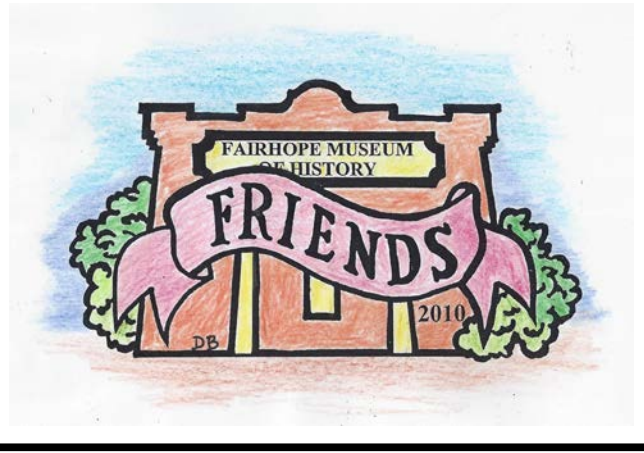


# Friends

Of the Fairhope

Museum of History

Vol 9, Issue 3 June - July 2018



## Fifth Annual Satsuma Blossom Festival

Tenth Anniversary of the Fairhope Museum of History



Fairhope is made of free-spirited colonists, eclectic characters and creative milestones like Founder's Day, building the first pier and establishment of the Organic School, to made a unique city. Edible fruits and flowers also became a part of the town's heritage. On Saturday, April 14, we again celebrated such a day in Fairhope!

The agrarian economy of this city on the bluff was excited to find in the early 1920s, that the satsuma, a cousin to the orange, was an attractive truck farming commodity. In 1926, the city of Mobile held the first Satsuma Blossom Festival and the crop flourished as well, on the Eastern Shore.

The excitement lasted only a few years due to the demise of the satsuma as a mass-producer of fruit; frostbite got the best of it. The time in our past however continues to be a part of our history and has been celebrated here in Fairhope for the past

five years with the Satsuma Blossom Festival. Mrs. Emogene DeMaagd, chairman of the event for these years, has created a day of fun and frivolity to reflect on this milestone. On days such as this year's program, when the weather was marginal, with threatening rain, the sponsors and hosts moved indoors for some activities. Mrs. DeMaagd said she was pleased to see everyone enjoying themselves "just like in the old days!" Director Donnie Barrett served as master of ceremonies for several of the activities, assisted by Louie Blaze, president of the *Friends*.

The morning started with the Dogwood Trail Court ladies joining into a May Pole Dance, weaving ribbons around the pole, fulfilling an early American tradition. At noon, about twenty guests joined-in on the driveway circle, to sashay around until the music stopped and the wheel was spun, to pick the next winner of a delicious cake.

**Festival**, continued page 2, column 2



## Director's Desk

There's always lots of activity going on at the Museum. April brought the Satsuma Blossom Festival and the History Walking Tours. And I would love to be around fifty or seventy-five years from now when someone opens the Time Capsule that we buried beside the Museum at our Tenth Anniversary celebration.

Michael Hornsby and Lucy Mercer, our student interns, joined us for a few months. In May, they helped us build and rebuild several exhibits. The new "Builders of Fairhope" exhibit will be our feature exhibit for the remainder of 2018 and they eagerly assisted in setting up and making signs for the displays. USA graduate student Taylor Lawhon worked diligently and, with the assistance of a couple of the *Friends*, completed the pottery kiln exhibit as a part of her Masters degree project. Michael and Lucy helped remodel up and downstairs, including expanding our Black History display in the foyer. They are getting good museum experience that they will use for the rest of their lives. And we have enjoyed having them here.

As summer comes, we are having more tour groups in Fairhope and our Museum gets many of those visitors. The Welcome Center next door is an easy extension to our outreach to tell people about Fairhope history. Our smiling docents engage in conversation and quickly find something we have in common with the visitor's hometown; from there, telling stories wins them over. The *Friends* Gift Shop also lets them find modest priced souvenirs of Fairhope that they can take home with them. Our docents and volunteers are outstanding ambassadors for our City.

