festival, there will be Jam Sessions at Log Cabin Village, Kamama's and The Crow's Nest. Bring your instruments and join in!

# Mentone Matters

By Mayor Rob Hammond

During the February council meeting a committee consisting of the mayor, the police chief, council member Gerald Bailey, and council member Ray Padgett was given the assignment of presenting to the full council guidelines for the use of Brow Park and Mason Park for festivals and large groups. The committee met at Town Hall Saturday, February 23, 2012. The committee reported to council at the regular March meeting and the guidelines were adopted by the council.

Hobson Kirby was elected by the council to fill the unexpired term of Gail Chambers.



## Another Successful Community Clean Up!

By Lyle Nicely

Thanks! Thanks you to the volunteers that picked up loads of trash. Thank you to all the businesses that donated money or goodies. Thank you to all the volunteers that picked up trash all during the year. Thank you to all the people in the Mentone area that no longer throw trash on the roads! The roadsides seem to have

less trash each year! I've never seen such big smiles from people picking up trash. They really smiled big when I brought the homemade chocolate chip cookies from Tom! Thank you to the people who brought food to the community picnic after the cleanup.

Thanks again to the following businesses:

Mentone Inn	Bj's 2
Wildflower Cafe	Town of Mentone
Mentone Market	Kamama
Mentone Realty	St. Joseph's Episcopal Church
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Brad Lackey Photography  
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Lookout Mountain Heritage Alliance

Dave Hall  
Cloudland, GA

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Dave was the photographer for the Rome Braves and had never missed a single game. He was the owner of Exterra Computer Services and a friend to all.



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## Want to know more about Mentone's early years?

MAPA is offering Zora Strayhorn's popular book *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, a fascinating collection of information about many of Mentone's oldest structures, the early settlers and popular legends and lore. Also included are several historic photographs of the Mentone area. You can buy *Mentone, Alabama: A History* at the following businesses in Mentone:

Wildflower Cafe . Kamama Gallery .  
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The cost is only \$15.00, and all sales proceeds go to the Mentone Area Preservation Association to further its goals for 2013. Help support MAPA and get answers to all your questions about the history of Mentone!

Live outside the area? Send a check in the amount of \$18 (covering shipping and handling) to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984, and a book will be sent to you. Be sure to include your shipping address.

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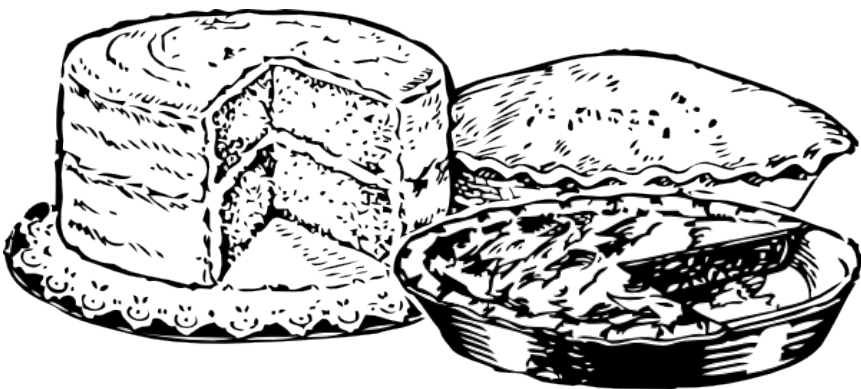


Rhododendron Festival Update

By Ray Padgett

Springtime in Mentone brings long dormant senses to life and frees your spirit from winter's icy hold. Backyard gardens fulfill their promise and redbud, cherry, dogwood, and rhododendron blossoms showoff for the entire world to marvel at their beauty. Makes you want to dance around the Maypole. The Mentone Rhododendron Festival gives residents and visitors a chance, just before summer, to celebrate our time in this special part of the world by remembering and honoring Mentone's mountain heritage.

Festival plans now include a musical



performance by the Moon Lake School Chorus and a Cake Auction to benefit Moon Lake School projects. Paula Easter will direct the musical performance between 2:00 and 3:00 pm on Saturday in the Mason Park pavilion. Again, there is no admission so come on out and enjoy

the music. Tony Hendon will also captain boat rides from DeSoto Falls.

Karen Prestwood is coordinating the Cake Auction and Holley Midgley volunteered to be the Cake Auctioneer. All auction items are donated by local cake bakers and pie makers known for their extraordinary skills in sweetness creation. Cakes and pies should be delivered Friday (May 17) or Saturday morning (May 18) to the Mentone Market where they will be kept until the auction. If you have any questions or would like to donate your culinary treat for the auction please contact Karen at [kdprestwood@dekalbk12.org](mailto:kdprestwood@dekalbk12.org) or 256-635-8960.

A reminder, we still need volunteers to make the festival run smoothly during this busy weekend. No matter if you can only volunteer an hour or all weekend, PLEASE VOLUNTEER! You can contact our festival chair, Elaine Gauldin at (256) 634-0039, or by e-mail at [jgauldin@centurytel.net](mailto:jgauldin@centurytel.net),) or contact any of our committee chairs to volunteer.

A detailed schedule of events and festival layout and a list of Rhododendron Festival Sponsors are included in the center pullout section of this issue of The Groundhog.



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## LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown

This was the first meeting for Mickey Luck to preside as Chairman of the Moon Lake Community Library Board of Directors. He did a super, fantastic, wonderful job. We always begin our meetings with a report from last meeting and a report of our financial status. We approved the minutes as presented and discussed the money box a little. We now have to pay a salary for the librarian. This is a small amount but it is constant. Therefore, we find ourselves thinking of ways to be sure we can continue with the library services as they now stand.

We continued with the committee reports as this seems to be the best way for us to cover all of our needs. The report of FRIENDS of the Library was given. We decided to ask anyone who was a FRIEND in the last year or so, but not an active FRIEND now, to join again and send \$20 per member to the address below. We are trying to think of ways to involve you more and to let you know that we appreciate you. If you know of something for us to consider, make

a note of it and send it with your membership form.

Next on the agenda was our committee report designed to help us raise some money. After much discussion and with much regret, we decided to NOT have the Bridge Tournament on Saturday, April 27, 2013 as originally planned. We have encountered so many other events that are scheduled around this time that it seems impossible to get enough players to realize even a small profit. We hope to schedule another day to play Bridge before this summer is out. We are talking about a week day this time. Will let you know in plenty of time for you to prepare to participate if you play. Contact us if you want to get a table to play and we might not know about your players. We are saddened to have to cancel this event. It was something new, and we were looking forward to it.


Operation Paperback continues to be an ongoing project for us. We have a box for the collection of paperbacks to be sent to our military personnel. Bring them to the library and look for a white box which is decorated in red and blue. We carry them to the proper person when the box is full, and they ship them to the places which need them.

We are going to have a BOOKSALE at the Rhododendron Festival on Saturday, May 18 (10 am - 5 pm) and Sunday, May 19 (11 am - 4 pm). Look for a white tent, probably on The Square at the Mentone Inn. We will be with some other tents so you may have to hunt for us. We

have some great, current hard-backed books. We have lots of paperbacks and a good selection of what we call soft backs, which have a stiffer cover than paperbacks and are usually larger. We have books on all subjects. We have a good selection of cookbooks and gardening books and many how-to books. This year, the Festival will be in downtown Mentone and in the Brow Park. Plan to attend both days so you can cover all of the events.

Our hours for the library to be open are: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 PM and Saturday, 9:00 to 12:00 AM. Remember, no fine if you use the deposit box outside the door.

Write to us at: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, AL 35984 and to be on the agenda for the next meeting on April 18, 2013 at 3:00 PM, tell Beverly or call Mickey Luck at 256/845-1282. You are welcome to attend our meetings. We appreciate your comments.

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## This Old House: MERF Community House

*My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky, but I am full of life. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.*

Did you see the Moon Lake gym transformed into an elegant dining room and art gallery on Saturday April 6th for the most fabulous party? MERF's first Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction was a fun celebration with beautiful creations by volunteers and the school children. The decorating committee, headed by Joan Byrum and Frances Agee, created an intimate and inspiring atmosphere thanks to decorations from Camp Riverview and tables and chairs from Mentone Community church. The artwork by Moon Lake children was as good as the masters with a beautiful presentation. As everyone arrived and found their tables, you could peruse the wonderful artwork produced in Ms. Paula's art class and determine your bidding scheme. Kristen Emory, the fundraiser chair and MERF's Executive Director, started the evening off by introducing Ms. Paula and some of her choir members: Laura Boehringer, Mattie McGee, Rachel Collins, Jordan Henderson, Ally Smith, Madisen Smith, Carley Verdon, Candice Lawton and Ashelyn Watson. Their songs and bell work were a joy to watch. The finale was the cup song from Pitch Perfect by Candice and Ashelyn. Loved their monogrammed cups! Thank you, Ms. Paula, for enabling these students to perform in wondrous ways with their voices, with their hands and with their

expression of beauty in artwork. Everyone began looking under their chairs hoping to win a door prize: the gift certificate from Orbix Hot Glass studio for an ornament making class or a "Leave Me In Mentone" fleece throw.

Then the local restaurants and B&Bs dazzled everyone with their culinary arts as many commented how fortunate we are to live in an area with such great food.

The unbelievable Tastes of the Mountain were:

Hardware Café: Pork, Chicken salad and Vegetarian sliders with homemade slaw and hummus

J. Spencer's: Zen Bites

Wildflower Café: Tomato Pie

Rusty Fox: Gourmet Pizza

Granny Hester's Sweet Potato biscuits with a new mini version

Roger's Real Homemade: Gluten free chocolate chip cookies, sweet potato muffins and brownies

Twiggs at Kamama Gallery: Roasted Red Pepper soup, scones and Momelets

Mentone Market: Cakes by Sandy Emory

Mountain Grove Bed and Breakfast:

Green Chili Cheese Egg casserole

Mountain Laurel Inn B&B: Decadent French Toast

With full bellies and open wallets, the art auction began with auctioneer Terry Hutcheson calling for bids and Kristen showcasing each piece and describing the artist and his or her enjoyment in creating their painting. Pictured

are the ten pictures auctioned off that evening. A big thank you to Keepsakes Framing in Rainsville for making beautiful artwork exquisite! There were also several unframed paintings

that guests were able to purchase at the end of the evening. Amidst the children's artwork, local artists offered their talents with a "Leave Me In Mentone" painted gourd from Scott Thomas, a bottle cap creation from Tom Emory and a painting from the owners of Off the Boat Seafood.

The MERF board is ever so grateful for this community and all the many people that made this evening such a success. Thank you everyone who supported this event with your time and your talents especially our Executive Director Kristen Emory. Thank you for buying tickets, for coming to the event, for bidding on the artwork and for having a great time. Thanks to Ms. Wisner for letting MERF use the gym and supporting all that we do. Thanks to Bill Berry for producing a wonderful program for the evening. Thanks also to Ms. Paula and all the great artists at Moon Lake School. MERF's art program at Moon Lake School will benefit tremendously from all the proceeds. Don't miss Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction 2014 as it will be even better. Be sure to stop by MERF's booth at the Mentone Rhododendron Festival and see our new "Leave Me in Mentone" fleece throw that will be perfect on your porch for those cool summer nights or purchase a t-shirt and cap to support all of MERF's programs. Life in Mentone is good.

*MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at [www.crowdrise.com/MERF](http://www.crowdrise.com/MERF).*

*See photos of some of the budding artists from this event on page 24.*



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# Coming To Mentone

By Holley Midgely

My mother first brought me to Mentone in the late 1940s, before I was born. Really. Laying there in the warmth of my womb/room, having fetal thoughts, putting on baby fat and preparing for my coming out party, I thought, "Hey! This Mentone place is okeedokee in the extreme. Think I'll live here someday." So now I do.

Just kidding about the fetal memories. The truth is I really don't remember exactly when it occurred to me that when one eventually reaches a certain age, one can decide for oneself where one will live. But it did, and here I am. The route here was long and the sideshows were many, but here I am!

Growing up in Gadsden and later Auburndale, Massachusetts, my thoughts were never far from Lookout Mountain. I believe that even from my earliest days as a full time fetus I must have begrudged every moment I spent somewhere other than my beloved Mentone. A few years before I was born my grandfather Charles Shepard and four other Gadsden businessmen had purchased the property at Mentone's Moon Lake from the estate of Martha Berry, the legendary educator from Rome, Georgia. My little brother Shep and I spent whole summers at the lake as we were growing up. I remember eating Eskimo pies at Bailey's Grocery, and drinking the once-a-day permitted coca cola as we built our tree fort in the woods. I remember jumping off the impossibly high, not to mention impossibly rickety, diving platform

at DeSoto Falls. And eating peanut butter and banana sandwiches on float trips on the river. Tom and Huck : eat your hearts out.

While the wage earning men in the family would commute down to Gadsden to work, we'd stay here, day after idyllic day, fishing, swimming in both the lake and the Little River, playing with Max and Roberta Cash's kids, and later Dwight and Nelson Stallings, and doing all the little boy things that little boys do. The good news is that no one was killed or badly injured. That is, if you don't include the broken arms, various contusions, or the nail I stepped on that was removed by old Dr. Quimby down in Valley Head. Down through the years there were Big Chill weekends too numerous to mention, honeymoons too numerous to forget, and even the conceiving of my son, all in Mentone. Then, finally, mercifully, after 17 years as the executive vice president of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, I finally gave up the flatlands forever and moved here 5 years ago. This is called living the dream, my friends.

Out of mercy for you, gentle reader, I will forgo the usual prattling on about the gorgeous scenery, mild winters, temperate summers, magnificent and abundant wildflowers, blah, blah blah that are the acknowledged attractions of the Mentone area. We all know them well.

Let me just say instead that I firmly believe I have rhododendron and mountain laurel pollen (acquired as a nature loving fetus) coursing through my circulatory system in such abundance that Mentone is part of me down to the molecular level.

Over my lifetime I have lived in more than a dozen towns and cities and in almost 40 different houses. I've been married an astounding number of times. I earned two college degrees, raised or helped raise 4 kids, worked for half a dozen companies and organizations, broke an arm another couple of times, and traveled to 10 or 12 foreign countries. But during all that coming and going, there has been one constant in my life: Mentone.

It's time for me to absquatulate for now, but when it is eventually time for me to punch my time card for the last time, just cremate me and sprinkle what's left on the waters of Moon Lake. I want to end up where I started.

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# To Know Silence

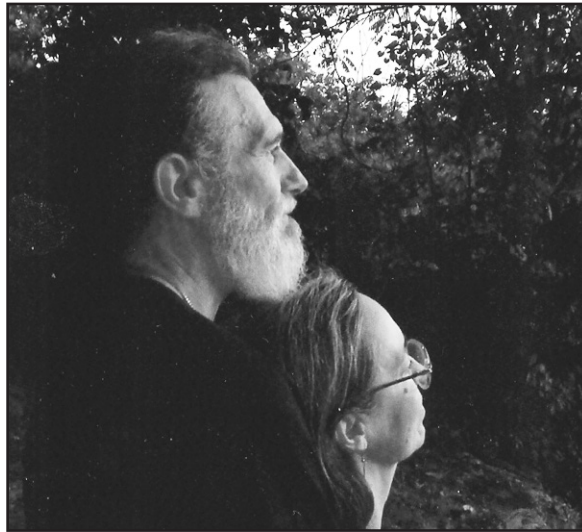
*"I have known the silence of the stars and of the sea,  
And the silence of the city when it pauses,  
And the silence of a man and a maid,  
And the silence for which music alone finds the word,  
And the silence of the woods before the winds of  
spring begin..."*

This is the beginning of a poem by Edgar Lee Masters, the poet best known for "Spoon River Anthology." It's a long poem, seventy lines, and is the one I chose to memorize as part of an eleventh grade English class assignment. All of my classmates selected poems of four to fourteen lines, but I was so moved by Masters' poem that I had to learn it, to contain it in my mind. I'll never forget the ease of memorizing it, or the lack of nervousness when presenting it. I was sixteen years old and had already learned the importance of silence, the need for it in my life.

When I speak of "silence," I realize that I am thinking primarily of the absence of spoken language, of words that convey emotions or ideas, of words we share with each other as we speak and tell our stories. But there is more to silence than the absence of spoken words. It goes to the heart of things, to the deepest core of our being. In silence we learn who we are. Another line in Masters' poem says "and I ask, for the depths, of what use is language?"

Some of my deepest joys have come in moments of absolute quiet. As a young teen, I would spend long summer afternoons reading on the big porch that surrounded my house. Daddy and I would often sit together on the porch, and he'd tell stories; or we'd talk together but as often as not, we'd just sit together in quiet stillness. In the cooler evenings, I'd sit alone with the music of Brahms and a stack of science fiction books, in a dark room lit by a single lamp.

As an adult it became harder to find quiet times. College was demanding, not only academically, but also in the personal swirl



of new relationships and campus activities. When I attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia, one of my fears was that as a dorm resident I'd be unable to find the stillness my spirit needed. But my roommate, a perky nursing student, had a boyfriend in her hometown, and every single weekend she was off for two days. I had the room to myself and loved the quiet Sundays when I'd read the paper, walk to a nearby art gallery for an afternoon concert, or just sit by the duck pond and scatter crumbs to the fat fowl.

Hardest of all was marriage, when suddenly someone was there ALL the time. And as a new instructor at LSU in Baton Rouge, I had so much work it was almost impossible to find time for stillness. I'd set the alarm for 4 AM, not to get up and grade papers, but to sit by the window, write in my journal, watch the sun rise, listen to the sounds of birds waking to the day.

Over the years I've had a number of friends for whom silence was the worst thing in the world. Some would fill the spaces with long

By Jane Faile

monologues or pepper me with questions, thus avoiding the dreaded empty spaces in conversation. Once someone asked me how I could just SIT, unmoving, quiet, not even reading. There's no real answer for that, but I know that there are classes now that try to teach people how to do just that. I think it's in the silences between people that friendship really begins. Sure, we love to ask questions and talk about feelings and ideas and possibilities, but for me the best moments in friendships have been times of just sitting together, sharing the quiet, feeling no need to talk. Some of the sweetest times I've shared with my husband Wayne are moments of absolute quiet – sitting on our porch, watching sunlight change the patterns of light and shadow in the woods, or walking together on a beach while waiting for sunset or sunrise.

I know that for me (and I think this is true for many people) it is in silence that I can hear the voice of God. In stillness I "hear" my heartbeat and the passage of breath in and out of my lungs. Then other sounds emerge: a breeze stirs the leaves of the trees, goldfinches call to each other, a train whistles in the valley, a dog barks. All of these things create the fabric of quiet in which Spirit dwells. And I feel such gratitude that no language can speak.

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**THE  
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BY  
ANGIE CARDEN**

## Mentone in May

Spring has Sprung! And I, for one, love Mentone in May! Birds are singing, sun is shining, flowers are blooming and gardens are being planted! We all know that it is almost time for our famous Rhododendron Festival! Mentone simply glows in May! And speaking of gardens, if you are wondering what to plant, here is a short list of perfect May, direct sow vegetable seeds. Bush and pole beans are great, and if you use a continual 7-10 day sowing method, you will have a long lasting supply of beans coming up in increments instead of rows and rows all at once! Beets, carrots, corn, cucumbers, peppers, squash, tomatoes and melons are also ready to be sown! Cabbage is perfect too, just remember to fertilize and water them when heads begin to form! And if that's

not enough, herbs like Basil, Thyme, Oregano, Sage and Dill are ready for planting too! We do a "family garden" at my parents house. Everyone chips in on planting and gathering. I love canning with my mom! Let's not forget Mother's Day! Show your Mom some appreciation, gratitude and love on May 12th! I love you Mom!

May is also known for many National Food Holidays such as National Asparagus Month, National Salad Month and a host of others. My favorite two are National BBQ Month and Burger Month! We all get out the grills and fire them up about now, right? And nothing says Spring or Summer like walking outside and smelling someone's BBQ going! I wish you all a very Happy Spring and Bountiful Garden!

### Grilled Pork Ribs with Balsamic Glaze

Okay, personally, I like to boil my ribs for about 10-15 minutes before I grill them because I find they are more tender. Of course, you don't have to. Preheat grill Med-High. While that's working, simmer 3 tbsp. balsamic vinegar, 1 tbsp. brown sugar and 1-2 tbsp. water, just until reduced and thickened. Glaze one side of your ribs and place that side down on the grill, then glaze other side. Cook about 5-6 minutes on each side, maybe a bit longer if you don't boil them. You can glaze them as many times as you like while grilling! Enjoy May and love your mother! Happy Cooking! Angie

## Sage Advice - Growing Sweet Taters

By Ginger Beshears

I've been gardening organically in Shinbone Valley (that's on the east side of Lookout Mountain, about 12 miles from Mentone) for about 19 years now. It's a passion born in me I think and nurtured by my parents, my Mother loving flowers and my Dad good, homegrown, Southern vegetables. Daddy grew most of our food every summer as well as about an acre of golden nugget sweet potatoes that he sold for extra mad money to local grocery stores and anyone lucky enough to put their order in early. He first came upon the golden nuggets at

Bonnie's Plant Farm near Eufaula, AL, around 1970. In 1994, Daddy overnighted a package of "slips" to me and every year since I have saved seed potatoes and grown the golden nuggets here in Shinbone Valley. I will bed my seed taters on 4/14 and look for the "slips" to poke through the earth about 2 weeks after that. Then, when the slips are about 4 - 6 inches tall, I'll pull them off the seed potatoes, hoping to get at least a couple of small roots with each slip and set them out in a row about 16 inches apart. Towards the end of October, I'll dig the

hills of golden nuggets, let them cure in boxes for around three weeks, then bake the first pan of them and enjoy along with pinkeye purple hull peas, collard greens, homemade pickled beets and cornbread from fresh ground corn. It really doesn't get any better than that for a fall meal. And the next morning, slice a baked sweet potato crosswise, brown on both sides in an iron skillet and serve with over light yard eggs and cornbread toast topped with homemade blueberry jam. Simply delicious.

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# What To Do Around Here!

## May 2013 Community Calendar

**May 1, 7, 18, 25- Rappelling Adventure.** True Adventure Sports. Trip includes gear plus instruction. \$37 per person. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 1 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class Part 2.** True Adventure Sports. \$45 per person. 5pm-9pm 256-997-9577.

