

Alabama Folklife



ASSOCIATION

# news

# Alabama Folklife Association

# LETTER

Summer | 2011

## National Endowment for the Arts awards the AFA \$30,000.00 to fund the Archive of Alabama Folk Culture



**ART WORKS.**

arts.gov

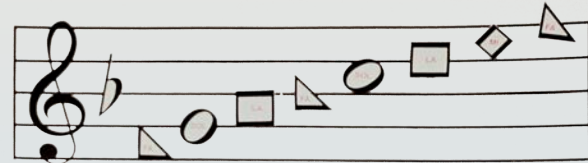
On May 17, the National Endowment for the Arts announced the federal agency's second round of grant awards for this year. The AFA will receive \$30,000.00 to help fund the position of archivist for the Archive of Alabama Folk Culture (AAFC) from June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012. Matching funds for the position are provided by the "Support the Arts" Car Tag Program, two grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA), and an annual educational program grant from ASCA. Archivist,

Kevin Nutt, will continue processing special collections in the AAFC office, located in the Alabama Department of

Archives and History (ADAH). The AAFC provides services to catalog, preserve, and make accessible the research of folklorists and other scholars. As permanent contributions to the resources of ADAH, these unique and diverse collections of manuscripts, photographs, recordings, slides, and film will enhance research, public programming, and education.

## Sacred Harp Singers Enjoy School at Tannehill Historical State Park

Over 125 participants attended the Sacred Harp Singing School held in Cane Creek School at Tannehill Historical State Park. Several singers are discussing the idea of returning to the unique atmosphere and park setting. Participants being introduced to the tradition learned from Master Artist, David Ivey, director of Camp Fasola and all enjoyed a lecture by Buell Cobb, author of "The Sacred Harp: A Tradition and Its Music." Musician, singer, and educator, Jonathon Smith, served as the project director. Scholar, Nathan Rees, designed and produced a portable "Sacred Harp Timeline" that presents the history of Sacred Harp singing. Rees also designed and produced a brochure on Sacred Harp activities and resources in the Birmingham, Ala. region and contributed an essay on Sacred Harp Singing in Alabama to the singing school program. Pam Nunn provided refreshments and treats as part of her presentation, "Dinner on the Grounds." Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the singing school was followed by an adult camp at Camp Fasola and the Sacred Harp National Convention in Birmingham, Ala. that drew Sacred Harp singers from all over the United States and abroad. The portable "Sacred Harp Timeline" attended both events and will be displayed Thursday, July 21, 2011 at the Capital City Singing, Old Alabama Town, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



