First Miss Rhododendron Pageant in 16 Years Proves Successful

By Joseph Hall

The 2014 Miss Rhododendron Pageant was presented by MAPA on Friday, May 16th, at the Mentone Community Church Family Life Center at 6:00pm, with thirty-one beautiful contestants from around DeKalb, Cherokee and Chattooga Counties competing for the titles. There was an auditorium full of family, friends and loved ones cheering and supporting their favorite contestants.

Our stage decorations were provided by the Moon Lake Trading Company in Mentone, and the local Boy Scouts volunteered and helped with the stage and auditorium set up. Miss Rhododendron was sponsored by Riverview Camp for Girls, Camp DeSoto, Camp Laney, Camp Skyline and Alpine Camp for Boys.

Our Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Miss Jackson County's Outstanding Teen Emily O'Rear, and crowning was done by Adrienne Hollmer, Miss Rhododendron 1997. Our distinguished panel of Judges traveled in judging private interviews for the Teen and Miss contestants as well as judging photogenic before enjoying a meal provided by Kamamas.

By the end of the evening, the judges had chosen some amazing and beautiful young ladies to represent the Rhododendron Festival as Miss Rhododendron. Taylee Ann Keith of Mentone was chosen Baby Miss Rhododendron; Avery Anne Spillman of Fort Payne was chosen Tiny Miss Rhododendron; Ana Zuniga of Valley Head was chosen Mini Miss Rhododendron; Emily Wheat of Gaylesville was chosen Pre-Teen Miss Rhododendron; and Saddler Emory of Mentone was chosen Teen Miss Rhododendron. In our Miss division, Zoe Talley of Henagar was chosen Second Alternate, Ivy Mickley of Summerville, GA, was chosen First Alternate and Alexis Grace Manifold of Mentone was chosen as the new Miss Rhododendron 2014, also receiving a cash scholarship.

Alexis was present for the events of the Rhododendron Festival and will be making appearances throughout her year as Miss Rhododendron in the Mentone and Valley Head community. We would like to congratulate all of our winners and thank each of our contestants for being with us at our first Miss Rhododendron Pageant since 1998. We are looking forward to seeing you all again at next year's Miss Rhododendron Pageant.

First Class Artists/Musicians to Participate in JulyFest 2014

The Mentone Area Arts Council is continuing plans for on-going summer activities and events.

Join us on Lookout Mountain on July 19-20 for the annual JulyFest Arts and Crafts Show in Mentone, Alabama. The JulyFest Steering Committee is finalizing plans and everything is coming together. JulyFest 2014 looks to be another success with the planning, community and artist involvement. Organized by MAAC, this mid-summer event will feature a large and prestigious juried arts and crafts show at beautiful Mason Park in downtown Mentone. Free music by notable Alabama bands and artists will be available. The pet parade, one of last year's favorites, a silent auction and dog adoption to benefit the Humane Society and Animal Resources of DeKalb County are just a few of the many activities taking place.

The arts and crafts show, beginning at 9am on Saturday, features works of more than 50 talented artists and craftspeople specializing in oil paintings, pastels, watercolors, drawings, photography, sculpture, wood art, rustic furniture, pottery, iron work, basketry, fiber and wearable art, jewelry including fused glass and precious and semi-precious metals and stones, as well as upcycled art--surely something for everyone!

The Pet Parade will feature all types of critters-birds, chickens, horses, dogs, goats and perhaps a pet rock or two, who will scamper, gallop, trot and amble around Mason Park at 9:30 am Saturday. The proceeds from the parade benefit the Humane Society and Animal (Cont'd on page 3)
Mentone Matters
By Mayor Rob Hammond

Tornado warnings and torrential rains on April 28 and 29 again created challenges for our police department and our volunteer fire department. All three of our officers were out most of the night. The fire department volunteers were on the side of the mountain several hours helping to clear AL 117 and controlling traffic.

Town Hall flooded and our chief Lamar Bray and our clerk Wilma Fletcher spent the next day mopping it out. Kamama’s across 117 also suffered flooding. There was damage to several town streets. County Road 631 washed completely out at Camp DeSoto. District 1 Commissioner Shane Wooten has been in contact with us, and we will learn more about repairs after the May 28 county commission meeting.

We met with FEMA representatives on May 22 and hope to recover some of costs incurred from the flooding.

The town accepted the bid from Jackson Paving for the paving of Cutler Avenue, Douglas Street and the portion of West River connecting to Cutler. Work should be completed this summer.

More Clean-up Thank You’s

Last month these wonderful sponsors were accidentally left off of our sponsor list:

- Mentone Market
- Helena’s Market
- One World Adventure
- Jim McGee

Many Thanks!

From The Editor

Many dedicated Mentone volunteers contributed to the success of The Groundhog over the last 32 years. Contributions from talented writers, photographers, and designers made it a great newspaper in style and content. Collection of verbal and written stories and old photos helped preserve the diverse and interesting history of people who called the Mentone area home. Others provided the legwork of pickup, mailing and distribution so that locals and visitors alike could look into the lives and enjoy the culture of Mentonians. Thank you to all who made it possible.

The Groundhog was the brainchild of the charter members of the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). The MAPA Board and members have managed its publication ever since. June begins a new year for MAPA and, in addition to The Groundhog, MAPA volunteers produce the Rhododendron and Colorfest Festivals, contribute time and money to other Mentone volunteer organizations and help with many local projects.

At the beginning of our new year we plan to once again work to increase our membership. We ask you to join and work with the many other Mentone volunteers to preserve local history, make our community a safer, better place to live and to enjoy the work to make it happen.

Thank you!
Ray Padgett
For the MAPA Board

Join MAPA Today!
Help us preserve Mentone’s history and impact its future.

