

ALABAMA

IN

BLACK

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WHITE



4th | SOUTHERN
FOODWAYS
ALLIANCE

FIELD TRIP
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
JUNE 4-6, 2004

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Join the Southern Foodways Alliance as we celebrate racial reconciliation through food. Gather with us in Birmingham, the crucible of the Civil Rights Movement, for a weekend of conversations and presentations and libations commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Feast on a Lazy Susan Supper of barbecue and biscuits and greens. Sip wines from South Africa, curated by the Palm Wine Society. Join us as we barrel through the Alabama countryside, bound for the Freedom Creek Blues Festival where Willie King and friends celebrate interracial bonds through down home blues and great home cooking. Return with Southerners of different hues and hometowns to Birmingham, as we embrace a city of renewed hope, no longer shackled by Jim Crow.



★ Highlights of the Field Trip include: ★

Thursday Night:

Your registration packet will include a list of area restaurants. Choose your fancy, from rib shacks to hot dog joints, Greek seafood restaurants to temples of haute Southern cuisine.

Friday:

Take a Seat at Birmingham's Welcome Table

After a breakfast prepared by Goren "Dawg" Avery and Verba Ford, we walk to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. We'll have plenty of time for wandering about, but you'll want to be in attendance for a special briefing by Frye Gaillard, author of *Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement that Changed America*. Along with Odessa Woolfolk, founder of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, he will put the exhibits in context and frame the weekend by explaining the impact of the public accommodations clause of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

We lunch at Highlands Bar and Grill, Frank Stitt's landmark restaurant. Stitt is a founder of the SFA and a much-heralded interpreter of Southern foods. His Highlands Meat & Three will feature trout with country ham and redeye gravy, creamy grits, fried green tomatoes, and peas with snaps. On hand to pour wines of South Africa – yes, you read that right – will be Jerome Crawford of Grassroots Wine and founder of the Palm Wine Society, one of the oldest African American wine groups in the country.

Following lunch we convene a panel discussion featuring Stitt; Martha Hawkins, proprietor of Martha's Place in Montgomery; and Clayton Sherrod, local culinary entrepreneur. A lively discussion will focus upon recollections of their mentors as well as upon the ongoing struggle to operate public spaces where people of all races freely congregate and celebrate.

That night, we feast on a Lazy Susan Supper, served in the soaring lobby at the heart of the Southern Progress corporate campus. Five years ago this summer, at a meeting in this very space, a diverse group of fifty founded the Southern Foodways Alliance. In commemoration, we will spin Lazy Susans loaded down with the bounty of our farms and pass platters of barbecue smoked by the good folks at Jim 'N Nick's. Ribs slathered with sauce. Shoulder wreathed in hickory smoke. Ethereal cheese biscuits. Rest assured we'll feed you well.

Though we gather to celebrate what the modern South has forged, we will not lose sight of our past. Honored at the dinner will be the women and men who fed the Civil Rights Movement, the church cooks who baked

casseroles and stacked sandwiches to fuel the marchers. Our evening reaches its zenith when a gospel group takes the stage, singing the freedom songs that brought the marchers of the movement to their feet.

Saturday:

Freedom Riders en route to Freedom Creek

We begin with a true eye-opener. Charles Moore, a native of Tuscumbia, Alabama, who chronicled the pivotal events of the Civil Rights Movement, will show striking photographs from his book, *Powerful Days*.

By ten or so, we board buses for a Freedom Rider outing to Aliceville, Alabama, home to Willie King's Freedom Creek Festival. The drive will take one and three-quarter hours. On board to give context to our journey will be historian Frye Gaillard and Colonel Stone Johnson, who led the 1961 rescue of a besieged band of Freedom Riders in Anniston, Alabama.

Waiting on us in Aliceville will be, among others, Scott Barton of Voyage in New York City; John Currence of City Grocery in Oxford, Mississippi; John Fler of the Inn at Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tennessee; and Chris Hastings of Hot and Hot Fish Club in Birmingham. They will join in arms with local cooks to feed you treats like Conecuh County sausage and sweet tea-brined fried chicken. And they will feed the crowds who gather to hear down home blues and celebrate racial reconciliation and social justice.

Proceeds raised by the sale of their good cooking will benefit Willie King's work with the Rural Members Association, a local not-for-profit dedicated to community-building through the preservation and promotion of African American folk culture. And though we welcome you to toss a few extra dollars in the kitty, we'll take care of your ticket, your eats, and your drinks.

