



# Athens-Limestone County Tourism News

*A publication of the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Council*

June 2010

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*"Tourism is the largest industry in Alabama in terms of revenue generated and jobs created"*

## Delmore Days Music Festival

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Delmore Days will be held June 26<sup>th</sup> on the lawn Athens State University Founders Hall. The festival honors Limestone County's own famous Delmore Brothers (Rabon and Alton), two of the biggest music stars in the 1930s. The gates open at 9:00 AM. Admission is \$7.00 and children under 12 years are \$2.00.

The festival will feature all day live entertainment, arts and crafts, food vendors and other items. The event is planned as an "old-fashioned trade day". Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the tribute to the Delmore Brothers.

The Brothers were on the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, TN from 1930 to 1937. Some of their honors include: posthumous induction into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1989, Country Music Association International Division (CMAID) Hall of Fame (in Germany), 2000; the Country Music Association Hall of Fame (Nashville), 2001; and the Grammy Hall of Fame for "Blues Stay Away From Me," 2007. They also received the Artists of the 20th Century Award from the CMAID, 2000.



Delmore family members will be present to talk with you and tell you about their father and uncle. An exhibit of Delmore Family memorabilia is on display at the Athens Visitors Center and Athens State University.

2010 Entertainment Schedule is outstanding and is listed below.

- 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM - Pine Chapel String Band
- 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM - The Williams Family
- 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM - Lacey Snider and Turkey Creek Ramblers
- 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM - Dixie Bluegrass
- 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM - Hovis Family Band
- 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM - Southern Heat Band
- 5:30 PM - 6:15 PM - Just Down the Road
- 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM - Piney Creek

Featured Headliner

8:00 PM - Tim Graves & Cherokee

For more information contact 256-232-5411 or visit [www.delmoredays.com](http://www.delmoredays.com).

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## Athens on the Square Car Show

Bad weather has postponed the annual Car Show until June 5<sup>th</sup>. Appropriately 900 antique vehicles are expected at this year's event. Organizers of the group say this will be the largest show yet. Come early and spend the day in downtown Athens! You will find delicious food at local restaurants as well as street vendors. Be sure and check out the local stores and see what specials they have for all the car show folks. For more information call Bland at 256-603-1227.



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## It's Dog Gone Festival Time!

Does your dog look like you? Do you think he's "Top Dog"? If so, grab your BFF (Best Furry Friend) and head to Ardmores' 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dog Gone Festival for a full day of activities and treats for the entire family. Hosted by the Ardmores AL/TN Chamber of Commerce, this festival offers dog activities and contests (sorry cat lovers). All dogs must be well socialized, get along with humans and other dogs of all sizes and must be on a leash at all time. Admission is free. Activity tickets are \$.25 each or five for \$1.00.

Dress your dog in its finest and enter it in the dog parade and other contests. Ribbons will be given for best dressed dog, best singing dog, best dog trick, dog and master look a like contest and the most obedient dog. A grand prize "Top Dog" award will be awarded for the best of the best. Each participant will receive a gift. An entry fee will be charged. Pet owners will also enjoy the pet demonstrations scheduled throughout the day including HEMSI rescue dogs.



Bring your children and let them enjoy the dog bag toss, dog collar pitch, ring a dog, doggie pad cake walk and much more. There will also be a hotdog eating contest for those who love the all American hotdog.

A portion of the proceeds goes to the Ardmores Abandoned Animal Fund.

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## Grab your tennis shoes - let's walk!

It's time to bring out the walking shoes and enjoy the beauty and history of Athens, AL.

The annual June Historic Walking Tours will be June 5, 12, 19, & 26. Walkers will meet at the Athens Visitors Center meeting room (located on at the corner of Beaty and Market Streets by the duck pond) at 9:45 AM. The walks will begin promptly at 10:00 AM and will last approximately one hour.

Experience the culture and history of Athens by taking one of the walks.

Tour 1: Athens Square with guide Buzz Estes;

Tour 2: Beaty Historic District, Washington Street and Old Town Cemetery with guide Billy Ward;

Tour 3: Athens State University, Big Spring Memorial Park and College Inn with guide William Pepper;

Tour 4 - City Cemetery with guides from Hobbs Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Tour 5 - Alabama Veterans Museum with guide Jim Patteson.