Individuals - $20 a year
Couples - $30 a year

MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL  35984
JULYFEST 2014
July 19-20, 2014
ARTIST APPLICATION

Name______________________________
Address____________________________
City, State, Zip Code______________________________
Email Address______________________________
Telephone Number______________________________ Other Telephone Number______________________________
# of Booths Required______________________________ Is electricity and/or water required?______________________________
Description of artwork, craft or food for inclusion in show______________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
Please send two (2) images of your work for review by the Jury. Images should be photographs or on CD Rom. Some of your images may be used for advertising purposes for the show. You may provide a website address in lieu of photographs or CD if it is current and accurately represents the body of your work.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS/DEADLINE
Please mail your signed Exhibitor Application, images and check by July 1, 2014, to:
Mentone Area Arts Council P.O. Box 370 Mentone, AL 35984

I, the undersigned, agree to be responsible for my own booth space, my art work, and possessions at all times during and surrounding the show. The Mentone Area Arts Council or anyone affiliated with this entity will be not held responsible for items lost, stolen, or damaged, nor for injury to any person on the show grounds or any place connected with JULYFEST 2014. I release any of the above from any and all liability. I also agree that any photographs or videos containing my image may be used by MAAC for publicity.

JULYFEST 2014 Art Show information as well as an application will be posted online at www.mentonearts.org. For further information, please contact Beverly Bates at bbates@bellsouth.net or 205-520-1556. You will be notified of your acceptance by July 3 and space location the week prior to the show.

Signature______________________________

JULYFEST (cont’d from page 1)

Resource Center of DeKalb County. You can pre-register your pet at the MAAC website, or enter at the gate to compete. There is an entry fee of $10. What? You don't have a pet...apply for one of the cute little puppies or adoptable dogs at the on-site Adoption Center and, if you act quickly enough, you will be able to enter your new pet in the parade. A silent auction will include items donated by artists, as well as local businesses and residents.

Live music will fill the air all weekend by talented area artists, and at 5 pm on Saturday, on the grounds of the Mentone Inn, Old Tymer's Barbecue of Fort Payne will serve up their famous B-B-Que at $10 per plate. All the while you can tap your forks and feet to more music including a noted headliner beginning at 7pm. Be sure to bring your blankets and folding chairs.

Sunday morning at 11am the arts and crafts show will reopen in Mason Park with more music and art.

JulyFest is made possible in part through sponsorships from local businesses and residents and a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Classes
Learn the techniques of landscape painting in this Plein Air Painting Class to be held on June 7 with artist/instructor Suzanne Royal. Cost is only $30 for a 5-hour lecture/demo/painting class at Mountain Cove Farms. Make reservations at www.mentonearts.com. Pay online or at the event.

Color Mentone
This year's Color Mentone, the summer plantings of public areas, was another success. Completed in May, Mentone is alive with colors of newly planted flower beds. Thanks to all who participated in making Mentone a colorful place to live and visit.

You can be a part of MAAC. Visit our website at www.mentonearts.org to see how to join and contribute to celebrating Mentone through the arts.

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This Olde 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.

Thanks to so many wonderful folks in our community. Our year at MERF has been a great success. We recently held our 2nd Annual Taste of the Mountain & Art Auction. Through this fundraiser we were able to raise funds for the upcoming year. The money from the fundraiser last year enabled us to send teachers from Moon Lake Elementary School to teacher workshops, provide the Art, Music and Spanish teacher at Moon Lake Elementary School, provide educational field trips to Moon Lake Elementary School, and provide scholarships to college students in the community and many more activities. Thank you to all of you who gave of your time to make this fundraiser a success. It’s because of you that we were able to make this fundraiser happen and continue our programs in the community. Also, thank you to all who attended and donated funds. We could not serve the community without your partnership.

Our tutoring program with Moon Lake Elementary school was successful as well. We have so many wonderful tutors that have graciously volunteered their time to serve the children in our community. Our tutors this year were: Liz Baker, Kat Griffith, Joyce Smith, Joan Byrum, Kara Miller, Bill Rutledge, Priscilla Allworth and Lucy Fowlkes. We also had some wonderful folks who would fill in when tutors were not able to be there. Our wonderful substitutes were John and Elaine Mills, Lindsey Gallaher, Kathy McMunn and Shirley Hussel. We just want to say a huge thank you to them for their investment in the lives of our children.

We also had a wonderful season of senior lunches. So many organizations and businesses in our community have volunteered time, effort and money to serve our seniors. Thank you to all who have provided meals, served meals, given of your time and given of your money. We especially want to thank our regular servers Pat Peterson, Kathy McMunn, Norm and Liz Baker, San Hammond and Carolyn Nail and our food providers this spring Mentone Community Church, St. Joseph’s Church, Hardware Café, Kamamas, Camp Alpine, Camp DeSoto, Camp Laney, Camp Skyline, the Boy Scouts and Mentone Market. The seniors thoroughly enjoy this time of fellowship with one another, and it would not be possible without you and your willingness to volunteer.

We are very grateful for your love and support of our community. Thank you for your partnerships and volunteerism. We look forward to another wonderful year of serving our community alongside you.

God Bless,
Kristen Miller

The MERF board wants to thank Kristen Miller for doing a great job organizing volunteers for tutoring and senior lunches, for keeping the MERF house calendar, for getting “Leave Me in Mentone” items displayed and sold and for enabling the Art Auction to be fun and successful. She stepped in and helped MERF well to continue our community work. The MERF board looks forward to hearing the difference she and her husband make with their missionary work in Jamaica. Kristen and Keith will continue to enrich the lives of those they meet and work with in their future.

Who is a nominee for the Grammy Music Educator Award? Our own Ms. Paula Easter! She is the art, music and Spanish teacher supplied to Moon Lake Elementary School by MERF. Hopefully, everyone saw some of the artwork produced by her students in last month’s groundhog. Thanks to the school parent that nominated Ms. Paula and sought recognition for the arts program at Moon Lake that is fun and amazing thanks to Ms. Paula’s talent and hard work.

MERF appreciates everyone that stopped by our booth at the Rhododendron Festival and we are thankful to MAPA for working hard to bring together a great celebration of Mentone’s heritage and beauty!

Join us for Senior Summer Socials at 1:30 at the MERF house on Wednesday, June 18th, July 16th and August 20th.

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.

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Homer Lee Crow  
1923-2014  
By Sandra Padgett

Mentone will miss the good spirit, sage advice and smile of Homer Lee Crow who died May 26, 2014, at Parkridge Medical Center. He was born in 1922 to a family that is important in the history of Mentone. He had seven siblings, six brothers and a sister. Homer joined the Air Force at an early age and served in World War II in Australia and the Philippines. After the war, he worked for years for Mabry & Parker, a Chattanooga general contractor firm. He later began his manufacturing company that produced commercial and residential garage doors. During the latter part of that endeavor, Bernise his wife of 60 years owned the Hitching Post and operated Crow's Nest Antiques in Mentone. She became a beloved part of our town. When Homer sold his business in the eighties, he became a permanent resident of Mentone. Retirement didn't suit him, so he began a wire harness factory in Fort Payne and became a business owner providing jobs again. Homer had been retired for several years, but continued his community involvement and work with MAPA.