*(Above right) Sacred Harp Singers during the event at Cane Creek School.*

*(Right) Experienced Sacred Harp singers lead along side a new participant.*

# Rocking the Blues: The Story of Rock in the Shoals

Saturday, July 30, 2011

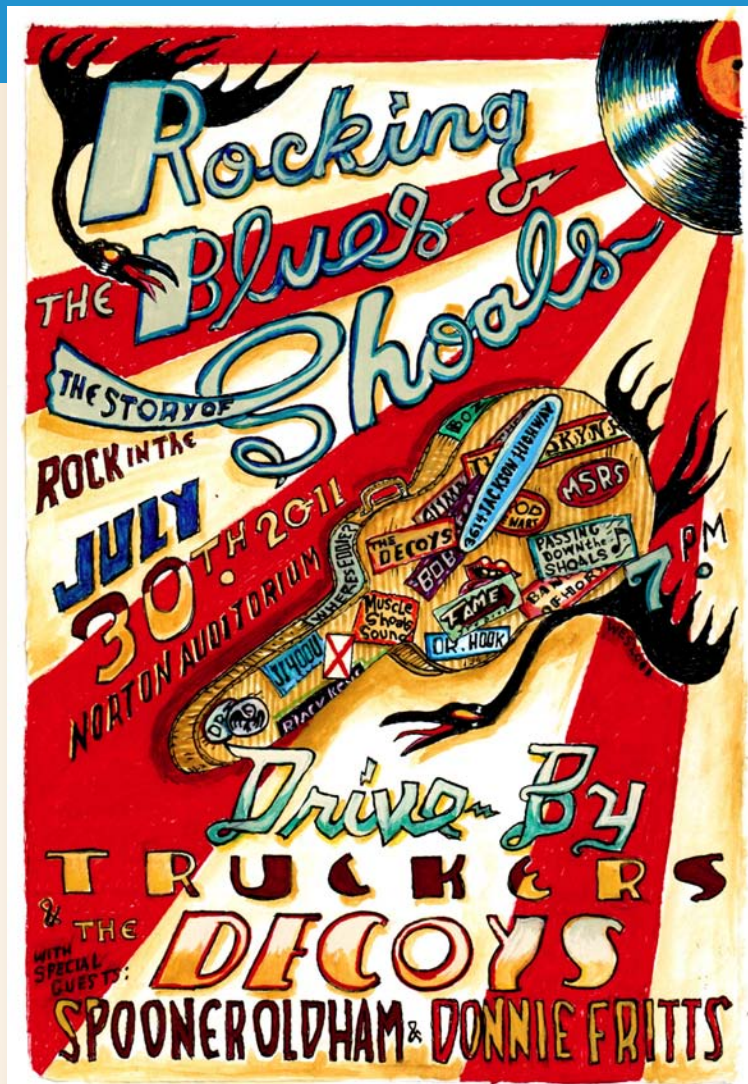


Illustration by Wes Freed.

## SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 30, 2011 • University of North Alabama (UNA)

- 1:00 p.m. FREE**  
*The Revolution That Started in Florence, Ala.*  
 Performance Center, UNA  
 Guillot University Center (GUC)
- 2:30 p.m. FREE**  
*Panel Discussion:*  
 Passing Down the Shoals (GUC)  
[muscleshoalsmusic.eventbrite.com](http://muscleshoalsmusic.eventbrite.com)
- 4:00 p.m. FREE**  
*Film Screening*  
 The Secret to a Happy Ending (GUC)  
[happyending.eventbrite.com](http://happyending.eventbrite.com)
- 7:00 p.m. TICKETED EVENT**  
*Rocking the Blues Concert*  
 Norton Auditorium, UNA  
 Drive-By Truckers with The Decoys and guests, Spooner Oldham and Donnie Fritts  
 Purchase Tickets: [dbtconcert.eventbrite.com](http://dbtconcert.eventbrite.com)

To celebrate the "Year of Alabama Music" and the 30th W.C. Handy Music Festival, the Alabama Folklife Association and the Music Preservation Society are collaborating to present the musical heritage of Muscle Shoals, Ala. as a living tradition. Programming will begin with a lecture, "The Revolution that Started in Florence, Ala." by Peter Guralnick, who will interpret the career of Sam Phillips. Next, Dr. James Hall of the University of Alabama will lead a panel discussion, "Passing Down the Shoals." Panelists will include musicians, representatives from the recording industry, journalists, and music historians. Terry Pace, a member of the English faculty at the University of North Alabama, and Robert Palmer, a professional journalist, will serve as moderators. Pace and Palmer are natives and life-long residents of the Muscle Shoals area. Prior to the concert, there will be a screening of the film, *The Secret to a Happy Ending*, a documentary on Drive-By Truckers that traces their roots in the American South.

Inspired "to continue the 'living tradition' of this music," Russell Gulley is spearheading and directing the project. Gulley, a musician, who recorded in Muscle Shoals as a member of the band, Jackson Highway, serves as Vice President of the Alabama Folklife Association Board of Directors.

The programs are funded by grants from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, South Arts, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and the Alabama Department of Tourism. Sponsors include Billy Reid designer clothing store, University of North Alabama, and the W.C. Handy Music Festival.



# What's Cooking at the AFA?

*The AFA is making plans to implement the following upcoming programs:*

## Alabama Community Scholars Institute 2012.

The theme, location, and dates for the next ACSI are still in the works, but the AFA plans to hold the next one during the summer of 2012.

An important contribution to the documentation and presentation of Alabama's folk art traditions, ACSI summer workshops develop leadership across the state of Alabama and the program is vital to the future growth of the AFA and the preservation of Alabama folk traditions.

## Alabama in the Making:

Traditional Arts of People and Place. Alabama in the Making will be a traveling exhibit that will tour the state of Alabama from 2012-2013, visit six locations, and feature the music, foodways, and visual arts of five distinctive geographical locations.