We continue to work on exhibits to add facts and interesting features. In July, we have the City Trolley Bus History Tours and in August, we are planning another Elderberry Festival with lots of entertainment.

More good events and good times are on the horizon!

*Donnie Barrett*

**Festival**, *continued page 1, column 2*

At 1 p.m., the Festival recognized the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fairhope Museum of History**. Director Barrett took to the stage, aka, the Pier (replica) in the foyer and pronounced the historic milestone - one decade since creating the Fairhope Museum of History in the Old City Hall and ten years since the beginning of the *Friends of the Museum of History*. He then proudly cut the ribbon to the future, bringing applause from the crowd.



Mr. Barrett then presented a Time Capsule that contained the composite work of citizens and *Friends*. The contents were various items to commemorate Fairhope in 2018, including a poster of the Arts and Crafts Show, a Guidebook of Fairhope, containing history, local businesses and activities available in the city, and many personal mementos donated for the occasion. The capsule was then sealed and buried in the side yard of the Museum with appropriate pomp and circumstance.



Next, Mrs. Becky Jones was hailed as the reigning Queen of this 2018 Satsuma Blossom Festival.

The afternoon was topped off by the Baklava Belly Dancers of Mobile and "Magic Moments" by Beau Broomall of Pensacola.

It was another wonderful program produced by the *Friends of the Museum of History!*



## April History Walking Tours Well Done!

Director Donnie Barrett conducted Fairhope History Tours on all four weekends again this April, as he has done for the past eleven years.

On Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, the tour left from the City Welcome Center and moved along Fairhope Avenue revealing the background of the businesses, buildings and alleyway secrets.

On the next Saturday, the tour began at the Pier Rose Garden where Donnie told of the past nine piers at that location, the casino and People's Railroad. He also talked about the personalities that helped to form the Single Tax Colony.

The third tour on April 21 was an entertaining walk down Section Street with 35 to 40 other enthusiasts. Donnie also graciously repeated the tour for the attendees who googled "Fairhope Walking Tours" and inadvertently found the 2017 schedule on the city's website; in doing so, they went to Knoll Park instead of the Welcome Center for the tour. Donnie didn't mind though – he loved telling the stories again for the second group.

The final walking tour of the 2018 April Walks occurred in the Colony Cemetery with about 60 people attending. Afterwards one guest commented, He talked like he knew those people." And the reply was, "He did!"



This annual walking tour series is a part of an Alabama Tourism Department initiative to highlight the historic landmarks, events and personalities that built our state.

## Alabama City Pottery Project

In February 2018, University of South Alabama graduate student and archaeology major, Taylor Lawhon began the Alabama Pottery Project.

The task was to reconstruct some artifacts



from Fairhope's turn-of-the-nineteenth-century Marishal pottery kiln located on Fly Creek. The site, where the Fairhope Yacht Club now stands, was originally excavated by USA and the artifacts were donated to our Museum. Taylor and a few *Friends* volunteers began the project with some coaching from Director Barrett, to match broken items and glue them back together. In April, a display was assembled in the Museum. The exhibit is designed with star-shaped cross shelves and pillars, with reconstructed pots sitting in position as if being fired in the kiln. Curved Plexiglas is placed around the pots and shards to simulate the "groundhog kiln."

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**Watch Out!!**

Tea for Two Speakers have moved to  
Thursdays; 2 p.m., through the summer!

# Fairhope Historical Bus Tours Saturday, July 14, 2018

**We've hired a Trolley to take  
you back a hundred years!**

The *Friends of the Fairhope Museum of History* are sponsoring a bus tour of Fairhope for the seventh consecutive year.

Director Donnie Barrett will again narrate three one-hour tours of historic Fairhope, departing the Bancroft Street Courtyard of the Museum at 9 am, 10:30 am and 12 pm

Each tour will introduce you to Wittier Hall, show you Arthur Mershon's, James Ballangee's and founder E.B. Gaston's homes, Knoll Park, Klumpp's Auto Livery and Motor Company, Stacks Gulley, early churches, Fairhope Inn, Nicholville, the stories behind the Pier, Rose Garden and much more.