Wife Bernise Cooper Crow, daughter Joyce LaVonne Cooper and granddaughter Jennifer LaVonne Pullen precede him in death.

He is survived by sons, Barry Lee Crow (Donnah) and Coy A. Crow, and a daughter, Doreen Crow Waters. There are seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

His only surviving sibling is brother Dewey Crow who stopped by to reminisce about Homer. We talked about Homer's sense of humor, his work ethic his glazed peanuts and his duty to his country. We agreed he loved Bernise and his family with all his heart. After we comforted each other with happy stories, Dewey summed it up. He said: “Homer had about anything he ever wanted. He had a good marriage and a good life. He was blessed.”


Bernise and Homer at their 50th Anniversary Party

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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 ambiance 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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The old Battelle property (about 1200 acres) was nominated for purchase by the Forever Wild organization. The property would be purchased from Alex Glover, Jr., trustee of the Glover Family Trust. We are requesting letters of support for this purchase from local community organizations and citizens.

This property would be a valuable addition to our park systems and could be an integral part of the Lookout Mountain Trail Project, where plans are being made to create a large trail network connecting more than 60 miles of multi-use trail systems from Fort Payne, Little River Canyon, DeSoto State park and Mentone.

Forever Wild is an organization that seeks to connect citizens to public lands. Your letter of support should reflect how the county of DeKalb would benefit from preserving this historic natural area – the Battelle property. Feel free to be passionate about this cause in your letter. Your letters will weigh heavily in the opinion of the board.

The Forever Wild Board will be deciding what to purchase and consider key factors like Mature Forest, Public Accessibility, Springs, Caves, Rare Plants and Animals, Scenic Views and Historic Relevance. In addition to writing a letter of support you may want to attend a public hearing by the Forever Wild Board on June 19th, 10:00 AM at Guntersville State Park. We have been advised that the stronger show of support at this meeting, the better our chances of getting the land chosen by the board.

Please mail your letter of support so that it will arrive before the meeting on June 19. Address your letter to:

Attention: Patti Powell, Director
Alabama State Lands
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Thank you!
Mentone Business Association (MBA)

by Robert Hoffman
MBA President

At the MBA meeting on May 13th, we decided to adopt the logo shown above. Thanks to Beverly Smith at Snappy Graphics for doing the graphics on the logo. We also discussed some projects that we might be able to address in the near future and continue to look into ways to increase business in positive, low impact ways. In response to requests from local business people, we’ve changed the meeting time to be 6:00-7:00 on the third Monday of each month. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16th, at 6:00 in the MERF House. All are invited. Details about the MBA and our membership form follow and we encourage you to join us.

Our Mission
The MBA has been formed with the mission of sponsoring or supporting activities that will benefit businesses and business growth in the Mentone area. The objectives of these activities will be anything that will improve the business environment in Mentone, including increasing customer traffic, coordinating for the mutual benefit of various types of businesses, improved and cost-effective advertising methods, improved communication with local town leaders to help bring about such changes, and other activities to enhance the health and success of our local businesses. Although all businesses are encouraged to join us, membership is entirely voluntary. MBA activities and projects will be undertaken that benefit the entire business community in and around Mentone, both members and non-members.

Anyone in the Mentone area is invited to join, but especially those that own and/or operate businesses of any kind. No dues are currently being charged, but may be determined as necessary in the future and our membership agrees. MBA meetings and progress are currently being documented online at website MBA.MyMentone.com. To join, fill out the form that follows and send by U.S. mail to Robert Hoffman, PO Box 321, Mentone, AL 35984. The form may optionally be done online at MBA.MyMentone.com.

Membership Benefits
If you have some suggestions and ideas on ways to improve the operation of your business and others in Mentone, you may want to join. The MBA provides a forum for presenting and discussing these ideas with like-minded individuals who will provide support and suggestions as to the best way to implement the ideas.

If you want to be better informed of what other local businesses are doing, you might want to join. We frequently email members to let them know when businesses open/close in town, when others change their hours/days of operation, and what’s happening or planned that may affect your business in either a positive or negative way.

If you want to increase your business, you might want to join. It’s possible that other MBA members will have some ideas on ways to improve the situation. We’re all looking for things we can do to bring more customers into our shops and then to convince them to buy something once they’re in.

If you think there are ways that we could work with the Town Council to improve the overall appearance and accessibility of our shops and businesses, you may want to join. Since the MBA plans to work closely with the Town Council on future projects, you may stand a better chance of your voice being heard by being an MBA member.

If you’re interested in hearing how nearby towns are bringing in new customers and enhancing their business situation, you may want to join. Since the MBA is in close contact with the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce and their Merchants Association, we continue to get suggestions from them on what techniques they’ve found to be successful.

Name __________________________________________________________
Mailing Address __________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________________________________________
Email Address ____________________________________________________
Phone __________________________________________________________
Your Business Name _______________________________________________

Send form by U.S. mail to Robert Hoffman, PO Box 321, Mentone, AL 35984. The form may optionally be completed online at MBA.MyMentone.com. 
Remember When
By Angie Carden

The Groundhog published an article about Simmie Sherman Vernon thirty years ago. Mr. Vernon was the son of Robert Vernon who was born in 1845 as one of 14 children. At the age of 19 he built what many consider the first home of Mentone proper, the log cabin that is the central structure of St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Church.

Robert Vernon was apparently considered a valuable and outstanding citizen because the road from Mentone to Valley Head was named Vernon's Gap. Many said his prayers were so loud that he literally "held the mountain together".

Robert and his wife, Polly Ann Peyton, had six children--five boys and one girl. Simmie Sherman was born Nov. 6, 1869.

In 1884, Simmie worked for Dr. Frank Caldwell in the construction of The Mentone Springs Hotel, receiving 50 cents per hour.