Local residents serving as guides will share personal remembrances and tall tales from the old days as well as the history of their respective walk.

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## June 2010 Tourism Calendar of Events and Attractions

Looking for something to do every week? Look below:

### Special Events

#### Antique Utensils and Kitchen Collectibles

Today until July 10

The Athens Garden Club is displaying a variety of antique utensils and kitchen collectibles at the Athens Limestone Public Library at 405 E. South Street in Athens. There are many unique and interesting items. The library is open Monday through Saturday. Please check the library website at [http://www.athenslimestone.lib.al.us/about\\_the\\_library.htm](http://www.athenslimestone.lib.al.us/about_the_library.htm) for hours of operation, or call the library at 232-1233.

#### Saturday Walking Tours

June 5, 12, 19 & 26 – walks begin at 10:00 AM

Meet at the Athens Visitors' Center located at the corner of Beaty and Market streets (Big Spring Park) at 9:45 AM. There will be 5 different walks to choose from including downtown Historic Walk, Washington Street-Old Cemetery Walk-Beaty Historic District, Athens State Historic District; Athens Cemetery Walk and Alabama Veterans Museum and Archive. Contact 256-232-5411, [www.tourathens.com/events-attractions](http://www.tourathens.com/events-attractions) for information.

#### Athens on the Square Car Show

June 5 at 8:00 AM

Over 800 antique vehicles are expected at this year's car show. It's the perfect time to see all those vintage vehicles. Join the fun in downtown Athens, Alabama. Local restaurants and businesses will be open. Vendor food will also be available around the square. Door prizes for entries will be given away all day. For more information call Bland at 256-603-1227 or visit [www.carsonthesquare.com](http://www.carsonthesquare.com)

#### Book Signing

June 5 at 10:00 AM - 1 PM

Kelly Kazek will be signing her new book "A History of Alabama's Deadliest Tornadoes: Disaster in Dixie" at Pablo's on Market. The book includes stories about tornadoes from 1908-1998, including some from Limestone County.

#### Ballroom Dance Lessons

June – Monday or Tuesday night at 6:30 PM

Now is a great time to learn the waltz and West Coast Swing. Lessons begin in June for 4 weeks and are taught at Athens State University Gymnasium. For more information email [athensdance@live.com](mailto:athensdance@live.com) or call Yvette Bolen at 256-216-6626.

#### Dog Gone Festival

June 5 at 8 AM – 4 PM

Ardmore AL/TN Chamber of Commerce is hosting its first "Dog Gone Festival" at the Ardmore, AL town park. The new festival welcomes everyone and their dogs to this fun event. Dress your dog in its finest and enter it in the dog parade and other contests. Ribbons will be given for best dressed dog, best singing dog, best dog trick, dog and master look a like contest and the most obedient dog. A grand prize "Top Dog" award will be awarded for the best of the best. Each participant will receive a gift. A \$2.00 entry fee will be charged for each competition. Pet owners will also enjoy the pet demonstrations scheduled throughout the day including HEMSI rescue dogs. Events for Mom and Dad include hot dog eating contest, women's dog gone skillet throw, men's dog gone wrench throw, and more. Kid's events include dog collar throw, face painting, dog art and more. Bring the entire family to the park. Contact 256-423-7588 or 256-508-7314.

#### Ardmore Lawn and Garden Tour

June 5, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friends of Ardmore Public Library invite you to join them for their lawn and garden tour. Tickets are \$8.00 advanced – \$10.00 day of tour and are available at the library on Main Street, Ardmore, TN. Proceeds benefit the library. For info contact 256-423-2684.

**Art on the Square Children’s Art Camp 2010**

June 8

Children are invited to participate in the annual Art Camp. Space is limited. Get your forms in soon. For more information visit [www.aots-athens.com](http://www.aots-athens.com).

**Scam Jam Fraud Summit**

June 8 at 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

This free summit, hosted by the BBB, will be at Athens State University Ballroom. Topics include: identity theft, business fraud, internet scams, mail and telephone scams and Medical and Medicare fraud and abuse. For more information call 256-355-5170.