**May 2 - Microwave Dave in Concert -**

Kamama Gallery. Dave is a veteran blues artist who has worked with a long list of Blues Legends. 7pm. Doors open at 6pm. \$10. Reservations requested. 256-634-3001.



**May 3 - Zip Line Adventure.** True Adventure Sports. Pre-registration required 6pm the day before the adventure. \$50 per person. 10am-12pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 3 - Trion, GA Steel Drum Band Concert.** Little River Canyon Center. This unique ensemble is comprised of 31 musicians and performs a wide variety of musical styles, from socas and calypsos to reggae and pop. Adults \$5, Students free. 6:30 p.m. 256-845-8548

**May 3-4 - Mid South Paint Horse Show.** Northeast Alabama Agri Business Center, Rainsville. 8am. 256-638-1650.

**May 3, 17 - Extreme Night Hike.** True Adventure Sports. \$18 per person (headlamp and guide included). 7:30- 10pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 4, 14 - Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure.** True Adventure Sports. \$50 per person. Pre-registration required by 6pm the day before. 11am-3pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 4 - 21st Annual Wildflower Saturday -** DeSoto State Park. Choose from 3 different hikes, 9am, 1pm and 3pm with wildflower presentation at DeSoto Lodge at 7:15pm. Free to the public and great for all ages! Contact Brittney Hughes at 256.997.5025 or brittney.hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.



**May 5 - 5th Annual Art at the Barn.** Sweet Seasons Farm, Valley Head, one of Alabama's oldest and largest sheep farms. Join us for

a Spring art sale, featuring works by regional artist and artisans. There will be pottery, antiques, jewelry, food and much more. 10am-4pm. 256-635-6791 or 256-996-3400.

**May 5 - Tour of Circle S CSA Organic Farm.** Lettie and Curtis Smith operate a Consumer Supported Agriculture farm on Lookout Mountain. They feed 40 families on a weekly basis, supplying vegetables, beef, lamb and eggs on a subscription basis. \$10 per person. 2pm at the Circle S Farm. www.mentonearts.org.

**May 5, 12 & 19 - Rappelling Activity -** DeSoto State Park. Learn about basic gear, knot tying, rappelling hardware and its uses. Pack a lunch & meet your guide at 1:00 p.m. at DeSoto State Park Lodge parking area. Caravan or take a shuttle (\$3 pp) to and from the rappel site. \$30 per person (includes all gear). Ages 10-adult. Pre-registration required. 256-845-5075.

**May 6, 10, 11, 28 - Rock Climbing/ Rappelling Adventure Combo.** True Adventure Sports. \$54 (includes all plus instruction). 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 9 - Rock Climbing Adventure.** True Adventure Sports. \$35 (includes gear plus instruction). 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 10 - Book Signing with Homer Hickman.** The Book Shelf. 3-4pm. 256-844-8663.

**May 11 - FUMC Mission 5k Run.** First United Methodist Church, Run will raise money for Honduras. Meet in the FUMC Parking lot. Lunch will be available following the run. Cash prizes will be awarded to top finishers. Race begins at 8 a.m. \$20 registration fee; register at racesonline.com; or email lindy@boonlink.net.

**May 11 - Little River Canyon Trivia Challenge -** Little River Canyon Center. Dr. James Rayburn (JSU Biology). Prizes. 10am-noon. \$5 per person; pre-registration required. 256.782.5697.

**May 17 - Legends on the Lookout Series: A. A. Miller Dam & DeSoto Falls** with Bill Wise, grandson of A.A. Miller. - DeSoto State Park CCC Pavilion. 8-9pm. Free. 256.997.5025 or Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

**May 24 - Legends on the Lookout Campfire Talk Series: A. A. Miller Dam & DeSoto Falls** with Bill Wise, grandson of A.A. Miller. - DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in Improved Campground. Free. 256.997.5025 or Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

**May 25 - Civilian Conservation Corps History**

**Hike: The 'Unfinished Bridge'** - Meet at DeSoto State Park's Lodge-Lobby. Will caravan to Gillam Loop Trailhead. 10am-1pm. Free. RSVP at 256.997.5025. Bring plenty of water and snacks.

**May 25 - Legends on the Lookout Series: Civilian Conservation Corps -** DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in Improved Campground. 8-9pm. Free. 256.997.5025 or Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

**May 8, 29 - Treasure Hunt Adventure.** True Adventure Sports. This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! \$65 per person. 3-8pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 10, 11, 24, 28, 31 - Wild Cave Tour.** True Adventure Sports. Explore in one of NE Alabama's most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. \$30 (includes helmet, cave lamps & guide). 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 11 - Sculpt Your Own Flower.** Orbix Hot Glass. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 9am and 10am. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

**May 13 - Orienteering Class.** True Adventure Sports. Bring your own compass or you may purchase one at our store. \$20 per person. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 14-16 - High Adventure Trip.** True Adventure Sports. This is a 3-day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, an Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. Food and lodging are not included. \$137 per person. 256-997-9577.

**May 15 - Sacred Harp Singing School.** Rock Ridge Retreat Center, Valley Head. Learn the history and basics of singing shape note FaSoLa music. This special music from DeKalb County has gained world wide popularity-come see why! You don't have to read music to learn Sacred Harp! 6:30-8:30pm. Free & open to all! Sponsored by The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center.

**May 16 - Ken Duchaine & Leadbessie in Concert -** Kamama Gallery. Kick off your Rhododendron Festival weekend with a taste of the Blues. Kent Duchaine is renown for his work with the Blues Legend Johnny Shines. 7pm. Doors open at 6pm. \$10. Reservations requested. 256-634-3001.

**May 16-19 - 15th Annual US 11 Antique**

**Alley Yard Sale.** Follow the scenic U.S. Highway 11 from Meridian, MS to Bristol, VA for more than 500-miles of yard sales! Explore charming historic communities and downtown districts like the 1889 boom town district of Fort Payne, Alabama. 888-805-4740 & 877-871-1386.

**May 17-19 - Mentone Rhododendron Festival.** A bonfire and delicious local food always gets this event off to a great start. Enjoy an event that highlights the best of Mentone! Traditional mountain music, craft demonstrations, arts of all mediums, children's games and activities, a heritage farmstead, and "A Taste of Mentone" are some of the things you can expect for this year's festival. 256-845-3957.

**May 18 - Paperweight Class.** Orbix Hot Glass. Maximum class size is five. Reservations required. \$130 per person. 9am-1pm. 256-523-3188



**May 18 - Third Saturday Sunset Event.** This Third Saturday is an afternoon of family fun in downtown Fort Payne. Will include food, live music, a car show, and activities from 5-8pm. 256-996-3857.

**May 18, 27 - Night Zip Line.** True Adventure Sports. Pre-registration required by 6pm the day before. \$50 per person. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

**May 20 - Bouldering Adventure.** True Adventure Sports. \$27 per person (includes gear and instruction). 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

**May 25 - Blow Your Own Ornament.** Orbix Hot Glass. No reservations are needed. Ages 5 and up. \$35 per ornament. 9am-12pm. 256-523-3188.

**May 25 - Make A Raku Fired Ceramic Cat or Dog Pencil Holder.** MERF House. Mae Gray has been selling pottery on Lookout Mountain for many years and almost everyone on the mountain has a piece of her work. She has hosted the Rock Bluff Art Show in Rising Fawn for ten years and exhibits her work at Kamama. Back by popular demand. Mac will fire your piece in a Raku kiln the following week. 2pm. \$15. www.mentonearts.org.

**May 30 - Sky Swing Adventure.** True Adventure Sports. \$45 per person. Pre-registration required by 6 pm the day before. 2-4pm. 256-997-9577.



## Ongoing

MAPA Members meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the MERF House in Mentone.

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes \$10.

Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at lunch. Call to find out how to get involved! 256-845-3957

Karaoke every Saturday Night. 6-10pm, The Blue Lantern. Nice, clean family entertainment. Located on Co. Rd. 642 in Mentone, 0.7 mi No of Hwy 117.

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30am,  
Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne.

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

Free Square Dance Lessons offered most Thursdays,  
6:30pm, at Tom Bevill Center in Rainsville by Duos  
and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780

Moon Lake Elementary School PTO meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Gymnasium.

Free food for needy families. New hours: Tuesdays, 9am – 12pm. The Bank at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church. Recipients and new applicants. Joint effort between St. Joseph's Community Outreach Ministry and North Alabama Food Bank.

Mentone Fire Department meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Mentone Town Council meets every 2nd Tuesday at 6pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Mentone Farmers Market open year round every Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Storytime at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

NPS Green & Gray Saturday every second Saturday of each month at the Canyon Center. 10am. Free. 256-782-5697.

Little River Canyon Center River Rhythms Nature & Art Family Fun Program every fourth Saturday from Jan-Oct. 1pm - 3pm; No Fee. Call Renee Morrison at 256-782-5697.

## May Birthdays

May 1 – Junior Bell  
May 1 – Kathleen Johnson  
May 2 – Morgan Blalock  
May 2 – Ella Voils  
May 2 – Cory Dobbins  
May 3 – Abel James Baggett  
May 4 – Kathy Clure  
May 5 – Alex Blackburn  
May 5 – Bobby Browder  
May 6 – LA Smith  
May 6 – Lee Worthey  
May 6 – Phil Harris  
May 7 – John Johnson

May 7 – Tracy Coots  
May 7 – Jessie Baggett  
May 10 – Gail Jones Hamilton  
May 14 – Ann Nelson  
May 16 – Amy Kirby  
May 16 – Riley Mae Owen  
May 17 – Shuan Flannigan  
May 18 – Chad Smith  
May 19 – Dillon Brown  
May 20 – Alexis Manifold  
May 20 – Jessica McKenzie  
May 20 – Susan Elliott  
May 21 – Lisa Crow  
May 22 – Sandy Blalock  
May 22 – Caitlin Kirby  
May 23 – Terry Pangle

May 23 – Adrienne Guice  
May 23 – Nathan Baggett  
May 23 – Ronald “Cotton” Baggett  
May 24 – Joe Elrod  
May 24 – Amber Hilliard  
May 26 – Paige Smith  
May 27 – Keila Thompson  
May 27 – Amanda Smith  
May 28 – James Cox  
May 28 – Mikayla Owen  
May 29 – Mackenzie Willingham  
May 30 – Patti Carden  
May 30 – James Tubberville  
May 31 – Richard Barkley

*Mrs. Olive Jones celebrated her 95th birthday party with friends and family over dinner at The Mentone Springs Hotel on April 25th. "Have a great year, Olive!"*

## May Anniversaries

May 15 - Doug & Karen Powell  
May 15 - Keith & Dawn Langston  
May 15 - Shane & Valerie Burt  
May 16 - Preston & Amy Kirby

# The Spring

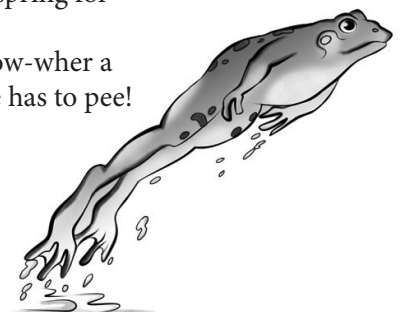

By Doug Kiker

Remember the spring?  
You see, that's the thing  
Not the season, but a place.  
Sure, I can see it on your face.  
Almost everyone in the South  
When the truth comes out of his mouth  
knows a little something he wishes wouldn't  
come out.  
But there is a catch - Seems like everybody, women  
and men,  
has something they just can't keep in.  
Maybe that's true about the spring with its logs and



turtles and frogs.  
I don't mean the spring with its babbling  
brook  
But with water to drink and clean and cook.  
Getting water from the spring was quite a pill.  
- 'cause every spring was way down under a hill.  
- And if the truth be known, right beside a still.  
Anyway, that's neither here nor there.  
- what's known as splitting a hair.  
- y evening just before sundown  
- s my job to fetch the water- sometimes  
- nd after round.  
- water's color was mostly brown  
- ed with leaves and roots and things  
- der the ground.  
- oaching the spring alarmed a number

of animals  
some of which were larger mammals,  
but mostly frogs.  
Sometimes a coyote or stray dog  
The coyote and dog ran away,  
But the frogs were there to stay.  
Jumping in the spring for  
anyone to see  
And do you know-where a  
frog jumps he has to pee!