He was wed to Lucy Jane Payton on Feb. 13, 1890 and remained in the cabin built by his father that is now part of St. Joseph's. Also, according to family records, he was very instrumental in starting a church in Mentone sometime around 1893.

Simmie moved his family to Oklahoma around 1907 and continued to preach for no income as he always had. Simmie died in his home on Turkey Mountain near Tulsa on March 9, 1935.

During a reunion of Vernon family relatives

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The Times of Our Lives

Ms. Nell Kent of Mentone was crowned Miss Crowne Health Care on Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

Left: Haley Stinson of Troy, AL, daughter of Cynthia Stinson of Mentone Inn, welcomed Walker Reece Stinson on April 16, 2014. Seven pounds and 18 3/4 inches.

Note of Thanks

The family of Alan Johnson of Mentone would like to express our thanks to all who sent flowers, cards, food; offered condolences, prayers and kind thoughts during our time of grief after Alan’s death on May 15, 2014. Your love and kindness will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,
Kathleen “Kat” Johnson

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Congratulations, Laurelle Brooke Miles

Laurelle turned 19 and is finishing Hueytown High School in Jefferson County. The proud Pappa is Walt Miles. Walt and Laurelle will be moving to Mentone (Cloudmont) in the near future. Laurelle plans to attend Northeast Community College and hopes to enter their nursing school.
Summer Days Are Here At Last!

And I think most of us feel, well overdue! But, I must admit, I have mixed emotions about this. I do love the cold and directly related to the fact that I work all summer in a very hot kitchen cooking for hundreds of hungry boys, this time of year finds me begging for the return of cold winter days! All that aside, I like summer, too. There is nothing better to me than the smell of a BBQ! I do get very excited at the thought of people pulling out and uncovering those grills! Maybe because I spent my summers as a child on Weiss Lake with the men of our families standing over a grill. Besides that, the smoke of the grill makes everything taste better. Even bread!

So, while you are deciding what to get for dad this Father's Day, remember to check out grills and grilling accessories! Go all out and get dad his own monogrammed grilling apron.

Here’s a great grilling recipe for you to give him as well! Happy Father's Day!

**Grilled Brown Sugar Pork Chops**

- Preheat your grill to med-high heat.
- In a small saucepan, combine ½ c firmly-packed brown sugar, ½ c apple juice, 4 tbsp olive oil, 1 tbsp soy sauce, ½ tsp ground ginger, salt and pepper. Bring to boil.
- Combine ½ c water with 2 tsp cornstarch in small bowl and whisk into brown sugar mixture. Stir until thick.
- Lightly brush your grill with oil and lightly brush sauce over chops.
- Cook about 5-6 minutes, turn and baste other side. Total grill time if cooking 1 inch chops is 10-12 minutes. Serve with remaining sauce.
What To Do Around Here!  
June 2014 Community Calendar

Jun 1-6 - Moon Lake Baptist Church Vacation Bible School. Registration Sunday night at 5pm followed by games and a meal. Then from 6pm to 8:30pm will begin the first mountain climb! On Monday thru Thursday nights from 6-8:30pm, we will venture to different mountaintops and see what unfolded there. Friday night will be our Family Night (beginning at 6 PM) where parents can see and hear about the adventure and fellowship with others during the meal that will follow. All children from age 3 years to grade 6 are welcome hikers. If any children need transportation to and from the church, please contact Carolyn Hendon at (256) 634-4704.

Jun 2 – 3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24 - Tadpole Adventure Club for Tikes. The Tadpole Adventure Club is an introduction to a camp setting with creative play, arts and crafts. Perfect for kids ages 2-4. DeSoto State Park $55 per 2 day session or ($75.00 with lunch option). Pre-registration required. Must sign up at least 2 hours ahead of time. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-634-8370.

Jun 2, 14, 26 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 2, 5, 6, 13, 18, 30- Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Explore in one of NE Alabama’s most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 3, 9, 21 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it’s dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 4 - Celestial Navigation. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 5 - Amy McCARY Performance at Kamama Gallery. Good things come to those who wait – and this summer, Alabama country fans will be rewarded for their patience. On June 10, singer-songwriter Amy McCARY will release Jet Engines, the highly anticipated follow-up to her 2011 self-titled debut. Produced by Kenny Vaughan (Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives) and George Bradfute, Jet Engines is a sterling collection of original music anchored by McCARY’s earthy alto as she leads listeners on a musical road trip that travels from the twangy traditional country featured on the toe-tapper “Here I Am” to the smoldering Americana of the title track. McCARY, who was named a Nashville Alabama Artist to Watch by The Huntsville Times in 2012, has already taken her home state by storm. With Jet Engines, she firmly establishes herself as a rising star on the national roots music scene. Show begins at 7pm. Admission $10. 256-634-3001.

Jun 7 - Outdoor Landscape Painting Class. (Plein Air Painting) presented by the Mentone Area Arts Council will be held 10am-5pm central time at Mountain Cove Farms in Georgia. Instructor will be noted artist Suzanne Royal. Make reservations at www.mentonearts.org.


Jun 7 - Free Fishing Day. On this day you can fish in public waters without a fishing license. Some lakes may require fees and permits. For more information, visit www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freefishing.cfm.


Jun 7, 20 - Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 7 - Storytime at the Canyon Center: Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendack. Little River Canyon Center staff and volunteers will read aloud unique children’s literature every first Saturday of the month. Storybooks will be available for purchase. Little River Canyon Center. 11 a.m. to Noon. Free and open to everyone. 256-782-5697.

Jun 7, 27 - Night Zip Line. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Enjoy the thrill of the zip line at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 7 - Pugsply Buzzard At Vintage 1889. Vintage 1889 at the Big Mill is excited to have Pugsply Buzzard. Come and enjoy a great night of music. 8 pm. $10 cover. 256-845-3380.

Jun 10-13 - Canyon Camp for Children (at Little River Canyon Center). Hands-on environmental education, outdoor fun, arts and exploration of the natural world abound in this camp. These camps leave children begging for more JSU Field School fun! Children learn all about Little River Canyon National Preserve and DeSoto State Park... the river, the plants and the animals! These camps fill quickly so register early. Fee includes lunch and supplies. Ages 7-11 years. Little River Canyon Center (and some off-site travel) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. $150 per participant; pre-registration required (limited to 10 campers) 256-782-5697.

