



Athens-Limestone County Tourism News

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

October 2009

"Tourism is the largest industry in Alabama"

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Featured What to See and Do

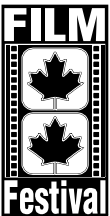


Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention hosted by Athens State University will be October 02, 2009 starting at Noon and October 03, 2009 starting at 8:00 AM. The Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention is known as the "Granddaddy of Midsouth Fiddlers Conventions" for its role in reviving the tradition of competition in old time music. Approximately 20,000 people are expected to attend the convention this year from more than 30 states. The convention brings some 200 contestants to compete for top prize money. There are 18 different categories, including several fiddle and guitar categories, harmonica, mandolin, bluegrass banjo, dulcimer, old time singing, banjo, and buck dancing. The Convention culminates in a "fiddle-off,"

between the top two fiddlers. Contests begin Friday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. following the Bobby Osborne performance and resume on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 8:30 a.m. with the gates opening at 8:00 a.m. *Bobby Osborne and the Rocky Top X-press* will perform on October 2, 2009 at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. The *Fiddle Workshop by Buddy Spicher* will be on October 3, 2009 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM in the Athens State University McCandless Auditorium. Spicher will then entertain at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday prior to the contest finals at 6:00 p.m. Gate admission to the convention is all you need to enjoy these performances. Cost is \$8 for Friday, \$10 for Saturday and \$15 for both days. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free with a parent. Contact <http://www.athens.edu/fiddlers/>.

3rd Annual Athens Storytelling Festival will be October 29-31 in downtown Athens, AL. Imagine a crisp fall weekend spent listening to stories of adventure and excitement... a place where memories and magic are captured and spun into tales that make you laugh and cry. Hear stories that tell of a time that used to be. Glimpse into the past and live the imaginary. Learn more about your parents, your children, yourself. Seven of the nations' best storytellers (Donald Davis, Carmen Deedy, Susanna "Granny Sue" Holstein, Trout Fishing, John McCutcheon, Bil Lepp and Kathryn Tucker Windham) will entertain a captive audience. Discover all this and more at the third annual Athens Storytelling Festival. Contact www.athensstorytellingfestival.com

Something New for Athens



With the passage of the Alabama Entertainment Industry Incentive Act of 2009, what better way to showcase Athens as a potential film location than with the **Southern Shorts Film Festival**. To kick things off, they are hosting a Premiere Party October 16 from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM at the Club House Cafe 121 South Marion Street, Athens, AL. Come celebrate the launch of the first film festival in Athens and get a peak at some of the films, while enjoying complimentary "Southern" cuisine favorites, and drinks. Presale tickets available now for \$25. After October 1, tickets will be \$35 or \$60 for guest plus one. On October 17th the Film Festival will be from Noon to 10:00 PM and will be held at Athens State University, McCandless Hall, 300 North Beaty Street, Athens, AL. Tickets are \$8 for an all day pass and will be available at the door the day of the event. www.aots-athens.com/film.html

Athens “Haunts Walks”



The annual “Haunts Walks” will be October 6, 8, 13, 20 & 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM. **(Sorry, but the walks are sold out.)** A few tickets are left for the October 8th special driving tour for physically impaired which leaves the Houston Memorial Library and Museum at 5:30 PM. This unique walking tour takes you through historic Athens most infamous haunted locations. In the tranquility of the night storyteller Shane Black will share the details of the “tales of Athens”. Walkers should meet at the Houston Memorial Library and Museum at 6:45 PM for refreshments furnished by the Library Board. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring a small flashlight. The walks take about 1½ hours. For more information call 256-232-5411.

AMLA Presents Awards



The Alabama Veterans Museum and Archive was honored by the Alabama Mountain Lakes Association (AMLA) with the Attraction of the Year Award for attendance under 15,000. Director Sandy Thompson and Jim Patteson accepted the award, presented by 2004 Bassmaster Angler of the Year winner Gerald Swindle, at the annual meeting at Quail Creek Resort. The Museum is dedicated to preserving our military history and serving as archives to store artifacts from the Revolutionary War to present day. Over 2,000 artifacts are on display as well as mannequins with complete uniforms and equipment from each era. Over 1,000 books and 200 videos are housed there and many are available for loan or viewing. Over 3600 visitors a year walk among the displays and uniforms, medals, photos and weapons and reflect on the soldiers who have served to protect our country’s freedom.



Holly Holman reporter for the *Decatur Daily* received the Chairman’s Cup Award for keeping her Athens/Limestone County and Decatur/Morgan County readers up-to-date on various tourists events and attractions.

Other North Alabama award winners included Organization of the Year – Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB); Event of the Year – “Ink and Blood: Dead Sea Scrolls” exhibit at Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts; Attraction of the Year (attendance over 15,000) – Helen Keller’s Birthplace; Tourism Professional of the Year – Susann Hamlin, Colbert County Tourism & Convention Bureau; Good Neighbor Award – Weiss Lake Improvement Association; North Star Award – Janice Barrett, Wild South; Young Professional of the Year Award – Tom Banks, Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts and Don Dukemineer, Huntsville/Madison County CVB; Lasting Impression Award – Nancy Gonce; and President’s Award – Representative Richard Lindsey, Representative Craig Ford, Jim Kelley and Representative Johnny Mack Morrow.

