



# Athens-Limestone County Tourism News

*A publication of the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Council*

May 2010

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*"Tourism is the largest industry in Alabama in terms of revenue generated and jobs created"*



## Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo

You don't want to miss "the largest outdoor rodeo east of the Mississippi." Over \$50,000 in prize money will be awarded. The **Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo** will be May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.

The gates open at 6:00 PM Friday with pony rides for kids 10 and under. At 7:00 PM, the Kids Gold Rush will keep the children busy. The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Rodeo Opening Ceremonies kick off at 8:00 PM at the Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo Arena located on Hwy 99, Athens, AL. Advance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Gate Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. The rodeo

offers Bareback Bronc Riding, Calf Roping, Break-Away Roping, Steer Wrestling, Saddle Bronc Riding, Kids Calf Scramble, entertainment for Children 10 & Under, Cowgirl's Barrel Racing, Chuck Wagon Races, Bull Riding, Professional Rodeo Clowns and Specialty Acts. Contact:

<http://www.limestonesheriffrodeo.com/>.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Athens Bible School Homespun Arts & Crafts Show/Plant Sale

May 7 at 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

May 8 at 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

This event is where artists and customers can mingle and enjoy fine arts and crafts in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere. Over fifty outside booth spaces are offered, as well as many indoor booth spaces in the gym. There will also be a selection of beautiful plants for sale. There are fun attractions for the kids. You are invited to come and experience two fun-filled days on the campus.

Free admission. For more information visit [www.athensbibleschool.org/supporting\\_abs/homespun\\_2010/](http://www.athensbibleschool.org/supporting_abs/homespun_2010/).



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## Athens Visitors Center Now Open



After months of renovations, the old Athens Utilities building (commonly known as the domino hall) is open as the Athens Visitors Center. The building, built in the early 1900s, is located in Big Spring Memorial Park, beside the duck pond, next door to the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce. The Visitors Center is a part of the Chamber of Commerce and is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers work at the front desk and provide information to visitors. The Center also has a museum and small gift shop. The office of the Athens-Limestone County Tourism Director,

Jeanette Dunnavant, is located in the new Center as well. Everyone is welcome to visit the Center and pick up information and brochures about Athens, Limestone County as well as North Alabama. If you have an event or attractions that you would like to promote, information may be left at the Center for visitors to pick up. There is also a meeting room that is available for rent for meetings, parties, family reunions, etc. For more information call 256-232-5411.



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## Athens on the Square Car Show

Bad weather has postponed the annual Car Show until June 5<sup>th</sup>. Appropriately 900 antique vehicles are expected at this year's event. For more information call Bland at 256-603-1227.

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## May 2010 Tourism Calendar of Events and Attractions

### **Coffee Call at Alabama Veterans Museum**

May 1 at 8:00 AM

Join fellow veterans for the monthly coffee call at the museum located at 100 W. Pryor Street, Athens, AL. For more information call 256-771-7578.

### **Book Sale**

May 1 at 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Friends of Athens-Limestone Public Library will hold a used book sale at the library.

### **USSSA Spring Lift-off Baseball Tournament**

April 30-May 2

Come to the Athens Sportsplex, located on Hwy 31 just north of Athens High School, for a great tournament. Contact 256-233-8740.

### **May 2nd – The Athens State University Community Band Spring Concert**

Sunday, May 2nd at 3:00pm, and

Monday, May 3rd at 7:30pm.

Both concerts will be held in McCandless Hall. Admission to the concert is \$5.00 per person and reservations are available by calling 256-233-8296.

### **Annual Athens State University Alumni 50 Year Club Luncheon**

May 1 at noon in the Parlor of Founders Hall. There will be a *Visit to Archives* prior to the luncheon at 11:00 a.m. in the Library with Sara Love, Archivist. The Class of 1960 will be honored this year and there will be special recognition for the earliest member present, individual who traveled the farthest and class with the largest number of returnees. Gil Aldrich, a graduate from 1960, will be the guest speaker and Dr. Glenn will update the attendees on *The State of Athens State*. Anita Raby, Alumni Association President, is very excited to have our Alumni back on campus. Raby states, "The 50 Year Club provides an opportunity for our graduates to come back and reminisce and Founders Hall is the perfect location for the luncheon. It has been a fixture on this campus since 1842, and every former student that comes back to visit has a story about this building." Reservations are \$15 per person and must be made by Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Call 256-216-3319 for further information or reservations.

### **Frank Sinatra Tribute with Dave McConnell**

May 1 at 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:00 PM)

Yesterdays Event Center invites you to a dinner show with an Italian theme, including a complete Spaghetti and Lasagna dinner with all of the salads, garlic breads and fixings, intimate or group seating, and featured entertainer Frank Sinatra tribute artist Dave McConnell. The dance floor will be open for this dinner show, and dinner is included with your admission. All tickets are \$20, dinner included. All seats reserved.