Jun 10, 28 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 10-12 - High Adventure Trip. 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. 256-997-9577.

Jun 12 - New Artists in the House. Jun 13 - Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 13 - Jeff Cook Fan Appreciation Daze Show. Come enjoy Jeff Cook and the Allstar Goodtime Band for their annual fan appreciation concert. Will be at DeKalb Theatre in downtown Fort Payne. Doors open at 5 p.m. and show starts at 6:30 p.m. Get tickets now and pick up at the door. $20 each http://www.jeffcook-agb.com/page7.html.

Jun 14 - Blow Your Own Ornament. This had become very popular here at Orbix Hot Glass. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. For this we welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old). 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost is $35 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

Jun 14 - Green & Gray Saturday. The National Park Service staff and volunteers will present “Green & Gray” programs on the second Saturday of each month. Topics include park resources and activities, climate change, recycling, energy conservation, eco-gardening, exotic plants, native landscaping, pollution prevention, green energy, and more! Little River Canyon Center. 10 a.m. Free and open to everyone. 256-845-8548.

Jun 14 - Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. Bring your own compass or you may purchase one at our store. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 14 - Randy Owen’s Fan Club Concert on the Farm. Come and enjoy fandemonium on Randy Owen’s farm. You must be a member of the fan club to come, so join today. www.randyowen.com.

Jun 15 - HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

Jun 15 - Benefit Concert, The Alabama Fan Club. The group ALABAMA will be doing a benefit concert for the Perez family from Valley Head. Fan Club Office opens at 8:00am (for paid fan club members to pick
MAPA Members meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at 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 11am. 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 eligible persons and families. Hours: Tuesdays, 9 AM to noon. New applicants welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

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

Mentone Town Council meets the 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.

Songtyme at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Fee. 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 River Rhythms Nature & Art Family Fun Program every fourth Saturday from Jan-Oct. 1pm - 3pm; No Fee. Call Renee Morrison at 256-782-5697.

Valley Head School CHAMPS meet the first Monday of every month at 6pm in the Gym. The Mentone Business Association (MBS) will meet the third Monday of each month from 6-7pm.
And the Rhododendrons Bloomed!

Anticipation for this year’s Rhododendron Festival was high and widespread. Volunteer festival planners knew they were creating a festival that would be enjoyed by a broader base of both local and visiting guests. The Miss Rhododendron Pageant was revived; a real children’s section was planned with pony and carriage rides, slides, dunks, spins and painted faces; music was everywhere (14 local performers/groups, Sacred Harp singers, and a fabulous blues performance); taste of Mentone food was abundant; boat rides awaited; and the talents of our festival artists, craftsmen and gardeners were on display. Marketing efforts included newspaper, radio and TV interviews, announcements and articles. Everyone was ready!

Friday evening events started the festival with style and grace. You had a choice - fish fry and live music or the first Miss Rhododendron Pageant since 1998. Boat rides provided visitors with beautiful, scenic rides on the Little River with Rhododendrons in full bloom. All events were a hit. The Miss Rhododendron Pageant had over 200 people in attendance and was a great stage to highlight our area’s young ladies.

Saturday and Sunday the music continued in the Brow Park pavilion without a hitch while visitors enjoyed the sounds of Mentone. Some artists had great success and plant sales were at an all-time high even though the rainy drizzle and Huckleberry winter kept most visitors away. The rides, games and ponies came but they never made it out of the chute. It turned into two dreary days of unseasonable cold – this is the part you can never adequately plan for, you only hope it doesn’t happen.

MAPA thanks our volunteers, sponsors, town officials, exhibitors and citizens (who donated their property for use during the festival) for making the Rhododendron Festival possible; however, an enthusiastic thank you and heartfelt appreciation go out to all the hardy souls who attended our festival in spite of the dismal, damp and cold weather.

Apparently, the plants loved the rain and the Rhododendrons bloomed. Volunteers are undaunted and already planning for Colorfest.
More Rhododendron Festival Photos

Welcome You To The Children's Fair

Welcome You To The Sounds of Mentone

Welcome You To Rhododendron Festival

The Groundhog presents The Taste of Mentone

All Rhododendron Festival Photos by Christy Miller Evans Photography

Mentone Farms

Local Produce
USDA Inspected
Pastured Pork, Beef, Chicken
Free-Range Eggs

Mentone Farmstand
Making its Debut June 19th
Thursday – Sunday
10:00am til 4:00pm

Bruce's Foodland
Home Owned and Operated Since 1979
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7am-10pm
256-845-1970

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• None Sold to Dealers

We Accept

• Visa
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• Discover

Discounts for Senior Citizens

Rhododendron Festival Pictures

By Christy Miller Evans Photography

Ecological Designs, Inc.
Lyle Nicely
AL Licensed Contractor

Custom Home Construction
Green & Solar Applications

Mentone, AL
Cell: 256-996-0169
lnicely@charter.net
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 minister for these services.

The Valley Beat 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. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome.

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), 5700 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 6PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. 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.


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. 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. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

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 Darin Stines, 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 Kinzer 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. Bro. Whitney Smith 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 or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL. 35984.

Vacation Bible School
Jun 1-6 - Moon Lake Baptist Church VBS. Join us for a Mountain Top Adventure that is Rock Solid. Games and hot dog supper the first night of activities. Each night we will be on a new Mountain Top Adventure. Friday, June 6, will be Family Night complete with a program by the children and a fellowship meal. Classes for children 3 yrs. old to 6th grade. Bus pick up will be available. For more information watch for flyers and posters.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>MLS Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-acre wooded, Lakefront Lot in Private, Gated Subdivision.</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>#945265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.06-acre lot at Hidden Lake Subdivision.</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>#867752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.06 acres border Armstrong Creek and Webb Branch.</td>
<td>$47,500</td>
<td>#581114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1 acres...mostly wooded.</td>
<td>$48,500</td>
<td>#652461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 acres - East Fork of Little River.</td>
<td>$29,900</td>
<td>#641045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 acres - off the beaten path, hunters paradise. No restrictions.</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
<td>#752857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400’ deep lot located south of Mentone on DeSoto Parkway.</td>
<td>$149,900</td>
<td>#963487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corner lots in secluded and private subdivision walking distance to East Fork Little River.</td>
<td>$29,900</td>
<td>#939357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106’ of prime brow view with paved road frontage.</td>
<td>$109,500</td>
<td>#403694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakefront! 200’ of water frontage and 169’ on paved road frontage.</td>
<td>$55,900</td>
<td>#845943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approx. 2 acres on a dead-end street. Unrestricted. (2 tracts available, totaling approximately 4 acres).</td>
<td>$9,650</td>
<td>#407038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 acres - located on the North Brow in Mentone.</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
<td>#392849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LOTS AND LAND**

