

Newsletter

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Make It to Magnolia!

You won't have to ride a mule to get to or from Magnolia, but on Friday morning April 24, the Arkansas Historical Association's 68th Annual Conference will honor the centennial of Southern Arkansas University and its Muleriders, as well as the other three farmers' schools created by Act 100 of 1909 – Arkansas State University, today the Red Wolves, Arkansas Tech and the Wonder Boys, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils.

The conference theme is *The Arkansas Environment*, and sessions will explore changes in the landscape, differing conceptions of natural resources, and the emergence of the environment as a political and economic issue. While

SAU's Muleriders in the early 20th Century would have ridden through farmlands to meet their opponents in McNeil, the same road today would wind through timberlands, and past natural resource extraction rigs, manufacturing facilities, man-made recreational lakes, and state parks. Similar dramatic changes occurred throughout the state.

Program Chair Ben Johnson, Arkansas historian and SAU Dean of Liberal and Performing Arts, has scheduled speakers and sessions that reflect the diverse stakeholders contributing to changes in the state's landscape: political scientists, policy makers, business and industry leaders, anthropologists, geologists, research foresters, conservationists, elected officials, judges, economic developers, attorneys, and scholars working in education and the natural sciences.

Speakers well known both inside and outside historical circles include Sen. David Pryor, Archie Schaffer of Tyson Foods, Scott Simon of the Arkansas Nature Conservancy, and federal Judge William R. Wilson.

All meeting sessions, luncheons, and the awards dinner will be in the Southern Arkansas University Donald W. Reynolds Campus and Community Center: http://reynolds.southernarkansasuniversity.info/?page_id=10

Special events and fascinating tour opportunities will complement the sessions and highlight Magnolia and Columbia County's interesting, unique history and extraordinary hospitality. Learn more about Magnolia and Columbia County at <http://magnoliachamber.com/>



Images of Columbia County

From the Arkansas History Commission Collection



This photo accompanied an October 8, 1958 *Arkansas Gazette* article by Ernie Deane. Mrs. Addie Perry was a fire tower operator in Columbia County. The grandmother of five worked in a 100-foot steel tower near Magnolia. *Ernie Deane Collection*



Columbia County Courthouse in Magnolia, late 1800s.
Ernie Deane Collection

Vist the Arkansas History Commission website to find more treasures of Arkansas history.

www.ark-ives.com

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Mural Mecca at Magnolia



Six murals depicting the history of Magnolia are located around the historic square; one is located in the lobby of the Best Western Coachman's Inn. *Courtesy Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism*

Join the Arkansas Historical Association

Membership includes four issues of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* per year, as well as the Association's newsletter.

Membership Levels

- Regular \$20
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El Dorado's Milam Construction Company team won the Governor's Cup at the 2008 Magnolia Blossom Festival steak cook-off in Magnolia. Here, team members accept a \$4,000 grand prize check from Gov. Mike Beebe. AHA conference attendees will be treated to a steak dinner grilled by Milam Construction's team.

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