### **Alabama Opry "Keeping Country Music Alive" Concert**

May 1 at 7:00 PM

For a great night of entertainment come to the Alabama Opry located on Airport Road in Athens, AL and enjoy Razy Bailey's Barn Dance & Variety Show with guests Judy Bailey, Cousin Sadie, Alaina Wiley, Taylor McClain and Little Happy Dickens. Call 256-206-0211 for reservations. Reserved seats are %15.00 and general admission at the door is \$10.00.

### **The Athens State University Community Band Spring Concert**

May 2 at 3:00 PM and May 3 at 7:30 PM

Both concerts will be held in McCandless Hall. Admission to the concert is \$5.00 per person and reservations are available by calling 256-233-8296.

### **Ardmore Annual Membership Luncheon**

May 4 at 11:30 AM

Join fellow members at the annual luncheon at the Ardmore TN Annex Building. A delicious meal will be served and awards will be presented. The new officers and directors will also be introduced and the scholarship winner be introduced. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Call 256-423-7588 for tickets or information.

### **Athens Bible School Homespun Arts & Crafts Show/Plant Sale**

May 7-8

The annual arts and crafts show has beautiful handmade items as well as plants for sale. For more information call 256-232-3525.

### **Limestone County Relay for Life**

May 7-8

Contact [celia.werner@cancer.org](mailto:celia.werner@cancer.org) for more information.

### **Mother Earth Day (New Event)**

May 7 at 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Keep Athens Limestone Beautiful will sponsor the first Mother Earth Day Celebration at the Athens Big Spring Memorial Park. This will be a very family-friendly event with live music, free food, craft activities for the kids, vendors, demonstrations and much more. The goal is to share information on living a more earth-friendly life through fun and entertaining activities. For more information call 256-233-8728.

### **Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo**

May 14-15

One of the best rodeos in the south is right her in Athens, AL at the Sheriff's Rodeo Arena on Hwy 99. For a complete schedule call 256-232-0111 or visit [www.limestonesheriff.com](http://www.limestonesheriff.com).

### **3rd Annual Springtime Garden Tour – Friends of the Athens-Limestone Public Library**

May 15 at 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

There will be four featured gardens in the Hightower Hills subdivision and two gardens on Brookwood Road. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at the library. For further information, please call 232-1233.

### **2nd Annual Wild Game Cook-Off**

May 18 at 5:30 PM

The Limestone County Chapter of the Alabama Wildlife Federation is hosting its second cook-off at Canebrake Club in Athens, AL. The cook-off is an opportunity for hunters and backyard chefs to get together, talk about hunting and the outdoors and enjoy good food and a little competition. Cooking teams will compete in three divisions including Fish, Fowl and Game Divisions. Hot dogs will be available for children. Call Greg at 256-998-0057 or lee at 256-990-2095 to register or get more information.

### **Singing on the Square**

May 21 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM

This month the free singing will feature Southern Splendor Chorus and Dixie Bluegrass. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music. Contact 256-232-5411, [www.tourathens.com/events-attractions](http://www.tourathens.com/events-attractions).

### **Kids Day in the Park**

May 22 at 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

This free event is hosted by the Ardmore AL/TN Civitan Club and community civic organizations. There will be hot dogs, water games, finger printing by Ardmore Police Department, Fire Department smoke house and much more. For more information call 256-233-4848 or 931-427-5523.

For a complete listing of events visit [www.tourathens.com/events-attractions](http://www.tourathens.com/events-attractions).

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## **Recurring Events**

### **Looking for something to do every week? Look below:**

**Athens High School Greenhouse** is now open Monday-Friday 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Contact 256-233-6613.



Every Thursday night at 5:30 PM, Ardmore Pickin' & Grinnin', Ardmore, TN Annex Building Main Street, 256-423-7588

Every Monday night at 6:30 PM, Elkmont Pickin' & Grinnin', Elkmont Depot, Elkmont, AL. Contact: 931-427-6296

1st & 3rd Thursday night at 6:30 PM, The Athens Dulcimers, Athens Recreation Center, Athens, AL, Hwy 251. Contact: 256-232-1262, Terry Todd

Every Thursday night at 7:00 PM, Barbershop Harmony Society Chapter Chorus, Southern Splendor rehearsal, Athens Bible School, Athens, AL Public welcome to come and enjoy the music.

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## **We're here to help.**

The Athens-Limestone Tourism Council is available to help you plan, organize and promote events. Please contact us if you need assistance. Contact [Jeanette@tourathens.com](mailto:Jeanette@tourathens.com) or call 256-232-5411.