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# 2013 Rhododendron Festival

## May 17-19

Make your plans now to attend the 2013 Rhododendron Festival hosted by The Mentone Area Preservation Association. Be sure to check in at the Information Tent located in front of Mentone Town Hall to get the latest information on all the fun and educational events and activities that will be happening during the event. There will be something for the entire family!

Thanks to all the businesses, organizations and talented artists and musicians for making this event possible. Thanks also to the Rhododendron Festival Steering Committee members for their hard work in planning, organizing and implementing this event.

### Thanks to Our Sponsors!

- DeKalb Tourism - \$500
- Sand Mountain Landfill - \$500 (in kind)
- Dr. Aimee Skelton - \$250
- Elaine & Jack Gauldin - \$100
- Kamama Gallery - \$100
- Wildflower Cafe - \$100
- Lookout Mountain Preferred Realty - \$50
- Henry & Dianne Tindol - \$50



*This is a partial list of our sponsors to date.*

### RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

#### Friday

Noon	Vendor Check-In (til 6pm)	Brow Park
5pm	Fish Fry (til 7pm)	Mentone Inn
7pm	Concert - Curtis Strange (til 10pm)	Mentone Inn

#### Saturday

6:30am	Vendor Check-In (til 8:30am)	Brow Park
9am	Festival Begins (til 5pm)	
9:30am	Sacred Harp Singing (til 12pm)	St. Joseph's
10am	Square Dancers (til 11am)	Brow Park
	Silk Art with Claire Vassort (til 1pm)	Kamama's
	Quilting Demonstration (til 12pm)	Town Hall
	<i>(Will Move Outside for remainder of Festival)</i>	
11am	Archie Wade - Magician	Mason Park
	Chris Hale (til 12pm)	Brow Park
12pm	Jean Ann Moon & RSVP Dulcimer Ensemble (til 1pm)	Brow Park
	Cake Auction (til 1pm)	Mason Park
1pm	Art Award (til 1:30pm)	Mason Park
	Dan Landrum (til 2pm)	Brow Park
	Sacred Harp Singing (til 2:30pm)	St. Joseph's
2pm	Moon Lake Chorus	Mason Park
	4 In Accord (til 3pm)	Brow Park
3pm	Archie Wade - Magician	Mason Park
	Glen Fletcher (til 4pm)	Brow Park

#### Sunday

4pm	Pickett's Charge (til 5pm)	Brow Park
6pm	Pig Roast Hosted by Wildflower Cafe	Mentone Inn
7pm	Concert Hosted by Wildflower Cafe	Mentone Inn
11:15am	Archie Wade - Magician	Mason Park
12pm	Pottery Demonstration - Tammy Beane (til 2pm)	Mason Park
1pm	Bramble Rose (til 2pm)	Brow Park
2pm	Community Singing (til 3pm)	Brow Park
3pm	Archie Wade - Magician (til 3:45pm)	Mason Park
	Lookout Mountain Strummers- Dulcimers (til 4pm)	Brow Park

### Ongoing Events:

Taste of Mentone –Mentone chefs (and at local Mentone dining establishments)	Brow Park
Arts and crafts Vendors	Brow Park
Spinning and Weaving demonstration - Donna Barnes	Brow Park Stage
Quilt Raffle ticket sales at Stagecoach Farmstead	Brow Park
Windsor Chair making - Wil Henry Cobble	Next to Kamama's
Native Plant Sale	Kamama's
Jam Sessions	Brow Park
Jam Sessions	Crow's Nest
Jam Sessions	Log Cabin Village
Farmers Market	Kamama's
Library Book Sale	Mentone Inn
	Brow Park



Mentone, Alabama



Sacred Harp Singing





## Hosted by The Mentone Area Preservation Association

### "A Taste of Mentone"

Visit these area restaurants in their permanent locations and try their featured dishes:

Alice's Restaurant at The Mentone Springs Hotel  
Cones of Mentone - Ice Cream  
Helena's - Hamburgers  
Mentone Market - Pintos & Cornbread  
Moonlight Bistro - Fried Green Tomatoes  
The Rusty Fox at The Mentone Springs Hotel - Pizza, Fish Tacos  
Twigg's at Kamama Gallery - Scones, Cookies  
The Wildflower Cafe - Tomato Pie

Visit these chefs at Brow Park and try their featured dishes:

Thad Stevenson and Jessie Goggans of Hardware Cafe - Backyard Grill  
Ben Keener of J. Spencers - Zen Bites

### Food Vendors on the Brow

Mentone Fire Department - Barbecue  
Mentone Market - Sandwiches  
Also available will be homemade lemonade, Funnel Cakes and Kettle Corn.

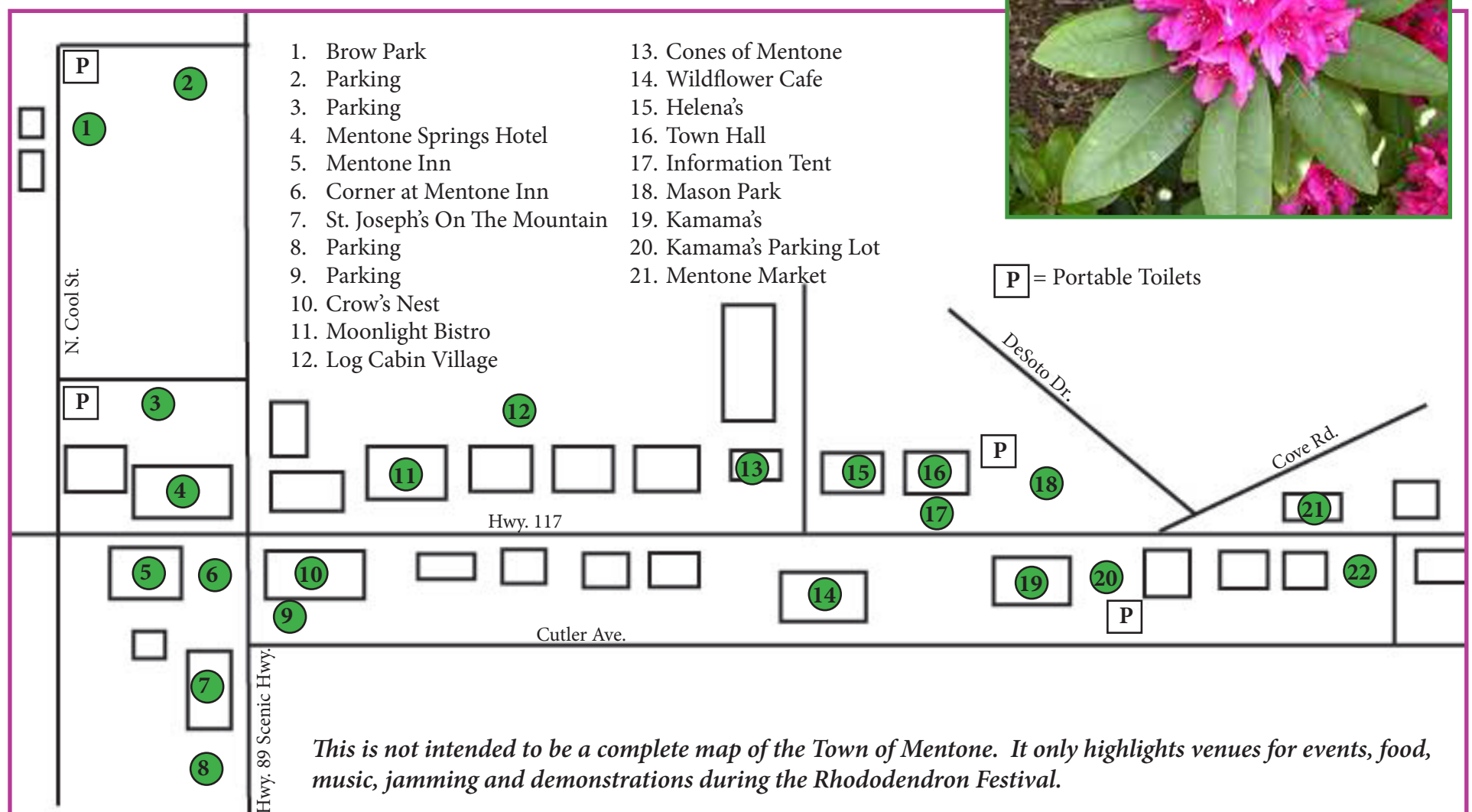
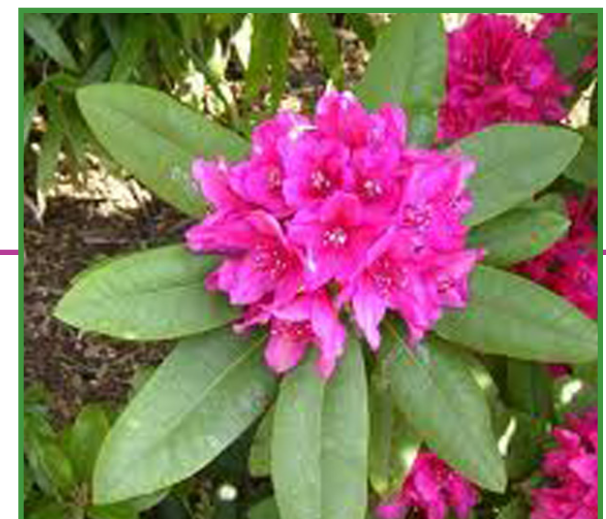
### Jam Sessions

If we're celebrating our heritage, there's gotta be some pickin' and grinnin'! Bring your guitar, fiddle, banjo or whatever your instrument of choice and join in any time of the day.