3.22-acre lot in West Fork Subdivision. $29,900. | MLS #810411. |
0.49-acre lot with 100’ on West Fork Little River. $168,000. | MLS #553523. |
7.13-acre lot in Mountain River Estates Sub. | $49,500. MLS #656265. |
1.95-acre lot at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. | $44,900. MLS #984141. |
1.02-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. | $55,000. MLS #762331. |
1-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. | $50,000. MLS #665968. |
Sometimes a thoughtful deed goes unrecognized for decades. That was the case in Charles “Railroad” Parker’s kindness that he exhibited decades ago. Charles, known as “Railroad”, lived on the brow and was very involved in community affairs. He was the first to offer help when needed. He attended festivals, volunteered to civic efforts and was a great storyteller. He had retired from the Railroad Co.

Don Coley of Centre, AL approached me and said: “I want to give MAPA a donation to honor my old friend Charles Parker.” He then gave me cash in the amount of $30.06. I was certain a story would be forthcoming regarding the extra six cents. “Railroad” took Don on his first hunting trip and taught him safety, how to shoot and where to hunt. He then began mentoring Don’s friends, and they took trips for years and became friends. “Railroad” always used his trusty Thirty aught six. The others graduated to advanced and more expensive guns, but “Railroad” insisted a man only needs the .30-06. So because of his kindness, consideration and teachings, MAPA is $30.06 richer, and I enjoyed sharing stories of an old friend and had a happy trip down memory lane. Thank you Don Coley! And Charles Parker!

School News

The Valley Head Athletic Club met on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, to conduct regular business and vote in officers for the 2014-2015 School year. Officers elected were: President, Dave Vest; Vice-President, Kayla Worthey; Treasurer, Donna Willingham; Co-Secretaries, Krissy Harris and Amy Henderson. The Athletic Club will meet on an “as needed” basis throughout the summer months and then will return to regularly-scheduled meetings as the school year returns. With many fundraisers already in the works, the Athletic Club is looking for your participation. If you are interested in becoming an Athletic Club Member, a volunteer, or you would just like to make a contribution to the organization, please contact ValleyHeadAthleticClub@yahoo.com or call Dave at 256.418.2386. These athletes, children and students and Valley Head need your support. Thank you!

PUTTIN’ IT ON

By Doug Kiker

There are things my wife told me every young girl ought to see, She named one then two and three. I thought these over for a time, Then picked a favorite of mine.

In our life together we’ve talked of everything under the sun; Some were downright serious-others just for fun. Subjects from logs to frogs and even turtles; But, she laughed almighty hard telling me how Her mama put on a girdle.

You remember that garment made to fit like another hide, And getting it right was tough, There was no slipping to the slide. From what I’ve heard the wearing of a girdle Is mostly pride. Or maybe a bulge to hide.

Be that as it may, all joking aside, Seems like putting on a girdle is too hard to abide. I’ve even heard that when the job was finished, Tears of joy were cried, Probably that would be denied.

Anyway, the moves that Mama would make Were enough to make the room shake. Why! Those squirms and turns would challenge a snake. Then, finally it was on looking good Anyone could see… Wouldn’t you know it? Mama had to pee.
AFFORDABLE HOME IN MENTONE. 3BR/2BA double-wide home with good-sized, detached, 2-car garage/workshop. Situated on two partly cleared acres, part wooded, with a small wet-weather stream in the woods. Private back yard for garden spot or add'l building sites. Small, patio on the front. Public water. Paved road. Owner financing possible with acceptable terms. Just listed for $53,000 (672964).

THE HARMONY OF WATER, TREES AND EARTH. Named “Grace Glen” by current owners, they’ve found it to be a place to get away from the day-to-day hustle and bustle, unwind and be at peace. Listen to Brush Creek flow; watch it wind its way along the North boundary of the almost 2 acres (over 300’ on creek). Two lots, one mostly cleared, the other wooded, go with this 3BR/2BA, 2-story frame cabin featuring screened porch, sunrooms (one off Master BR), balcony off huge upstairs BR/gameroom, welcoming front porch and lovely interior. Sold mostly furnished. $182,500 (400932).


LOT’S and LAND

EAST RIVER ROAD. River View parcel in West Fork upstream from Desoto Falls. Approved for building a small cabin. Town limits of Mentone in nostalgic area offers a great spot to watch the river flow. Priced at $44,000.00 (959304)

LITTLE RIVER WATERFRONT 3.11-acre building lot. Conveniently located just north of Camps DeSoto & Skyline. Lightly restricted; 150’ of frontage on West Fork Little River just above Taylor’s Ford. $49,000. (735107)

TWO ACRES WITH DRIVEWAY, public water at the road. Private, surrounded by woods, level building spot already prepared. Approx one mile from downtown Mentone on Scenic Hwy N. $29,900. (840634)

10.8 ACRES ON N. BROW. Approx 340’ of river frontage, half the land on top mountain, other half extends down into valley allowing you to choose your view. Awesome views; interesting rock formations; large trees. $199,900. (928654)

WOODY'S WATERFRONT LAND. Solitude & nature await your getaway on this lightly-restricted 4.33 acres on Full Moon Lake, in Mentone’s Laurel Creek Lakes. Walking trails; 3 lakes; Equestrian friendly. 2 lots sold as one. $49,900. (387932)

NATURAL EAST FORK FRONTAGE. Experience the wonder of the most natural part of Lookout Mountain on these 5 acres with 420 ft of river frontage; mossy rock ledges; mature trees. Perfect for nature lovers. Adjoining 6 ac. also avail. $45,000. (905140)

A PROPERTY RARE 4.4 acres of hardwood mountainside with forever views, several level building sites AND a registered cave. Tally Cave, Lookout Mtn, in Valley Head & Mentone. This special piece of earth is looking for a caretaker to own and preserve it. Don’t let it get away. $119,000 (785767)

Also look for our listings at AlabamaMountainLiving.com
Rhododendron Garden Club

The May meeting was held at Marsha Merrell’s home on May 13th. Six members and two guests were present. While waiting for everyone to arrive, the members participated in a horticulture report by showing and trying to identify various wildflowers. We decided blue phlox was a worthy wildflower and did not transgress into the weed category. What’s the definition of a weed? A plant that is not valued for where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth. Sweet Cicely has a wonderful anise aroma and is a host plant for the Black Swallowtail butterfly. The leaves are edible and have been used to ease lung ailments; chewing the root will relieve sore throats. However, those tenacious seeds that attach to pants legs and pets are such a nuisance - definitely a wildflower and probably a weed.