Tickets \$20. Available Thursday, June 21st at the Museum; Advance ticket purchase recommended

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*Helping Fairhope Tell it's Story!*

# Annual Elderberry Festival Upcoming Saturday August 11, 2018

**One of the most popular annual events at the Museum will be here again! Featuring Kracker Dan Band, Baklava Belly Dancers, Pie Eating Contest, Baking Competition and Elderberry Use Demonstrations.**

Mark your Calendar and watch for more information in the Next *Friends* Newsletter.

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## **Lucy Mercer High School Summer Intern**



Lucy Mercer is a home-school student who lives in Fairhope. She helps out on Thursdays wherever an extra pair of hands are needed. She has painted signs, hung fish, written a letter for the Anniversary Time Capsule, hung lights and flowers in the front of the building and added another smiling face to the Museum staff! ~

## **Michael Hornsby College Summer Intern**

Michael Hornsby, a sophomore at the University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL., came on board on May 8 as a summer intern, sponsored by a grant from the Bledsoe Foundation. He is interested in learning about museum management and general museum operations. His specific focus is military history. He is working with Donnie and Darby to assist in all aspects of the Museum, from planning exhibits to modifying existing displays. He will work at the Museum until July, when he will return to the UWA campus to continue fall classes. ~

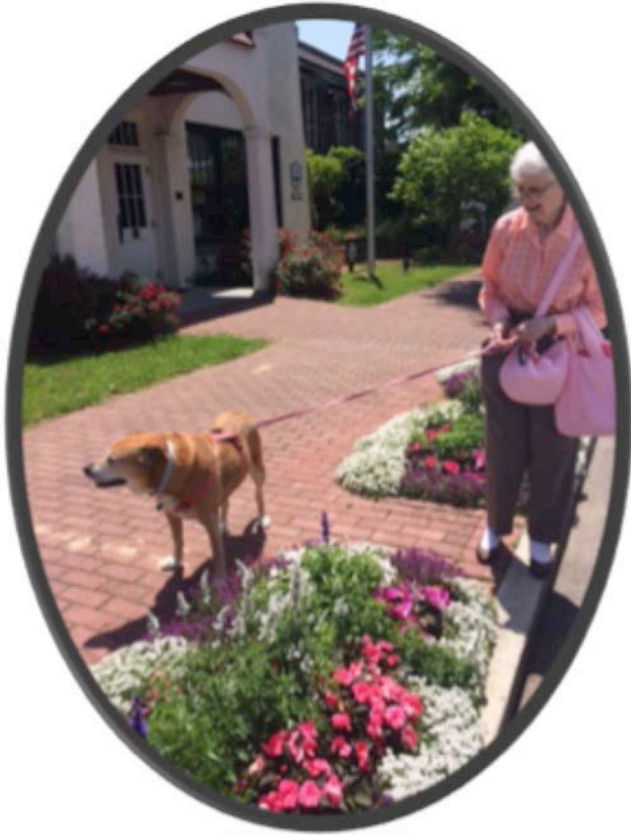




# Oscar

## The Museum Mascot

Mary Ann Maradik



Oscar was born on December 27, 2006, the youngest one in the litter and the only one with a tan coat like his dad. After being weaned from his mother, a young girl adopted him and about 7 months later, she brought Oscar to her parents' home in Fairhope. By Christmas 2007, this was Oscar's permanent home.

However, her parents would go to work each day and Oscar would be alone and allowed the freedom to look for friends in their country neighborhood. He did not want to be alone and went around the neighborhood being friendly and looking for a friend. By April 2008, he found a woman who went for a walk each day in the area and decided to adopt her as his forever friend. At first, he followed her at a respectful distance and would even run to catch up with her, when he saw her.

Eventually, he learned where she lived and when Oscar did not see her walking, he would go through neighbor's yards, cross a country road, through the field and come to knock at her front door. Then, she would let him in the car to go with her to town. Since Oscar enjoyed walking, riding in the car, going to different places and meeting many other people and pets, Oscar was happy to be with his new faithful "mom," Mary Ann and, those he met also enjoyed Oscar.