The Crow's Nest  
Kamama's Gallery  
Log Cabin Village

### Steering Committee Members

Elaine Gauldin, Chairman  
Ray Padgett - Chair, Steering Committee  
Jeff Rymer - Chair, Education  
Beverly Bates - Chair, Site Planning  
Thad Stevenson - Co-Chair, Food  
Kay Kiker - Chair, Children's Festival  
Doreen Waters - Chair, Sponsors and Finance  
Mickey Luck - Chair, Entertainment  
L. C. Moon - Co-Chair, Food  
Kayla Worthey - Chair, Marketing  
Holly Owen - Chair, Signs/Banners  
Misty Watters - Chair, Plant Sale  
Larry Smalley - Chair, Farmstead



# Where To Go Around Here!

## Mentone Area Visitors Guide

### Bed & Breakfast Inns

Crystal Lake Lodge  
3291 County Rd. 165, Mentone  
256-634-8209

Mentone Inn B&B  
6139 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4836  
[www.mentoneinn.com](http://www.mentoneinn.com)

Mentone Springs Hotel  
6114 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4040  
[www.mentonesprings.com](http://www.mentonesprings.com)

Mountain Laurel B&B  
624 Rd. 948, Mentone  
256-256-634-4673  
[www.mountain-laurel-inn.com](http://www.mountain-laurel-inn.com)

Mountain Grove B&B  
203 Elm St., Cloudland, GA  
706-862-6676  
[www.mgbb.com](http://www.mgbb.com)

Raven Haven  
651 Co. Rd. 644, Mentone  
256-634-4310  
[www.ravenhavenbandb.info](http://www.ravenhavenbandb.info)

Winston Place B&B  
353 Railroad Ave., Valley Head  
256-635-6381  
[www.webervations.com](http://www.webervations.com)

### Restaurants

Alice's Restaurant  
at Mentone Springs Hotel  
6114 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4040  
[www.mentonesprings.com](http://www.mentonesprings.com)

Big Jim's Bama-Q  
3808 AL Hwy. 117, Hammondville  
256-634-1121  
[www.bigjimsbamaq.com](http://www.bigjimsbamaq.com)

Bonnie's Family Restaurant  
7807 GA Hwy. 48, Menlo  
706-862-2281

Country Boys Family Restaurant  
8669 Hwy. 137, Valley Head  
256-635-6200

DeSoto State Park Inn Restaurant  
Fort Payne  
256-845-5380  
[www.alapark.com/desotoresort/](http://www.alapark.com/desotoresort/)  
(temporarily closed for repairs)

Hardware Cafe  
at Little River Hardware  
5190 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4757

Helena's  
6010 Hwy. 117  
256-634-0065

J. Spencer's Restaurant  
7871 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-635-0030  
[www.jspencers.com](http://www.jspencers.com)

Moonlight Bistro  
6080 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4560  
[www.themoonlightbistro.com](http://www.themoonlightbistro.com)

Rusty Fox at Mentone Springs Hotel  
6114 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4040

Tigers Inn  
132 Commerce Ave., Valley Head  
256-635-6800  
[www.tigersinn.lbu.com](http://www.tigersinn.lbu.com)

Twigg's at Kamama's  
5951 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-3001

Wildflower Cafe  
6007 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-0066  
[www.mentonewildflower.com](http://www.mentonewildflower.com)

### Shopping for Fun

The Art Gallery at Mentone  
5846 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-603-2404

The Crow's Nest Antiques  
6081 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4548  
[www.crowsnestmentone.com](http://www.crowsnestmentone.com)

Dixie's Handcrafted Jewelry  
57 Co. Rd. 600, Mentone

256-634-4137

The Gourdie Shop  
6089 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-7446  
[www.gourdies.com](http://www.gourdies.com)

Kamama's  
5951 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-3001

The Gallery at Mentone Market  
5872 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4686

Log Cabin Village  
6086 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-605-2571

Moon Lake Trading Co.  
5172 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4070

Southern Style Log Furniture  
AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
423-472-4480

White Elephant Antiques  
6152 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4529

### Shopping for Necessities

Little River Hardware  
5190 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4757  
[www.littleriverhardware.com](http://www.littleriverhardware.com)

Lucky's  
7800 GA 48, Menlo, GA  
706-862-6453

Mentone Market  
5872 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone  
256-634-4686

### Attractions

DeSoto State Park  
Fort Payne  
256-845-5075

DeSoto Falls  
DeSoto Falls Rd., Mentone

Little River Canyon National Preserve  
Fort Payne  
256-845-9605

Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel  
County Rd. 89, Mentone

Orbix Hot Glass  
3869 County Rd. 275, Fort Payne  
256-523-3188  
[www.orbixhotglass.com](http://www.orbixhotglass.com)

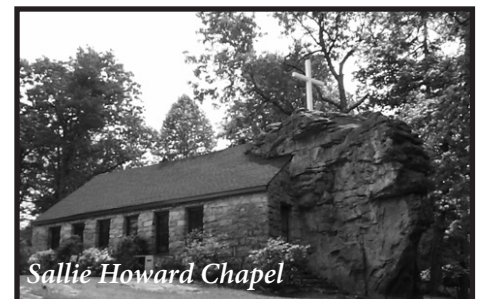
St. Joseph's On The Mountain  
21145 Scenic Hwy., Mentone  
256-634-4476

### Entertainment/Recreation

Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort  
721 County Rd. 614, Mentone  
256-634-4344  
[www.cloudmont.com](http://www.cloudmont.com)

One World Adventure  
at Nippersink Lodge  
52 Co. Rd. 936, Mentone  
256-634-8370  
[www.oneworldadventureco.org](http://www.oneworldadventureco.org)

Shady Grove Dude Ranch  
721 County Road 614, Mentone  
256-634-4344



*Sallie Howard Chapel*

### Mentone Area Arts Council Calendar is Now Available!

*Be sure to get your 18-month calendar at local retailers in and around Mentone. The monthly pages of this calendar are graced with beautiful local scenery captured by area shutter bugs, both professional and amateur.*



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# Worship

The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis is our miniter for these services.

**The Valley Head Baptist Church** invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Women on Mission meets at 1PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

**Lea's Chapel Baptist Church** welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30AM.

**Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church**, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

**Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church** on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader,

Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

**Walnut Grove Baptist Church** on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30PM.

**The Fort Payne Christian Center** and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless You.

**Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)**, 5760 Gault Ave. NE, Fort Payne, AL. Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship 10:55AM. Church office: 256-845-4756.

**Menlo Church of Christ** invites you to attend the 10AM and 11AM services and evening services are at 7PM and 9PM. Visitors are always welcome.

**Mount Calvary Baptist Church**, Cloudland, GA, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM, Sunday evening at 6PM, and Wednesday evening at 7PM.

**DeSoto Church of Christ** invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM, Wednesday Bible study at 5PM.

**Howard's Chapel** (Church in the Rock) has regular services 10AM each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable.

**St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church**, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, <http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org>

**Mentone United Methodist Church**, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Rev. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth

Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch.

**Moon Lake Baptist Church** invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner is the pastor.

**Alpine Community Church**, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11AM GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

**Cove Road Baptist Church**, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Stames, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School at 9AM (10AM GA time) and Sunday night services at 5PM (6PM GA time).

**Summit Church of God** invites you to be in service Sunday morning 10:45AM, Sunday night 5PM, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone.

**Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** - regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair invites everyone to attend.

**Mentone Community Church**, 90 Summerville Rd., Mentone, AL 35984. Sunday Services: Sunday School

9:15AM-all ages; Sunday Service 10:30AM; Bible Study Wednesday 6PM; Youth Services 7PM Sunday and 6:30PM Wednesday (Meet at Mentone Revival Center Building). Pastor Tim Miller.

**Cloudland Presbyterian Church** welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9AM (EST) and Worship at 10AM (EST).

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the Historic **First Presbyterian Church PC (USA)** at 300 Grand Avenue North in downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55AM. 256-845-2915.

**New Oregon United Methodist Church** located off DeSoto Parkway, would like to invite you to their services. Sunday School for all ages 9:45AM; Traditional Worship Service 11AM. Sunday evening youth activities 5:30PM. Evening Worship 6PM. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9AM; Elderberries for Senior Adults once a month for fellowship and meal. Pastor Jeff Davis, Associate Pastor Keith Davis. Address: 1203 New Oregon Dr., Ft. Payne, AL 35967. Phone 256-845-7446.

**The Church of God 7th Day** in Hammondville located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. Sabbath School classes at 9:30AM and Worship Service at 11AM. Visitors are always welcome.

*Send any changes to The Groundhog at [groundhognews@aol.com](mailto:groundhognews@aol.com) or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.*







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## Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe, we always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.

### LOTS and LAND

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!!** Lot sale going on now in Hunter's Ridge at Mentone. Wooded, private and every lot carries common access to East Fork Little River. Waterfront lots also included in this BOGO sale! Call for details and a plat today!!

**19.76 ACRES** w/hardwoods, mostly level topography. Paved road frontage. Rough-cut driveway. \$59,280. (MLS#985997; PLS#22640)

**JUST LISTED! RARE WEST FORK LITTLE RIVER LOT.** Canoe, fish & swim w/deepwater access. You can paddle all the way to Desoto Falls! Easy sloped access. Camp Laney area. \$160,000. (MLS#332814; PLS#22870)

**9.2 ACRES ON BROW!** Vistas stretch out practically forever! Wooded w/boulders & a creek. Pick your view. Price for brow land in the Mentone area. \$119,900. (MLS#367456; PLS#22684)

**20 ACRES, POND & DOCK,** corner property, mostly woodland. Take the family, park a camper & enjoy the week-ends. \$85,000. (MLS#418106; PLS#21863)

**62.32 ACRES WITH GREAT VIEWS** of both valleys and Lookout Mtn ridge top. Level, wooded, great for hunting, preserve, retreat, or investment. \$175,000 (MLS#313915; PLS#19492)

**14.4 ACRES AT LITTLE RIVER CANYON.** You can hear the water falls in the canyon and walk over to the overlook. This land is wooded with mature trees. Mostly level with a very gentle slope. Offered at \$87,000. (MLS#586640; PLS#22825)

**40 ACRES IN WALKERS CHAPEL COMMUNITY** w/single-wide mobile home, & 3-bay garage (w/apr). Interesting & beautiful rock formations, wet-weather stream. Lookout Mtn just a few miles from Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve. \$199,000. (MLS#316165; PLS#19097)



**GRACIOUS & WELCOMING,** designed for living & sharing! Local stone work inside & out; Brazilian cherry floors; pantry; great Kit w/lots of cabinets; sunroom w/dining & seating where you can see forever across the woodland & mountains beyond. Privately situated on 7 rolling acres (adjacent 3.5 acres also avail) w/numerous wild & cultivated flower gardens. 2 screen porches. \$249,000 (MLS#686827; PLS#22851)



**STONEHEDGE** on East Fork Little River, Mentone. Fabulous stonework surrounds this approx 1800 sq ft, 3BR/3BA cabin on 2.07 acres w/over 350' river frontage where the river is wide & deep enough to enjoy great swimming, fishing & kayaking. Screened porch overlooking water. Most furnishings included. Add'l 27+ wooded acres available. \$387,500. (MLS# 764346; PLS#22842)



**MOUNTAIN HOME OR RETREAT** on 2.5 wooded acres in Twin Oaks at Lahusage, just 7 miles from downtown Mentone, away from noise & traffic. 3BR/2.5BA; vaulted great room; stone hearth gaslog Fpl; pantry; wide-plank pine floors; all wood interior; full front porch (half is screened) & screened back porch; det garage/shop. Great walking areas. This one-owner custom home is offered at only \$219,900 (MLS#812341; PLS#22859)



**A CABIN ON THE RIVER FOR LESS THAN \$100,000?!?!** YUP! But, oh my goodness, that is one ugly little cabin. Well, maybe it does have potential. It has a kitchen & 134' of river frontage. The cabin is in bad, really. Hmm. Gee whiz, where else are you gonna find a cabin on the lake for only \$99,500? (MLS#717120; PLS#22071)