Peggy Rourke called the short business meeting to order. There were no minutes from the April meeting (walked the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail). Dianne Kuehl gave the Treasurer’s report and then we shared a smorgasbord of salads provided by the members. It was a delicious meal and enjoyed by all (was not six potato dishes like our December luncheon).

Mellanie Tuttle gave the meditation and program on butterflies. Butterflies are a diverse and fascinating study - over 17,000 species located on every continent except Antarctica. Some can fly as fast as 35 mph but the average speed for a butterfly is 3-5 mph. The Monarch travels over 2000 miles in its migration from Mexico to North America while others move just a few feet during their short life cycle. Butterflies are insects (order Lepidoptera - as are moths) so have a series of life changes from egg to larva to pupa to adult butterfly. A great web site that shows the life cycle of the butterfly can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AUeM8MbaIk.

Caterpillars need host plants to eat after they hatch and then the adult butterfly needs nectar plants for sustenance to lay the eggs and start the cycle over again. Unfortunately, climate change and overuse of pesticides are decimating the butterfly population. One of the best things we can do for our fluttery friends is to make a butterfly garden. Butterfly gardens need to be messy—leaf litter and bushes for hiding from predators, a variety of nectar and host plants not cut down because the tiny eggs may need to overwinter. A butterfly can’t hover so plants need to have a good “landing pad”. Muddy water offers minerals and allows the males to show off. A rock nearby is the perfect drying off spot. I’ve declared my entire yard a butterfly sanctuary!

To get started in your own butterfly garden check out: http://www.gardenswithwings.com/butterfly/35984/ It has pictures of butterflies in our zip code and then another click on the box and a list with host and nectar plants appears. So beautiful and convenient.

The garden club takes a break for summer. We will resume on the second Tuesday in August.

By Mellanie Tuttle

FOR SALE:
2-BR, 2-BA Log Cabin on Brow
120+/- feet of brow, dramatic rock outcroppings w/view of Shinbone Valley; Cathedral ceiling, mountain rock fp/c, rock patio, c/air + heat, full basement, 2-car garage, large screened porch on brow, private setting.
$258,000
ph: 706-862-6322
(sorry, no texting)
(4% commission offered to buyer’s agent)

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Come on in and have one of the best burgers in town!
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Lic. Massage Therapist #436
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Preferred Realty, L.L.C.

W O O D E D 3 9 . 8 A C R E S 1 acre south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 10 lots available. $1,099,000. (23039)

NEW LISTING

1.3 ACRES 706-859-1227

6.4 ACRES. On Lookout Mountain with view. Great walking trails. 360 degree views. Great investment property. $1,400,000. (23035)

NEW LISTING

W O O D E D 3 6 A C R E S 1.66 ACRE TRACT with septic, county water, well, and power. Lightly restricted. Cleared and ready to be built. $18,000. (22748)

H E A V I L Y W O O D E D A C R E A G E with wet weather spring. Build on your own. $225,000. (22180)

P A L M H A R B O R H O M E on Lake in Crestline Park Subdivision. Great view of the lake. $199,000. (23028)

REDUCED

3.8 ACRES located in Eastfork Little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the Historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river. $115,000. (23022)

REDUCED

75 W O O D E D L O T S 30.8 acres located on the West Fork Little River. Great views. $1,699,000. (23037)

NEW LISTING

I N N O V A T I O N F R E E 8.04 acres located on the East Fork Little River. Great views. $1,599,000. (23037)

NEW LISTING

1.66 ACRES located in Eastfork Little River Estates. Nice views of the river. $89,000. (23037)

REDEUCED

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Preferred Realty, L.L.C.

LOTS AND ACREAGE

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)

OLD HOMEPAGE next to Shady Grove Dune Ranch. 1.7acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. Reduced $18,500 (21599)

4.7 W O O D E D A C R E S with a beautiful view across from Lake Lahunse. The driveway has been started to build your Mentone getaway! Paved road frontage, city water available, pecan trees, and a beautiful view. $59,000. (22650)

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Wildflowers of the Mountain Fields
By L.C. Moon

Lookout Mountain is home to a wide diversity of wildflowers. Last month I discussed the slogan, “May all your weeds be wildflowers.” In keeping with this theme, we will look at Plantain (Plantago), Oxeye Daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum) and Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea), discovering each of their benefits as useful wildflowers, rather than pesky weeds.

Plantain is one of the most prevalent of our wildflowers. If you are not familiar with its name, you are probably very familiar with its leaves and flowers because plantain grows in most every lawn, field and even in the cracks of the side walks. It was called White man’s foot by the Native Americans because it was found often where the new colonists had stepped.

The Plantain family, Plantaginaceae, contains more than 200 species. The most common in our area are the broad leaf (plantago major) and the lance leaf (plantago lanceolata). The broad leaf, as it notates, has a wider leaf than the lance leaf, though there is no difference in their medicinal benefits.

Plantain is well known to be good for helping take away an insect itch or sting. I pluck the leaf from the ground, chew it and then apply it to my bite or sting. I also dry the leaf and make an oil infusion to add to my beeswax skin salves because it is known to help inflammation of the skin and aid in healing of wounds, rash and bruises. A poultice of the leaf is also known to help stop bleeding.

Plantain can be made into a tea for its nutrients as well as to aid in helping heal health ailments. “The International College of Herbal Medicine states that plantain leaf has anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antibiotic and immune-stimulating properties.” Plantain seeds or flower heads contain fiber and can lubricate the digestive tract to aid in digestion. A decoction of the root is known to be good for the lungs and coughs.

