

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME OUR NEW BUENA VISTA CONTRACT SERVICES PROVIDER

Written by Don Edgeworth, Board President



The ACHA Board of Directors has entered into a contract services agreement with Darlene Leistner to provide fee for service non-profit consulting and professional services to the ACHA. Darlene will provide services previously associated with the Buena Vista Coordinator, serving as the focal point for all Buena Vista events. She will also provide some administrative services to the ACHA. Darlene previously served as the Buena Vista Coordinator 2003-2006. Darlene is married to Phillip Leistner and they have three children.

Darlene has always loved Buena Vista Mansion and is excited to be home once again. We look forward to her unique ideas for sharing our proud history of Buena Vista Mansion.

PRATTVILLE PICKERS EVENT



Prattville Pickers provided a booth on Saturday March 10 for ACHA to promote our mission of educating our community about the benefits of preservation and the significance of our heritage, while working to preserve that heritage for future generations. We provided displays that highlighted the major functions of our organization, The Prattaugan Museum, Buena Vista Mansion, and the Daniel Pratt Continental Gin Project. We answered questions about the many facets of our mission, showed video and provided membership information. Our sincere thanks to Prattville Pickers.



Buena Vista is open for Historic Tours Tuesday from 10am to 2pm or other times by appointment. You may also contact us to find out how your wedding, personal or corporate events can become part of the unique history to take place within the walls of this gracious home.

Contact Darlene Leistner

(334) 365-3690

Email: buonavista@autaugahistory.org

Buena Vista

Step back into a time where you can savor the special moments of your life, a place where the living is gracious, and a day that is all yours to enjoy. At Buena Vista you can do just that whether it's your wedding day, rehearsal dinner or reception, a photo shoot, private party, corporate or any other special event. A splendid place for the most memorable occasions, the antebellum walls of Buena Vista whisper forth their memories of days gone by of children laughing, of generous meals and of people dancing. A place where sun speckles happy times, candlelight heightens the warmth of shared moments, and flowers accent the uniqueness of the most special occasions, Buena Vista is a place for times like these.

PRATTAUGAN MUSEUM



Geocaching enthusiasts, we need your help!!

We would like to set up an *Autauga County Geocache Challenge* to celebrate the county's bicentennial. We have locations throughout the county that will share our diverse history with participants. We need people with the computer skills to turn these sites into a geocache event.

Please consider joining in the Bicentennial Celebration and help us accomplish this.

Sheila Bock Memorial

The Prattaugan Museum and the Heritage Society lost a dear friend in the death of Mrs. Sheila Bock. Sheila served on the Museum Committee for many years and was a devoted museum docent and benefactor. To honor her memory, the museum staff would like to improve our museum landscaping by replacing plantings that have been lost over the last few years. The city will do the prep work for us and we will purchase the appropriate plants. You are invited to participate in this memorial fund.

Autauga County Bicentennial Celebration

A lot of activities will be going on this year as Autauga County celebrates **our** 200th birthday on November 21, so stay tuned. Prattville's annual CityFest will be Saturday, May 12th downtown. The museum will be open all day for CityFest on May 12th, so stop by and see all that is going on.

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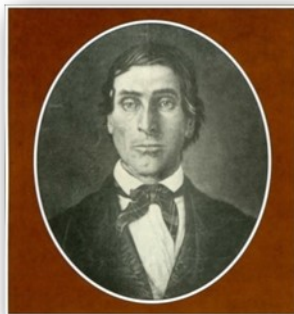
DR. JOHN BIANCALANA

VERNON AND LISA TAYLOR



ACHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mission Statement: *The mission of Autauga County Heritage Association is to collect, preserve and disseminate information and display artifacts concerning the history of Autauga County and its people.*



Date _____

Names(s) _____

City _____

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- ◇ Individual Membership \$50
- ◇ Couple Membership \$75
- ◇ Contributing Membership \$100

Make checks payable to ACHA and mail to:
 102 E, Main Street, Prattville, AL 36067.
 You can also join and pay dues online at
www.ataugaheritage.org, or in person at the
 museum.

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102 East Main Street
Prattville, AL 36067
334-361-0961

www.ataugahistory.org



MEMBERS APPRECIATION

Thank you Fox's for a fun new member pizza party. ACHA held a members appreciation party at Fox's Pizza Den in downtown Prattville Monday, March 26. We appreciate your support! Our ACHA membership dues helps our organization run the museum, preserve Buena Vista, and continue our work with preservation. 50 of our members had a great evening.



Pratt Cotton Ginning

Come See How WE Do Gin!

An exciting event hosted by the Daniel Pratt/Continental Gin Company Preservation Project will be held [June 12, 2018](#) on the Creek Walk behind City Hall in downtown historic Prattville.

This rare opportunity to see an actual 1886 Pratt Cotton Gin in operation, ginning cotton, on the banks of Autauga Creek – in the shadows of the beloved Gin Shop - has not occurred in over 100 years!

Starting mid-afternoon, cotton ginning will be demonstrated every hour, culminating in the first annual Creek Side concert on the Creek Walk. This fun concert attracts hundreds of Autauga County citizens, giving them the added experience to see how an antique cotton gin, built within the walls of the 1854 building on the Gin Shop complex, actually works.

ACHA will have other artifacts from the collection displayed at this Alabama Bicentennial sanctioned event.

Please join us for this fun and historical event in the Daniel Pratt Historic District!

2nd Quarterly General Membership Meeting

Please make plans to join the Autauga Heritage Association for the 2nd Quarterly General Membership Meeting to be held on **Sunday, April 29 at 2PM at the Prattville Chamber of Commerce**. Our guest speaker will be retired Circuit Court Judge Frank L. McGuire, III. Judge McGuire will be presenting the first half of his Two-Part discussion on the life of William Weatherford / Red Eagle, from birth, until his surrender to Jackson shortly after the Creek defeat at Horseshoe Bend. **This will be a joint meeting of the Autauga Genealogy Society and ACHA .**

NEW GIN SHOP WHISTLE UNVEILED

Prattville honored its history with the unveiling of a new whistle Thursday March 8, 2018.

The new Gin Shop whistle sounded at the Marriott in Prattville. It's just like the one that used to be at the Continental Gin Company in the 1800s. The horn would sound to let employees know when the work day started and ended. Now, the whistle will blow every day at four, honoring the city's past and providing a new attraction. The city's founder, Daniel Pratt, owned the company where the old whistle stood. Leaders say this also serves as a way to honor and remember him.



VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

ACHA Board members hosted a luncheon at Buena Vista on Saturday, February 17, 2018, to honor and in appreciation of our hardworking volunteers. The event was attended by 47 guests who enjoyed a light lunch and desserts. Several attendees were presented with door prizes and one was the luck recipient of two tickets to the annual Low Country Boil to be held on April 7th. ACHA President, Don Edgeworth shared the appreciation of the Board members for the many hours our volunteers have given toward preserving and promoting our local history. Without their dedication much of our precious history would not exist to be shared with Prattville and Autauga County's current residents and visitors, or for our future generations. The value of their contributions truly can't be measured. We are blessed to have such talented and wonderful volunteers in the Autauga Heritage Association.

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