For those few who depart the festival on the first shuttle at 4:00, we will arrange dinner in Birmingham. But for the great majority of you, we'll come home when things simmer down at Freedom Creek and, upon arrival in Birmingham, point you to the a late night haunt or the comfy beds at the Tutwiler.

Sunday:

You're on your own. For those of you inclined to attend a religious service, we'll provide directions and entrée. Among the nearby houses of worship is Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where four little girls lost their lives in a 1963 bombing. When that collection plate comes around, dig deep, but please know that, on your behalf, the SFA will also make a contribution to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Registration

Questions regarding registration should be directed to Mary Beth Lasseter at sfmail@olemiss.edu. Secondary contact may be made by way of telephone at 662-915-5993.

Name _____
Business _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Variable Event: Freedom Riders en route to Freedom Creek

- I am down with the plan. I'll eat my fill at Freedom Creek and take the 7:00 bus back to Birmingham.
- I wish to return on the early bus at 4:00. I understand I'll miss a lot of the fun, but I would rather have dinner back in Birmingham. I understand that the SFA will make the arrangements, but that I will be responsible for my own bill. (Very limited availability.)

- I would like attend the Field Trip at a reduced rate of \$175. I am a member of the SFA or would like to join now.
- I would like to sign up for a one-year membership in the SFA for an additional \$25 (students), \$50 (individuals), \$75 (families), or \$500 (corporate).
- I would like to attend the Field Trip at the regular rate of \$195.
- I cannot attend the symposium, but would like to sign up for a one-year membership in the SFA for \$25 (students), \$50 (individuals), or \$75 (families), or \$500 (corporate).
- Check enclosed, made payable to the Southern Foodways Alliance
- Charge to: _____ Visa _____ Master Card
Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature of Cardholder _____

N.B.: SFA Field Trips sell out quickly. Early registration is strongly suggested. Return form to: Southern Foodways Alliance, P.O. 1848, University, MS 38677-1848. Or fax to Mary Beth's attention at 662-915-5814. Registrations will be confirmed by email or fax, beginning on April 15.

Lodging

Accommodations are available at the Tutwiler: A Wyndham Historic Hotel, set in the heart of downtown Birmingham, within walking distance of the Civil Rights Institute. Relax in spacious rooms that bespeak the day when guests like Tallulah Bankhead flitted about. Our deeply discounted SFA-only room rate is \$89 per night. Please call 205-322-2100 for reservations. For a map to the hotel and other information, try tutwiler-birmingham.wyndham-hotels.com.
Reservation deadline is May 4.

Books

Official bookseller for the 2004 SFA Field Trip is Alabama Booksmith. Proprietor Jake Reiss will be on hand to sell works by our featured speakers.

Sponsors

Glory Foods

Glory Foods of Columbus, Ohio, is a manufacturer and distributor of conveniently prepared, slow-simmered and seasoned Southern-style canned vegetables; frozen entrees and side dishes; and fresh-cut bagged vegetables. All are inspired by Southern recipes and traditions. We support this endeavor in honor of our company founder, the late Bill Williams, who was committed to enhancing the presence of African Americans in the food industry.

Jim 'N Nick's Bar B Q

Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q of Birmingham passionately believes that Southern hospitality celebrated over a table of food, fresh from the hickory pit and fresh from the garden, represent the very best in Southern culture. Sharing that belief with you is what we love to do! Toward that end, we are proud to be the lead underwriter of the SFA oral history initiative.

Southern Progress

A leader in lifestyle information and products, Southern Progress Corporation publishes *Southern Living*, *Cooking Light*, *Health*, *Coastal Living*, *Cottage Living*, *Southern Accents*, *Progressive Farmer*, and *Sunset* magazines, and books through Oxmoor House, Leisure Arts, and Sunset Books. Southern Progress is a Birmingham-based subsidiary of Time Inc.

White Lily

For more than a century, White Lily, the premier miller of pure, soft winter wheat, has supplied the cooks of the South with flour for biscuits, cakes, and piecrusts. In 2003, we introduced a line of grits, produced with the same attention to detail and heritage. White Lily is committed to nurturing Southern food traditions and welcomes the opportunity to partner, once again, with the Southern Foodways Alliance.

The University of Mississippi

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Southern Foodways Alliance

Center for the Study of Southern Culture

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