An infusion of the leaf makes a tea known to increase uric acid excretion from the kidneys, which could make it useful in treating gout, as will it is astringent and is known to help treat diarrhea or dysentery. The leaves also have a high vitamin and mineral content which can help replenish the nutrients lost as a result of diarrhea.

Plantain contains calcium and large amounts of Vitamin A as well as potassium, magnesium, sodium, phosphorus, zinc and copper, as well as vitamins C and K making plantain leaves not only a remedy but also a backyard green that makes a great nutritional addition to a stir-fry or soup.

Oxeye Daisy is a showier backyard wildflower than plantain. I see the white flowers lining the roadsides, river trails and fields in beautiful clusters. When I come across it on hikes I pluck the little leaves and eat them as a wild snack. Its fresh taste also helps increase saliva if I am feeling thirsty. Like plantain I would add the leaves to stir-fry or soup. I also would add oxeye daisy leaves to fresh salads or as a light seasoning for fish or chicken.

Medicinally Oxeye daisy has similar uses to plantain, externally and internally, i.e. coughs, colds, bruises and inflammation, but it is not as potent as plantain. Oxeye Daisy also has similar uses to chamomile. It is known to be a much milder sedative than chamomile but both are known to help with night sweats. Also similar to chamomile, you would want to avoid oxeye daisy if you have bad allergies to ragweed. However I recently heard oxeye daisy flower head tea could help clear sinus of congestion. It is not uncommon that an herb that causes an allergy to some can be a healing ally to another.

Ragwort is one such herb that can seem like both a bother and a blessing. The small clustered golden flowers of ragwort have inspired literary writers and painters as well as provided dyes of yellow and green for Native Americans. Ragwort should not be confused with ragweed, the well-known allergy culprit.

While ragwort and oxeye daisy are equally as showy in their display in fields and on roadsides, ragwort is much less desirable to most. For farmers of livestock, ragwort is more of a bother than a blessing because it can cause irreversible cirrhosis of the liver in livestock. Thankfully for most farmers,
Hey there neighbor! Before you get too comfortable, I need to warn you about something. I'm laying down some mighty deep thoughts this month! It's some of that wise sage, guru, soothsayer talk. Turn, run and don't look back if you want to neighbor! I'll understand.

We all get geared up around here for The Rhododendron Festival, which is always the third weekend in May. Several volunteers work hard planning this thing. Sponsors pay good money to help with the cost of this event. The vendors pay a pretty steep fee to set up at Brow Park and be part of this festival. Well, this year it decided to be unseasonably cold and rainy the third weekend in May! The weather, to say the least, was not conducive to a good festival.

I felt bad for everyone involved with The Rhododendron Festival, especially the folks that had hopes of selling a lot of that fine looking, handmade stuff. “Well, we can't control the weather!” I heard that a lot. It’s the truth but probably wasn't much comfort to those vendors.

All that rain and all that weather controlling talk got me to thinking neighbor: What if we could control the weather? Well, maybe at least the whether-or-not-it-rains part. I got excited. That lasted for about a minute and a half!

Think about it. How would it work if we could control rain? By “we” I guess I mean the Government of the United States. Would we all get to vote on “Official Rain Schedules”? Should farmers get 2 votes? Would some be labeled “pro rain” and some “pro choice”? Would conservatives be for less rain and liberals for more rain? Would you hate your neighbor because he wants more rain than you? Would it become a state's rights issue and some states threaten to succeed from the union? Would we see “bootleg rain”? Oh it could get mighty complicated neighbor! I've just described the tip of the iceberg.

With all of them thoughts and more swirling around in this old red head, I came to this conclusion: Thank God we can't control the rain! Maybe there is a lot of other things us humans shouldn't be dabbling in too. I guess all them vendors took one for the betterment of all mankind that weekend!

See you around town, neighbor.
ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

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Sage Advice: New Perennials for the Gardener

By Susan Seago
Earthly Elements Garden Center, Summerville, GA

The Rhododendron Festival in Mentone on May 18-20 was great! Yes, we had to deal with some rain, but when the rain stopped each day and the sun came out, the people came out, too. We want to thank each and every person who stopped by our booth and shopped. We met many new people and a lot of repeat customers came by too. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! And thanks to all those who helped to put together this festival. You really outdid yourselves.

There are many new perennials for the gardener. Perhaps you have one of these already, but if you don’t, any of them will make a great addition to your landscape.

The centaura ‘Amethyst in Snow’ has a frilly white edge with a pretty purple center. It grows in full sun and comes back faithfully every year. It’s a new variety of the old fashioned Bachelor’s Button.

The tall phlox ‘Red Caribbean’ is a good addition to the sun perennial garden. It only gets about 15” tall so will make a lovely medium height flower. And it is resistant to mildew, which you have to deal with when planting the older phlox varieties.

Shade perennials include heuchera ‘Plum Pudding’ and hostas ‘Autumn Frost’ and ‘Wheee’, all wonderful additions to the landscape. Plum Pudding has been around for awhile, but its very colorful foliage just makes the garden pop. It has a dainty little bloom although the foliage is the star of this plant.

Hostas come in thousands of varieties, but the two mentioned are above average. The ‘Wheee’ is just fun to look at with its scalloped variegated leaves, and the ‘Autumn Frost’ is a show stopper. Both hostas need part to full shade.

Weigelas have been around for a long time, but the Weigela ‘Tango’, with burgundy leaves and red blooms truly adds beauty to the garden. It is a sun plant, but enjoys some late afternoon shade. A cold snap during summer and the cool autumn breezes will cause it to bloom more than once a year. I think it will be one of my favorite shrubs.

Begin a new garden or add to your existing beds. All of the plants mentioned will do well in our magical mountain environment. And the stress-relieving pleasure of digging in the dirt will just add to the delight of living on the mountain!

Happy Gardening!

It Was A Beautiful Day for Painting Outdoors!

Eight painters honed their skills in oils, acrylics and watercolors under the direction of Durinda Cheek recently at a Plein Air Painting Class (painting in the outdoors) sponsored by the Mentone Area Arts Council. The class was held at Mountain Cove Farms in Georgia. Another class will be held on June 7 and will be taught by noted artist Suzanne Royal. Sign up at www.mentonearts.org.