Oscar is very gentle, friendly, respectful and interested in the people and other pets he meets and in his environment, in-doors and outside.

Very early in his and Mary Ann's adventures together, the Fairhope Museum of History became one of Oscar's most notable, pleasant and familiar places, where he soon became a part of the Museum family. He made friends easily with the Staff, Director Donnie and Assistant Directors Jim and Darby, and the many docents. He is also a gracious host and willing to welcome guests coming to the Museum (if he senses they are comfortable with him) and he patiently waits, while adults are otherwise engaged in conversation, or another activity.

In addition to Oscar's regular visits to the Museum, he was interested in and very happy to be part of Donnie Barrett's tours in the Fairhope Cemetery. He was also very attentive to the Founder's Day production at the cemetery. He enjoys the Elderberry Festivals, is patient through Museum meetings, respectfully is part of the audience in the Tea for Two lectures and even happy when docents or others are willing to share a cookie with him, when he patiently waits to be noticed.



Other Fairhope experiences of Oscar's are: librarian helper and greeter at the St. Lawrence Church library, visiting the elderly at Homestead Assisted Living Center, going to church services at St. Lawrence Church, and learning the Fairhope area through walks in town and along the Bay. When the Volanta Pet Park area was completed, he was invited to walk on the wet cement to make his paw prints in the entrance pathway. Then, he shook hands with Mayor Kant at the Dog Park Dedication.

On February 27, 2010, Director Donnie Barrett, named Oscar, "Mascot of the Fairhope Museum of History!"

# Tea for Two

Each Thursday 2 p.m. in the Museum Council Chamber

**Note the Change to Thursdays!!**

**June 7 – Karen White** – Master Gardener Karen will give a demonstration of air plants: “No muss, no fuss!”

**June 14 – Nancy Raia** – In charge of community outreach for the Eastern Shore Arts Center, Nancy will speak on her projects of the last year and how she brings art to the community and the community into art.

**June 21 – Curtis Willard Film** – In 1962, Mr. Willard was working at WALA-TV and had the only television camera in town. Going through shops and schools, he made a “movie” of Fairhope. Come see the incredible scenes of old Fairhope.

**June 28 – Fairhope Police Department** – Come hear the first-hand experience, dedication, adventures and cautions from one of Fairhope’s fine police officers. As they put their lives on the line every day for us, hosting our respected officers is always an honor for the Museum. Please come out and be supportive!

**July 5** – No program. City holiday.

**July 12 – Don Evans** has built a broadband fiber and wireless system in Fairhope and in his delightful manner will tell us of Fairhope’s future on the world wide web.

# Tea for Two

*continued*

**July 19 – Oliver Gilmore** teaches educational classes for the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation (FSTC). His descriptions and explanations of Single Tax and FSTC are enlightening!

**July 26 – Michael Healy**, a local food producer, will tell us about the fascinating “History of agriculture in Baldwin County.” Michael has vast experience studying diseases in plants, is a tomato expert, and serves on the board of Fairhope’s Local Food Production Initiative, promoting and educating the public about the benefits of purchasing and growing food in the community.

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## 2018 Officers

Friends of the Fairhope Museum of History

- Louie Blaze – President
- Claudia Fortis - Vice President
- Lottie Barrett – Treasurer
- Catherine King - Secretary

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### Newsletter

This is the official Newsletter of the *Friends of the Fairhope Museum of History*, a 501 (c) 3 corporation in the state of Alabama. Inquiries and comments may be directed to email: [FairhopeMuseumNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:FairhopeMuseumNewsletter@gmail.com).

Robert Glennon, Editor

# Fairhope Museum of History

24 North Section Street (251) 929-1471

Hours: 9 – 5 Tuesday through Saturday Admission: Free!

Like us on: [facebook.com/FairhopeMuseumOfHistoryFriends](https://www.facebook.com/FairhopeMuseumOfHistoryFriends)