October Tourism Calendar of Events and Attractions

Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention

October 02, 2009 at Noon

October 03, 2009 at 8:00 AM

Contests begin Friday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. following the Bobby Osborne performance and resume on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 8:30 a.m. with the gates opening at 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$8 for Friday, \$10 for Saturday and \$15 for both days. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free with a parent. Advance tickets are available from the Athens State Business Office located in Founders Hall at 300 N. Beaty Street. Contact <http://www.athens.edu/fiddlers/>.

Bobby Osborne and the Rocky Top X-press

October 2, 2009 at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Bobby Osborne and Rocky Top X-press will appear as a special guest at the 43rd Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention. Gate admission to the convention is all you need to enjoy these performances. Contact www.athens.edu/fiddlers/.

Fiddle Workshop by Buddy Spicher

October 3, 2009 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM in McCandless Auditorium, ASU

Included in this year's festivities will be a free Fiddle Workshop on Saturday. Spicher will then entertain at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday prior to the contest finals at 6:00 p.m.

Cruise In and First Saturday

October 03, 2009 at 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM

This will be the last 2009 Athens Cruise In, downtown Athens, AL, Sponsored by the Spirit of Athens. Over 150 antique, classic & custom cars and trucks will circle the courthouse and line the downtown street. Participating businesses will offer extended hours and specials for the day. Contact: Bland Allen 256-603-1227, 256-431-8536, www.carsonthesquare.com, Trisha Black (SOA) 256-278-6436. **Free**

Wacky Quacky Ducky Derby

October 03, 2009 at 4:00 PM

A fun event with rubber ducks racking down the spring. Contact www.keepathenslimestonebeautiful.com. **Free**

Tracie Peterson Dinner Event

October 9, 2009

Tracie Peterson is the bestselling, award-winning author of over 60 novels. Mrs. Peterson will be the keynote speaker at a dinner event. Tickets will be \$50 each and include dinner and an autographed copy of one of Mrs. Peterson's books. Tickets will go on sale in September. Proceeds will benefit the Athens-Limestone Public Library Foundation. Contact Paula at 256-232-1233.

Ardmore Concert in the Park

October 10, 2009

Come and enjoy free hotdogs and great music at the Ardmore John Barnes Park. Hosted by the City of Ardmore. For more information call 931-427-2124. **FREE**

Southern Shorts Film Festival

October 17, 2009

The festival, showcasing local independent films, will be at the former Diesel and Lola's building located on Marion Street, downtown Athens, AL. All entries must be accompanied by a completed and signed entry form, downloadable at www.aots-athens.com/film.html and must be received by October 1st.

Athens "Haunts Walks"

October 6, 8, 13, 20 & 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM

October 8 at 5:30 PM special driving tour for physically impaired

Tickets for walks are sold out. Tickets for physically impaired driving tour: Adults and Children \$5.00.

Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce Office, 101 Beaty Street, Athens, AL. 256-232-5411.

Swamp John's Fish Fry

October 19, 2009 at 4 – 7:00 PM

For a delicious meal, join Keep Athens Limestone Beautiful (KALB) at Athens First United Methodist Church. Tickets are available by calling 256-233-8728.

Rails-to-Trails Fall Color Walk or Ride

October 24 and 25, 2009 at dawn to dusk **Free**

A day of fun in downtown Elkmont where walkers and riders (horses, bikes, etc) enjoy the beautiful colors of the trail. Contact 256-732-4211.

Athens Storytelling Festival

October 30 and 31, 2009 at 10:00 AM

Imagine a crisp fall weekend spent listening to stories of adventure and excitement... a place where memories and magic are captured and spun into tales that make you laugh and cry. Hear stories that tell of a time that used to be. Glimpse into the past and live the imaginary. Learn more about your parents, your children, yourself. Discover all this and more at the third annual Athens Storytelling Festival. Contact www.athensstorytellingfestival.com or call 256-232-0400.

Recurring Events

Looking for something to do every week? [Look below:](#)

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

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

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

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

November Events to Look Forward To

Christmas Open House

November 21 & 22, 2009

If you are looking for a great gift for a great price, this is the perfect weekend for shoppers to visit Athens, AL. Lots of door prizes will be given away. For more information call the Athens Chamber of Commerce 256-232-2600 or Spirit of Athens 256-278-6436.

Festival of Trees

November is the perfect time for Christmas trees. Visit the Donnell House in Athens, AL and view the beautiful display of Christmas trees. For more information call 256-536-5737 (Jacque) or visit

www.donnellhouse.org.

For information about events in Athens and Limestone County, Alabama, please contact:

Jeanette Dunnivant, TMP

Tourism Director

"Promoting Tourism In Athens and Limestone County"

Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce

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