**SOLD**



**THE JAMES PLACE** with its breath-taking view of the valley, mountains beyond & fabulous sunsets! Over 185' brow frontage. 4BR/2.5BA, 2-car att garage, hot tub, 1.46 acres. Beautifully landscaped w/view & seating areas outdoors. Great old stone work & iron-work at entry. New hardwood floors & SS appliances. Less than a mile to downtown Mentone. Residence, retreat or rental! No where else in the Mentone area can you find this much for this little. Now \$279,900 (MLS#580676; PLS#21259)



**RIVERFRONT LUXURY LIVING!** Enjoy Little River with the whole family in this 4BR/4BA, open-plan gem that easily sleeps 16. Well-appointed design w/indoor & outdoor fireplaces, rec room, vaulted living, loft, outdoor kitchen, multilevel decks, porches & stairs to river. Swim & sun from natural boulder patios in clear pools. \$450,000. (MLS#951472; PLS#22880)

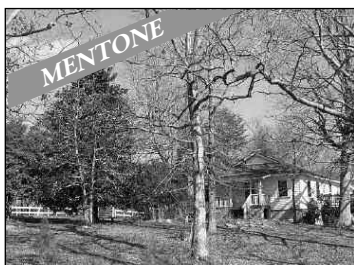


**IT'S JUST RIGHT!** 2BR/1.5BA cabin in the heart of Mentone. Steps away from sunsets & Brow Park views, dining, shopping & festivals. Wide-plank pine floors. Frame exterior & metal roof. Nice front & back porches (back porch could be enclosed for 3rd BR or screened & left a porch). Newer appliances. Small, private back yard. Great rental, too! \$119,000. (MLS#392381; PLS#22850)

**PENDING**



**JUST PLAIN CHARMING!** More spacious than you might realize. Brow-side cottage tucked away behind a lush, bird-song-filled garden along the Scenic Pkwy. Part of what was once Brow Park Lodge (a "motor court" active in late 50s-70s), transformed into an inviting 2BR/2BA getaway. Vintage stone floors in sun-room; screened porch; attached garage. At \$229,000, it's quite a deal! (MLS#423110; PLS#21972)



**CHARMING COUNTRY HOME-STEAD.** Experience the best in country living in this 1200 sqft, 2BR/1.5BA, quaint farmhouse with eat-in kitchen, wood floors & a wonderful yard. The barn, workshop, studio, garden spot, orchard & fenced pasture w/2.7 acres & mature trees complete the package for only \$169,000. (MLS#770663; PLS#22843)



**LAKEFRONT RETREAT:** 5BR/4BA in all! MAIN CABIN: 2BR/1.5BA cabin w/WB Fpl, lg screened porch; GUEST CABIN: 2BR (one a 3-bunk rm), gas-log Fpl, full KIT, bath w/claw-foot tub & sep shower, 2 screen porches; LIBRARY COTTAGE: open room, 1/2 BA & upstairs studio/BR. Furniture, carvings & statuary (even a lifesize alligator!) by craftsmen Kawlga, Phil Faircloth & Lightfoot. 1.55 acres. \$289,000 (MLS#799345; PLS#22609)

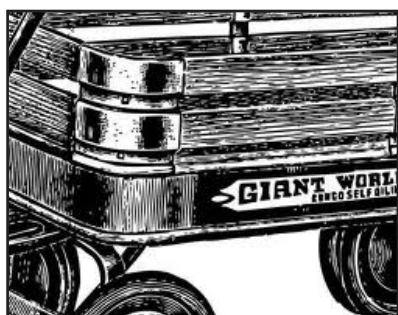


**LOG CABIN WITH COMMANDING VIEW** of gorgeous lake & farm across the road, the beauty of Lookout Mtn beyond. Perfectly set on 4 acres, 3BR/2.5BA, custom designed & built, 2400 sq ft finished, with 1800 sq ft full walkout basement (currently used as shop) plumbed for a bath. Rich wood interior, 25' vaulted ceiling. Main-level MA BR. Full, wrap-around porch w/rustic rail of woven cedar branches. Massive stone WB Fpl. \$249,900. (MLS#425138; PLS#22886)

**SOLD**

Also look for our listings at AlabamaMountainLiving.com





## When We Were Wee

By Larry Smalley

I have always said we should talk to our elders before it's too late. I had the honor to sit down with a long-ago Mentone resident, Mrs. Bama Culberson. I sat down with Bama at her 90th birthday party. I sat and listened to an amazing story of life and times at Mentone during the great depression. I was totally in awe of this great lady at how well she remembered her life story. I only hope that I do justice in the telling.

Bama Culberson was born Bama Brooks in Pleasant Grove on Sand Mountain in 1923. Her grandfather had brought his family by wagon from Oklahoma after the flu of the 1800's had taken most of his family. Bama's father was in diapers when they made the move. Mr. Brooks worked in a cotton mill in Gadsden and her Daddy farmed when he was older. Her mother loved Sand Mountain and wanted to stay, but during the depression there was no fertilizer and you could not grow crops without it. Mr. Brooks had a brother that was a preacher in Mentone and preached and prayed with folks in exchange for eggs, chickens and vegetables. Mr. Brooks was told to come to Mentone and cut and sell wood, that the people here had money. He loaded his family with his two cows, two horses and wagon and came to Mentone with no money and no way to survive. Bama was eight years old when she made the trip. They moved in a squatter shack owned by a mister Jones that was located where the old town dump off Cove Road used to be. Her

father soon found out that there was no money here for wood cutting, and one of his two horses had already broken a leg and had to be destroyed. Her mother thought if she could make a garden, maybe the children could peddle vegetables and keep from starving. Bama remembers her mother putting fresh vegetables in syrup buckets and sending her and her sister out to sell what they could. She recalls her first sale was to a lady with a newborn child. She sold her carrots to cook for her child and collected ten cents. That child was John Jones whom we all still know today.

Here the Brooks were at Mentone living in a shack with four children with no job, no food, and selling a little produce when the children could do so. It came time to go to school and the four children walked from the shack to Moon Lake, and not wanting to go they hid in the bushes outside the school until the teachers had to go retrieve them. She remembers starting in the third grade and her teacher was Mr. Hicks. He asked the class to learn a poem, and she refused and was kept after class until he finally gave up and let her go home. Times were tough in those days. She remembers the speech that then President Roosevelt gave about good things to come and a chicken in every pot. Her Dad thought maybe they could get some food and possibly another horse to replace the one that had broken a leg.

Bama says her family moved nine times in nine years and struggled until commodities came about. They were so glad to get government food even if it was old and outdated. She remembers the first meat they received. It was a ham but when they cut it, they found it was petrified to the bone and had to be thrown out. They did however receive oatmeal, brown sugar and cocoa which their mother fixed three times a day and sometimes if they had flour would make chocolate pies.

As years passed, more children were born until there was a total of eight (five boys and three girls). In those days there were no doctors or medicine and when sickness struck, more often than not,

children and adults died from things like pneumonia and sometimes a crippling disease called polio. Her Dad and one brother caught pneumonia and were dying until a neighbor lady doctored them with homemade cherry wine.

By this time Bama had lived all around Mentone but life was still very hard. When she was fifteen, her family moved to a big two story house that belonged to Kelly O'Rear. John O'Rear still lives on the same property. Her dad took a job working on building the road from Cloudland to Chattanooga. Bama recalls that was the first time she had ever seen a loaf of bread. Her Dad bought one and made sandwiches--she was fifteen. At this time there was a bus that ran to take them to school; there were then five in school. She still recalls the kindness of Sammy and Clara Cash and how they were always such good neighbors.

Another set of neighbors just down the road were the Culbersons who had a son named Benton. When Bama was seventeen she was walking to Bankhead church at night and Benton would walk her there and back because of darkness. They started dating and after nine months were married. She was eighteen and he was thirty two and a bachelor. Benton always followed construction and kept good jobs. In those days he was working building war plants. Bama recalls that all the workers slept in their cars on the jobsite. Bama and Benton found a one room place to rent for fifty dollars a month which was very high but they had to pay it. They went from that war plant to St. Paul Minnesota to another war plant. Benton belonged to a union and followed the work, which took him back to Birmingham, Alabama, to help build the airport.

Bama was pregnant with her first son, Lawrence, and stayed at Mentone with Mrs. Culberson. When Bama went into labor, she recalls going outside and yelling across the hollow for Clara Cash to come and take her to the hospital which was in Gadsden at that time. Clara came and drove her there. After the baby

(cont'd on page 23)

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# Rhododendron Garden Club

By Linda Brown

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going!” This describes the members of the Rhododendron Garden Club of Mentone, Alabama. On April 9, 2013, nine of them answered roll call by naming a ground cover. After a short business meeting, eight of them went outside. I’ll explain the discrepancy in a minute. As a part of the arrangements to have their meetings at the M.E.R.F. Community House, the members have always agreed to keep the yard clean. Because there was a flower garden at the house when it was purchased by M.E.R.F., the garden club named the garden, The Heritage Garden. One of the ten meetings of each year is dedicated to cleaning this garden. This was what happened on April 9.

The fallen limbs and leaves were raked from around the foundation of the house. This uncovered many tiny, tender tendrils of flowers! We have an array of yellow primroses which came from the flower bed of Lillian Blalock. The gardeners cleaned the beds and made sure that everything was uncovered and ready to grow. Some of what was discovered included yarrow, daylilies, iris, sedum and a large rose bush in the side bed. A trillium had poked its head through the leaves under the rose. The members identified a lilac at the back of the bed. It had baby blooms showing, can Spring be far away?

Now to explain the whereabouts of the other member. It was me, and I decided to stay inside out of the pollen and wind. This combination is not good for healthy lungs and it seems that mine do not fit this description.

I had promised to update the scrapbooks and this seemed a good day to start. I retrieved the box of scrapbooks, books of minutes and other materials from the closet. Upon opening it, I found that some of the books had molded. I carefully cleaned them hoping that I wouldn’t inhale the spores of mold and mildew.

I found the date that the Rhododendron Garden Club was started but no more information. Years ago, all of the records for the club were accidentally destroyed. We do not have records before the 1980’s. I remember that some of the members at that time remembered some of the dates and names of charter members. I will look for this information later.

By the time the outside workers came in for lunch, I had five scrapbooks and various other memorabilia for them to look at if they wanted to. I shaped some photos to put in books later and packed everything back into the box. One of the members has a lot of recent photos and when she gets these to me I will make a new scrapbook of the last few years. I also need to find the last articles of the meetings in The Groundhog that are preserved in a book. Maybe I can find them and bring that up to date.

All in all, it was a very good day and much was accomplished, which can always be said for this club.

On June 11, 2013 there will be a Flower Show at the M.E.R.F. Community House in Mentone. This will give club members a chance

to display their designs and horticulture as well as help some of those in Judging School with their need for points.

NOTICE: Next month’s meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14 – NOT the date printed in your yearbook. The plans are for the members to visit DeSoto State Park and maybe one other site. They will be told of meeting place by email as soon as it is confirmed. Bring a sack lunch including drink unless otherwise instructed. If you would like to make this trip with us, let a member know and we will get the information to you.