## In Harmony: Spiritual Singing Traditions, Training, and Education, the annual event for the AFA.

In Harmony will take place Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5, 2011 in Bessemer, Ala. The programs will begin with educational presentations at two Bessemer city schools to provide local youth with information on a singing tradition unique to the industrial corridor of western Jefferson County. With grant funds from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, archivist Kevin Nutt, is working with author and scholar of African American music, Doug Seroff, on a New Birmingham Quartet Anthology release. Saturday's program will feature a lecture by Doug Seroff, a panel discussion to include local singers, followed by a performance by The Birmingham Sunlights with The Pillars.

## AFA Remembers...

### Kathryn Tucker Windham

Alabama's trailblazer, Kathryn Tucker Windham, set new standards for preserving Alabama's traditions and history through literature, storytelling, radio programs, and photography. Her plays were another artistic expression of her passion for life in the American South and the heritage of Alabama. Her contributions to preserving interpreting, and presenting Alabama's stories will continue to touch the lives of thousands. She leaves an enduring legacy of work in the humanities, education, and artistic achievement.



*Kathryn Tucker Windham*

### Mr. Wade Terry

Mr. Terry of Moulton contributed to the AFA Chicken and Goat Stew Project. Mr. Terry was an original member of the United Terry Club. Organized in a barber shop in Courtland in 1960, the United Terry Club holds reunions with chicken stew annually on Labor Day. Drawing up to 1000 people, the event features chicken stew, other food, and live music.

### Gail Thrower

Gail Thrower, tribal historian and librarian for the Poarch Creek Indian reservation, recently passed away. As an educator, she shared her knowledge of tribal lore, pine needle basket making, and Native American foodways. She served on the Poarch Creek Arts Council and the Alabama Indian Resource Center Advisory Board, received the Alabama Folk Heritage Award in 1992, and participated in the Alabama Folk Arts Apprenticeship grant program. With her knowledge of traditional arts, she inspired her daughter, Lori Sawyer, and granddaughter, Sara Sawyer, who are both Alabama Community Scholars.



*Gail Thrower, Poarch Creek Indian historian and librarian. (Photograph courtesy of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture.)*

# A special thank you from the AFA to the following:

## RENEWALS

John Dew, Troy  
Charlotte Barber, Deatsville  
Robert Hume, Fort Payne  
Mrs. Lee Prestridge, Jasper  
Sara May Roseman, Birmingham  
Louise Woodall, Bessemer

## NEW MEMBERS

Leslie Ecklund, Burritt Museum  
Association, Huntsville  
Andrew Nelson, Washington, D.C.  
Gillis Payne, Montgomery  
Sharon Phillips, Montgomery  
Sandie Scott, Smyrna, Tennessee

## PATRONS

Duncan and Marie Blair,  
Birmingham  
Kay Brotherton, Huntsville  
Deborah Casey, Eufaula  
William D. Melton, Evergreen

Members of the AFA receive the newsletter and copies of the journal, *Tributaries*. The generous support of AFA members allows the AFA to carry out its mission to document, preserve, and promote the folk and traditional arts of Alabama.

The Alabama Folklife Association is a non-profit statewide organization whose purpose is to promote knowledge and appreciation of Alabama folklife through activities including festivals, conferences, fieldwork, videos, audio recordings and publications. Your membership supports these activities. In return you receive our journal *Tributaries*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

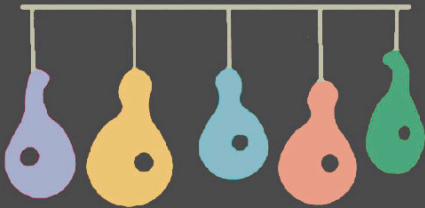
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- \$15 Student       \$35 Individual       \$500 Corporate  
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To join, send this form, with check payable to the AFA, to Jackie Ely, Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, P.O. Box 4697, Montgomery, AL 36103-4697. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

## Alabama Folklife



## ASSOCIATION

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Montgomery, AL 36130-1800

[www.alabamafolklife.org](http://www.alabamafolklife.org)  
Visit us on Facebook

Alabama Folklife Association is a partner program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts.



### Buy a New Tag and Support the Arts!

As a partner program of the Alabama State Council of the Arts, the AFA receives funding from the Alabama State License Tag Legislative Committee's Support the Arts, tags. Please consider supporting the arts by purchasing a tag through your local probate office. Funding from the Alabama Legislative Tag Committee goes directly toward the arts in Alabama.