**Indian Artifact Show**

June 13

Athens State University, 256-232-0698, [www.athens.edu](http://www.athens.edu)

**Singing on the Square**

June 18 at 6-8:00 PM

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy The Servants and Diane Miller. The free concert is hosted by the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Council. Contact 256-232-5411, [www.tourathens.com/events-attractions](http://www.tourathens.com/events-attractions).

**Ardmore AL/TN Civitan Club “Kids Day at the Park”**

June 19

Each year the Civitan Club and other community organizations host this free event for local kids at the Ardmore, TN John Barnes Park. Kids may participate in activities, face painting, train ride, foam machine, water slide, hotdogs, drinks and many more games. For more information call Mary at 931-427-5523.

**East Limestone Garden Water Pond Tour**

June 19 at 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

This tour is sponsored by the East Limestone Volunteer Fire Department. Tickets are \$5.00. Maps of the tour will be available Friday, June 18th. For more information call Susie at 256-216-9038.

**Delmore Days Music Festival**

June 26 – gates open at 9:00 AM

The festival honors Limestone County’s own famous Delmore Brothers (Rabon and Alton), two of the biggest music stars in the 1930s. The gates open at 9:00 AM. Admission is \$7.00 and children under 12 years are \$2.00. The festival will feature all day live entertainment, arts and crafts, food vendors and other items. The event is planned as an “old-fashioned trade day”. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the tribute to the Delmore Brothers. Contact 256-232-5411, [www.delmoredays.com](http://www.delmoredays.com).

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**Change in Location:**

Please make a note that the **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Piney Chapel Antique Engine and Farm Equipment Show** which is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> will be held this year at the Limestone Sheriff’s Rodeo Arena on AL Hwy 99 not in the Piney Chapel community. For more information call 256-206-5926 or 256-771-3287.

**Recurring Events:**

Every Monday at 6:30 PM- Live music and dancing at the **Elkmont Pickin' & Grinnin'** at the Elkmont Depot located downtown Elkmont, AL. Contact: 931-427-6296.



Every Thursday at 5:30 PM – Live music and dancing at the **Ardmore Pickin' & Grinnin'** at the Ardmore, TN Annex Building located on Main Street. Contact: 931-427-2141 or 256-423-7588.

1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM, the **Athens Dulcimers** play at the Athens Recreation Center, Athens, AL, located on Hwy 251. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the music or learn to play the dulcimer. Contact: 256-233-1262, Terry Todd.

Every Thursday night at 7:00 PM, the **Barbershop Harmony Society Chapter Chorus**, Southern Splendor rehearsal at Athens Bible School, Athens, AL. The public is welcome to come and enjoy the music. Contact: [Robert.Duling@hanson.biz](mailto:Robert.Duling@hanson.biz).

Every Friday night at 7:00 PM **Country and Western Dance** at the Alabama Opry. \$5.00 admission. Music by CDs & DJ. Call 256-206-0211.

1st Saturday night of each month (March – October) at 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM, **Athens Cruise In** Downtown Athens, AL. Contact: Bland Allen 256-603-1227 or 256-232-5411.

The Friends of the Athens-Limestone Public Library holds used **Book Sales** at the library, 405 E. South St. The sales are the first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the second and fourth Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some of the books may be valuable. Choose from cookbooks, mysteries, westerns, classics, and religious books. Most are in extremely good condition. For more information, call 256-232-1233.

2010 **Kiddie Carnival Schedule** – Hours 6:30 – 9:30 PM, Thursday – Saturday, June 24 – August 7. For more information or to book a private party call 256-262-1983.

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## We're here to help.

The Athens-Limestone Tourism Council is available to help you plan, organize and promote events. Please contact us if you need assistance. Contact [Jeanette@tourathens.com](mailto:Jeanette@tourathens.com) or call 256-232-5411.

Athens Visitors Center is located at 100 Beaty Street North. We are located in Big Spring Memorial Park, next door to the duck pond. Drop by and see our beautiful new office, museum and meeting room.