*The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II, Deep South Region and National Garden Clubs.*



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# Home Sweet Hometown

*There are some special perks to living in a small town. Kindness is one of them. All around us folks are making Mentone special. Here is a story about one of them.*

## The Hunting Horn

By Linda Brown

Where it came from no one seems to know. John and Mary Baty were doing some work on their bookcase and there it was. As soon as John looked at it he knew who it belonged to. But how did it get to his house? It was a hunting horn made from the horn of a cow. These are hollow and you drill a hole to put your mouth over; and, if everything works as it should, you can blow through this hole and the horn emits a sound to call your Fox Hounds

or whatever dogs you hunt with. John is a fox hunter because; “Once a fox hunter, always a fox hunter.”

This particular horn had initials carved on the side, and John knew that they were the initials of the fox hunters in the family of Paul Purvis. All of them were dated, starting back in the 1700’s, and John knew that the next one should be Paul’s initials. John called me because the Purvis family had lived in the Mentone United Methodist parsonage at one time. He thought I might know where they were. I did not know but I knew of some people in Mentone who might. I talked to two or three of them and they told me some others to contact. We got the word out and a friend of a friend contacted Greg Purvis in Florida. In Greg’s words, “When I saw that someone in Mentone was looking for us to return a hunting horn, the hair stood up on my

arms, and I felt the presence of my dad.” You see, Paul passed in April last year. Now it was Greg’s turn to have his initials engraved along with his dad’s information. Greg has moved in with his mom, Gail; and when he told her, she had the same feeling. They both have said by e-mail that this has brought a lot of comfort to them. John and Mary have shipped the horn and it arrived intact. Just imagine the feeling that Greg and Gail had when they held the horn which was held by their dad and husband and in Greg’s case by many of his ancestors.

John has left it up to me and the family to write a more complete history of the hunting horn and hopefully we can gather enough of the history (especially the story of how it got left in Mentone) to write another story of the Hunting Horn. Let us know if you can add any information.

# Seeking Quality of Life

By Kay Kiker

My husband, Doug and I feel blessed to be residents of Mentone. We bought a century old farmhouse on the old Summerville Road in 2007, and we moved away from southwest Alabama where our family lineage goes back over 160 years. We do not have family ties in this region of Alabama at all, but we chose this area because of the beauty of Lookout Mountain and the quality of life it would bring to our lives.

In my search to find a new home, I looked at many properties in Cherokee and Jackson and finally in DeKalb County. Nothing felt like home until I searched around Mentone. When I finally found the old farmhouse, I sat on the back deck and felt completely at peace and knew instantly, this was the home we were meant to have. But to seal the deal, Doug would have to come and approve the purchase. It was a couple of weeks before he could make the trip to see the property. I had told him that it was completely

up to him to decide, but in my heart, I was totally in love with the old home. I watched him carefully for any sign of displeasure or disappointment in my choice, but to my joy, he indicated his approval by characteristically raising his eye brows as he looked around which was a positive sign of satisfaction in the place.

The old farmhouse structure was modernized over the last century, but it was originally a two story dog trot house with an open corridor hallway that lead from the front porch to the back porch. Of course, at some point the open corridor was enclosed to form a formal entry and living room. The stone foundation came from an old school building in the area.

Doug and I restored two historic properties, an 1864 Victorian home and an 1898 commercial building that once served as an Opera House on the second floor. This experience will come in handy as we go about restoring our new old home in Mentone.

I will be writing articles about the value of “Quality of Life” and why Mentone is an exceptional place to live. My perspective comes from appreciation and thankfulness that there are still places like this in the troubled world we live in today. Mentone’s quality of life comes from many sources and a rich history of remarkable people who preserved traditions, historic structures and which welcome eccentricities of unique characters that abide and travels through this wonderful place.

In conclusion of this, my first article, Mentone has met my expectations of what a community may offer as a sign of quality of life. I shall attempt to broaden awareness of the many ways “quality of life” is nurtured in our little village. Who knows, our example may bloom as visitors begin to emulate our success in their own communities.

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**THIS 3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH** house is located in the Brow Park Subdivision in downtown Mentone and is situated on 4 lots. Included are 3 outbuildings for \$110,000 (830573)



**CUTE LITTLE RED COTTAGE!** Located In Mentone Close To Downtown, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Living Room, Sunroom, Bonus Room, Situated On 6 Lots And Detached Storage Building. \$85,000 (931993)



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**ENJOY LIFE UNINTERRUPTED** in this custom built log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft BR and 1BA with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front rocking chair porch complete the picture. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only \$110,000. (564870) (328583)



**FIRST TIME OFFERED.** Main house, guest house and 45 acres on the west brow of Lookout Mtn. A must see for \$799,000. (815966)



**The Gate House** is now for sale. Sitting at the entrance to Shady Grove, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath is ready to move in or rent out. Large living/dining combo, fully equipped kitchen, rock fireplace and wrap porch. \$110,000 (369781)



**POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL LOCATION** or great residential property near downtown Mentone! House has been completely remodeled with new electrical wiring, new plumbing, new screened porch and deck, plus More! All move-in ready! \$130,000 (488926)



**INCREDIBLE BROW HOME** offers three levels to enjoy the gorgeous view. Kitchen has b:fast bar and stainless appliances. MBR has private deck, FP and wood walls and ceilings. Outside enjoy the stacked rock FP/bbq grill, patio and decks. Come see this unbelievable home today! \$589,000 (965370)



**A stones throw** from snow skiing, hiking, canoeing & golfing. 3BR/2BA rustic cottage w/ open floor plan, wood floors, wood burning fireplace, large kitchen area w/island, front & back porch...rocking chairs included!! Great central location on DeSoto Pkwy. just minutes from downtown Mentone, DeSoto Falls and the Park. Large lot w/potential for another cabin. \$169,000 (779115)



**A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET** is an added bonus you can enjoy from the large back deck on this 3BR/2BA log home. Wood burning fireplace, built-in bookshelves, eat-in kitchen with appliances and a rocking chair front porch to kick back and relax! \$299,900 (500332)



**ENJOY MANY HOURS** on the large deck overlooking the beautiful valley below in this 3 BR/2 1/2 bath home located in the Lake on the Brow subdivision. Extra garage/workshop and storage building along with a gated entry, fully fenced yard and additional lot make this one have it all! \$329,000 (649658)



**YOU WILL ENJOY** the warm ambiance of this 3BR/2BA, 1 1/2 story cabin on 5.69+/- acres that adjoins DeSoto State Park. Screened porch, cozy kitchen w/b:fast nook, living area w/rock FP, and an open loft. Detached 2-car carport with an unfinished kitchen and bath with a bedroom upstairs. \$295,000 (732138)



**Have it all** - rapids, swimming hole, rocks and sandy beach on 3 East Fork of Little River lots. Includes a furnished 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath log cabin with wood running buck stove, sleep loft, porch and deck. \$219,900 (589918)



**CUSTOM 3BR/2.5BA** cedar sided home on 1 acre. Great room w/fireplace, kitchen/dining combo, above-ground pool w/deck, BONUS room, 2-car garage, all overlooking pond. \$199,000 (326959)



**YOU CAN SEE DESOTO FALLS!!!** Take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity. See the falls all the way to the basin. Hear it and almost feel the mist from the comfort of your home. 1 BR cottage ready to use or rent. Make this one yours!!! \$465,000 (970196)



**SECLUDED MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES!!** Great location with Middle Fork Little River at the rear of property! \$189,000 (353611)



**READY FOR THE COLLECTOR,** this 2BR/1BA home has bookshelves everywhere! In the living room...in the den...in the kitchen and in the garage. Also included is a 20x20 storage building with wall to ceiling shelves. All situated on a 1 acre lot. \$89,900 (809133)



**LAKEFRONT LIVING!!** Walk right out the back door to custom built wooden decks and walkways to your own boat dock on Lake Lahusage. This 2BR/2BA cottage with gas or wood burning fireplace and screened porch, 2-story 2-car garage. ONLY \$284,500 (654813)



**Peaceful setting in Mentone** with 3BR/2BA, office, sunroom and screened porch. Property borders Brush Creek. \$195,000 (965143)



**Secluded, rustic 3BR/2BA**, WB fireplace, kitchen w/appliances, main level MBR/BA, 2BR upstairs each with sitting loft. Metal roof, lge front porch in gated subdivision adjoining Little River Canyon Preserve w/ access to 14 acre lake, walking path, picnic area, hiking trails. \$235,000 (527991)



**A bit of HISTORY** in this log cabin located across from the brow. 3 BR, 2 BA, L-shaped living/dining/kitchen combo, wood floors, and is being sold with furnishings. \$189,000 (838721)



**CUSTOM BUILT, 2 BR/2BA** log cabin situated on shaded, woodland acres. Two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3 season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, lily pond, kitchen with 5 star six burner gas range...reduced \$279,500 (332033)



**First Time Offered for sale! Alpine Lodge** - Make it home or investment property. 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, open living/dining/kitchen, walk-in pantry, large island, wood burning stacked rock fireplace, wrap-around porch and grand views. Call for more information. \$350,000 (950770)



**LAKE ON THE BROW - LOG HOME, 3BR/3BA, Brow Lot w/Unsurpassed VIEWS!** Stacked Rock FP, Screened Porch, Unf. Basement, Access to 2 Private LAKES. \$298,500. (421306)

## LOTS AND LAND

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**BUILD ON THE WATER'S EDGE** ...approximately 100' of waterfront on West Fork Little River. \$168,000 (553323)

**NOW'S YOUR CHANCE** to purchase 100 to 243 acres on Lookout Mountain (Mentone). \$3900 per acre (785191)

**106' OF PRIME BROW VIEW** with paved road frontage. \$109,500 (403694)

**PLENTY OF LAND TO BUILD AND FEEL SECLUDED!** Wooded 7.13 acres in Mtnn River Estate. Restricted land with possible creek flowing on back of prop \$49,500 (656265)

**246 ACRES** on Lookout Mountain....\$4400 per acre. (928084)

**WATERFRONT LOT** in Restricted Lake on the Brow Community! 104 feet of water frontage! Mild Restrictions in File. Common Lake and Brow Areas! Call Today! Only \$52,900! (984141)

**2 BUILDING LOTS** in Hidden Lake Sub. Gated community on a 14 acre lake with walking path around lake. Borders the 14,000 acre LRNP. \$75,000 ea. (762331-665968)

**DESOTO BLUFFS** - .95 acre wooded lot with panoramic view, nice trees and level yard. Paved road frontage, city water. \$49,500 (595179)

**NO MORE DAYDREAMING** about Living on the Water when you purchase this 3 +/- acres on the East Fork of Little River. This lot features approx. 175' of river frontage and offers a gorgeous setting for your dream home. \$75,000 (801334)

**LAKEFRONT!** Bring your camping gear until your cabin on the lake is built. Features 200 ft of water frontage and 169 ft on paved road frontage, light restrictions to protect your investment and common lake and brow areas. Access and waterfront cleared and ready for your tent or cabin. \$55,900 (845943)

**LAKEFRONT LOT!!** Wooded Lot w/ Frontage on 14 Acre lake. Privately located in a gated Community on Lookout Mountain, AL, this Restricted Area offers nearby access to Little River Canyon. Visit [www.hiddenlake.com](http://www.hiddenlake.com) for more information. \$60,000 (867272)

**LOTS AND LOTS OF ACRES.** 246 acres in Mentone. \$1,82,400 (#928084)

**BROW LOT IN MENTONE** featuring a unique log structure with open living space, 1 BR, 1 BA. Plenty of acreage to build something new or enjoy the atmosphere of days gone by. \$279,900 (412695)





# The Chicken Lady

By Kristen Emory

Spring Time equals landscaping, car washing, manicuring, pedicuring and chicken washing. Yes, you read correctly, chicken washing time. I came in my house carrying my favorite chicken, which we still call "favorite chicken." I informed my family that I was going to wash my chick in the bathtub. She needed to soak and it would be much easier to bathe her in the bathroom and I don't have hot water outside. My plan was not well received. My children started screaming, "chickens are nasty; they have mites, bugs; there is poop on her butt." I can handle this. This is my house. I clean the tub, and after all there is no shortage of Clorox. Then I hear Tom say, "No, Salmonella." Did I hear that correctly, NO? One of my few faults is that I hate to be told NO. So it's on, I start defending my plans of bathing my favorite chicken in the house. Guess what...I lost.

Let us get back to the main idea of this wonderful article. How to bath a chicken? If you Google "How to give a chicken a bath," there are tons of videos and instructions on chicken bathing. Who needs a book when you have Google. I went with the outside version since my family did not let me use the house tub. Don't tell my family but I did not see any videos that used their bathtub, and we will keep this between us!

I recruited my daughter, Saddler, to help me prepare warm water in a wash tub with dawn dish detergent. Favorite Chicken loved her bath. The warm water calmed her and she loved the bubble bath. Then we rinsed her in warm water in another tub, just like the Internet told me to do. The best part was wrapping her up in a towel and taking her inside. She and I sat on the couch with the rest of the family and watched TV. This chicken loves me and loves to be inside. She is the chicken that runs in the



house whenever the door opens and hops in the car before I can get out. I was afraid she would get cold so I followed the Internet instructions and blew her dry with my hair dryer. This did not go over as well as the bath and towel but we clucked on through.

Favorite Chicken is now the prettiest, cleanest and finest chicken in Mentone. And very likely the only chicken to sit on the couch and watch an episode of Duck Dynasty with the entire family!



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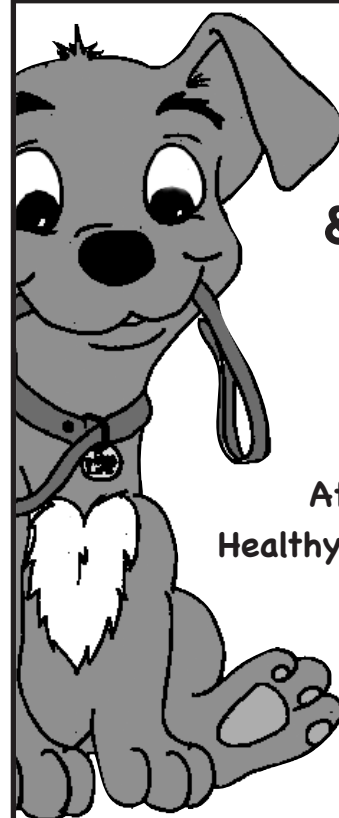


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**STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME** and Retreat. Newly renovated kitchen, 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. MBR has separate entrance to the deck, guest BR, and 2 BA. 700 sq ft. 2 rm guest cottage and a glassed Greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property. Now \$249,000 (20562)



**"THE NUTHOUSE CABIN.** Quaint Weekend getaway with open living kitchen design. 2 bdrm 1 bath, covered porch to watch the wildlife. 1 acre wooded with large Rock formations. small shed. located at the end of private drive. complete with furnishings. **\$139,000.** (22833)



**MOUNTAIN CREST CABINS.** Fully furnished log cabin nestled in the woods on 5.7+- acres, next to Cloudmont Resort. 'Up in the Clouds' is 2br/1bt with kitchen/dining combo, and large crawlspace that can be made into a basement. Amenities include CHA, gas log fireplaces, hot tub, 3/4 wraparound covered porch, kitchen appliances, furniture, decorations, linens, etc. \*Appointment Only\* **\$150,000.** (22793)



**9 ACRES** located on the east fork Little River with 500 ft on river, and 550 ft on Gilbert branch. Old homeplace. Concrete slab, power, well and septic. Privately located. Great place to build that getaway cabin! **\$149,900** (22148)



**JUST BELOW LAHUSAGE** on the east fork of Little River. 5.4 acres M/L wooded with plenty of flora and fauna, and over 300 ft on the water. Rock bluff along rivers edge. Priced right at **\$60,000.** (22187)



**WILD SCENIC LITTLE RIVER LOTS,** privately located off Co. Rd. 628, Mentone. Two lots combined to make 2.2 acres with 337 ft on river. Partially cleared building area. What a View. **\$65,000** (21685)



**HISTORICAL MARTHA BERRY HOME** in Downtown Mentone. Built in 1900's. An original Mentone dwelling, this home features 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 2 living areas, and large dining area. Remodeled kitchen, 2 large porches, and Deck. Native foliage surrounds the 2-story home. **\$397,000** (22160)



**NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY** with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of Little River. Restrictive cov. apply. Located in Mountain River Estates. **\$73,000** (20892)



**3 ACRES LOCATED** on the west fork Little River 1 mile above DeSoto Falls. Deep water for boating. Level wooded property with native Holly scattered throughout. Circular drive, perc tested, water meter installed. A beautiful spot to build that retirement home. 70 ft on the water. Quiet neighborhood. **\$125,000** (21648)



**PRETTY SETTING** with flowering cherry trees, gardens with walkways. Rustic potter shed called Granny's workshop. Storm shelter in place ready to build or bring in a mobile home. No restrictions. Located at the top of Sand mtn. Easy access to interstate. **\$34,000** (22879)



**6.1 ACRES** on the east fork Little River. Wooded with 370 ft on river. Access road and easement for utilities. Privately located, great for canoeing, swimming. Build that getaway or just enjoy camping. **\$65,000** (22115)



**EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER.** 5.4 acres partially cleared. 200ft on river, secluded with private road access. lightly restricted **\$95,000**



**EAGLES AERIE.** A unique Octagon-structure Home on the West Brow of Lookout Mtn. 8.8 acres, 3bdrm 2bth, Great Room W/FP Open kitchen/Dining. Heart Pine Floors & Views from every Room. A must see. **\$395,000** (22539)



**6 ACRES ON THE BLUFF** of the east rim of Little River canyon. Creek bordering one boundary, large rock overhang. Views of a waterfall and the canyon below. Joins the national preserve. Private gated community. **\$83,000** (22858)



**COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON.** Peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm 2 bth with sleeping loft. great room with rock fireplace. screened porch with a view of the canyon rim. over 5 acres. A must have. **\$165,000**



**WOODED 39.8 ACRES,** level mixture of hardwoods and Pines, some trails through property. Over 2500 ft. of paved road frontage. Could be nice development opportunity. Build a few cabins in this spot. **REDUCED TO \$163,800** (21649)

**NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES** on DeSoto Parkway with Stream. Can be Residential or Commercial. Land has old homesite

and green house. Large Rock formations. Possibilities are Endless! **REDUCED TO \$90,000** (19419)  
**BUILD YOUR DREAM CABIN** in the woods! 2.56 acres across from Lake Lahusage. Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Owner financing available. **\$40,000** (19149)

**NICE WOODED 3 ACRES** next to Mountain Crest Cabins. Great building site for yourself or for rental cabins. Wildlife and trees are abundant. Priced to sell at **\$25,000.** (22095)  
**HEAVILY WOODED ACREAGE** with wet weather spring. Paved road frontage along County Road 106, and just minutes from downtown Mentone. **\$110,000** (22248)

**6.4 ACRES.** Partly open field and wooded tract of land in Oakwood subdivision. Lightly restricted. Surveyed, Perk. 2 lots 9, 10. **\$45,000** (22650)  
**1.66 ACRE TRACT** with septic, county water, well, and power. Lightly restricted. Cleared and ready to build that cabin in the woods! **\$18,000.** (22747)



When We Were Wee  
(Cont'd from page 17)

was born, you had to be taken home in an ambulance; but since there was not one in Ft. Payne she came home in a hearse belonging to Mr. Hoyt Wilson of Wilson Funeral home. She brought Lawrence home to Mentone where there was no power so even his bottles had to be warmed by a lamp.

Bama would give birth to three more children, and one morning after breakfast Benton walked outside and fell dead with a heart attack. Bama had no way of supporting the kids at home. While Benton was alive, for five years she had done housekeeping for the Lewises who lived down the brow. When her daughter, Melba, was born Mr. Lewis asked her to bring Melba with her every day. He had never been around a child. Mr. Lewis was one of the people who built the Hoover Dam.

After the Lewises, Bama worked in a lunch room and then took a job at the Men's Den in Fort Payne selling clothes; and with the help of Bentons social security they survived. Bama worked at the Men's Den for fifteen years or until she was about seventy years old. She then went to work for the council on ageing. The office, at that time, paired socks for a company in Ft. Payne. There were fifteen ladies that worked doing the pairing. She then went to the sock museum and stayed for another two years.

Well, Bama there you go. I hope I have done justice to a great lady in telling her trials during and after the great depression. If I have made any errors in the telling, I want to apologize in advance. Bama also shared memories of times like Benton taking her and her sister to see the old Hitching Post dance hall in Mentone, but in those days if you were married you could not dance in public. Wow, how times have changed. I really didnt know how I was going to tell her story, but now I think it was one of the most enjoyable things I have done in a long time.

Bama's daughter Melba has been a lifelong friend, and I want to thank her for the help in getting this story told. When you think your day is going bad think of what our forefathers went through just to survive-- and your day won't seem so bad.

Business and  
Organization  
News



Tony Griffin Construction, Inc. of Henagar, received 2nd place in the Whole House Remodel division at the Alabama Remodeling Excellence Awards this weekend in Montgomery. This contest is open to all contractors in the State of Alabama and is organized by the Home Builders Association of Alabama Remodelers. You can view this year's winners on their website at [www.remodelalabama.com](http://www.remodelalabama.com).

ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

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*Mentone  
Wedding Chapel*



Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

Linda Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea for it began with a bell, and now that bell rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

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## Community Easter Egg Hunt



Most all of the Churches in Mentone participated in the Community Easter Egg Hunt--Moon Lake Baptist, Mentone Community Church, Mentone Methodist Church and St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church. The Pastor from Mentone Community Church did the devotional for the kids before the Egg Hunt. There were

more than 3,000 eggs hidden for the children of Mentone to find. The Churches provided hot dogs, brownies, cotton candy and lemonade for kids and parents.

## Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction 2013

(cont'd from page 6)



"A Garden" By Madeline Perkins - Kindergarten



"Wall of the Forest" By Ethan Perrydore - 5th Grade



"Sunset" Kandis Lawton - 6th Grade



"Memories" By Laura Boehringer - 5th grade



"Forest of Trees" by Lexi Reed - 1st Grade



"Little Red House" By Lanson Smith - 3rd Grade

## Evidence of Fun at Mentore Area Arts Council Classes



Build A Fairy House Winners  
l-r Lilly Laubenthal, Claire Laubenthal, Camille Acton with Instructor Renee Morrison



The Pocket Wildflower Tour