

# **MASTER PLAN**

## **Historic Highway 90 Corridor Walton County, Florida**

**Walton County Board of County Commissioners  
76 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Defuniak Springs, FL 32433**

**2016**



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## **I. Introduction**

The Historic Highway 90 Corridor through Walton County, Florida, is a segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor project that is currently be deployed in Washington, Holmes, Jackson, and Gadsden Counties. However, the Walton County segment will be considered individually as well as giving attention to the overall concept of the entire five-county corridor. Specific recommendations for the planning and development of both segments were obtained during a stakeholders' meeting held at the Defuniak Spring Community Center in Defuniak Springs, on April 25, 2016.

The key recommendations of the stakeholders were as follows:

- Promotion, interpretation and development of historic sites and eco-tourism attractions.
- Development of a guide promoting heritage-related sites, businesses and events along the corridor.
- Promotion of the county's springs and paddling trails.
- Creation of side loops from the main corridor that will encourage visitors to remain in the county longer and allow them to experience such noteworthy points of interest.
- Creation of literature providing maps and other information on the points of interest in Walton County.





## II. Historical Background

The dream of a paved highway that would link St. Augustine, Florida, to San Diego, California, began with a meeting at the historic Battle House hotel in Mobile, Alabama, on October 27, 1915. Henry Ford had rolled his first Model T off the assembly line in Detroit just seven years earlier and the automobile was transitioning from a novelty toy of the rich to a product that every American could aspire to own.

With the development of the car came expanded dreams of travel. Tourism by automobile ignited a fire that spread across the continent and the attendees at the Mobile meeting of 1915 sought to capitalize on that fire by proposing the development of a “motor trail” that would stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. To be called the “Old Spanish Trail” in recognition of the shared Spanish heritage of Florida, Texas and California, the road would eventually become Historic Highway 90. Until the completion of Interstate 10 in 1990, it was the southernmost transcontinental highway in the United States.

Although the road crossed or followed portions of the routes of the original “Old Spanish Trails” that led through Florida, it was a new highway built to provide improved travel conditions. It commemorates the earlier roadways, but does not always follow them. The modern highway, called the Old Spanish Trail since its inception, cuts through the northern portion of Walton County and generally runs within site of the CSX railroad.

The original Historic Highway 90 project started in 1915, advocated an improvement to roads that would initially extend from Florida to Texas, Although the promoters hoped that the road would eventually extend to California, Historic Highway 90 still ends today in Van Horn, Texas.

The official dedication of the project came just one month after the Mobile meeting on January 21, 1916:

*Fourteen thousand happy school children of the gulf coast of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, inspired by the glories of as perfect a day as the sunniest region of Sunny California ever produce, on January 21, midwinter everywhere but on the sunkissed coast, with flowers, and trees and song, became the first children founders of a National Highway in America, when they gathered at the same hour of the afternoon in every city and hamlet from New Orleans to Tampa, Fla., and placed the sanction of childhood endeavor upon the Old Spanish Trail. Reports received at headquarters of the association in Mobile, show that through the state of Florida half holidays were observed in all of the cities.*

Over the decade that followed, Florida invested heavily in its section of the “Old Spanish Trail” and by 1929 the highway was a reality.

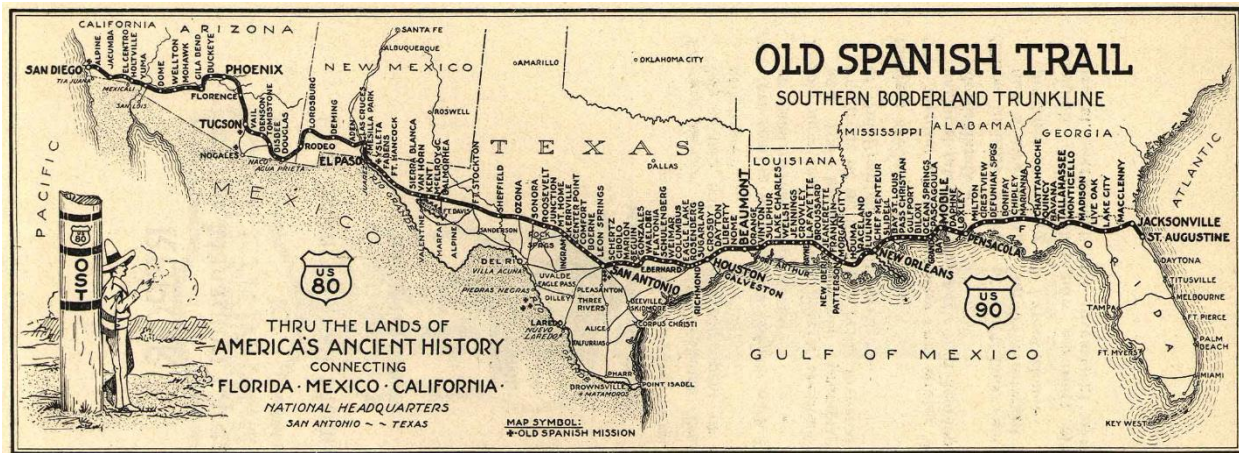


Figure 1. 1920s promotional map of the Old Spanish Trail National Highway

Walton County, like many North Florida counties, had no paved roads when the project began in 1915. Until just four years earlier, in fact, the vast majority of its roads were little more than trails through the pine woods. Railroads provided the only means of fast transportation. The L&N even formed the center of Defuniak Springs. The city’s business district faced not a major highway but the railroad, just as it does today.

In 1911, however, the need for improved roads became a major issue in the county. The introduction of the Model T three years earlier was changing the South and county commissioners realized that Walton/Defuniak Springs’ economic future depended on the implementation of a large scale road construction project. When the “Old Spanish Trail” project was launched in 1915-1916, this improved road was quickly identified for use as a segment of the new national highway.<sup>1</sup>

In 1922, the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* was already reporting that thousands of people were using the Florida sections of the new highway. H.B. Ayres, the managing director of the Old Spanish Trail Commission, drove through Washington County in April of that year and reported that dramatic improvements were underway:

*...Mr. Ayres covered 500 miles discomfort or car trouble, except one puncture from a nail on a paved street in Marianna. The return from the Apalachicola river, 232 miles, was made in an average running time of twenty-four miles per hour, with the driver allowed to follow his own wish for there was no pressure of time anywhere on the return.<sup>2</sup>*

Ayres reported seeing tourists traveling all along the new still largely unpaved highway, even though most of the Northwest Florida counties had been holding back on promoting the route due to continuing construction. Every crossing between Pensacola and the Apalachicola River could be crossed on some sort of bridge except for the Choctawhatchee River and Escambia Bay. Ferries still carried motorists across at those locations, although bridge construction was pushing forward in each place:

*...Two ferries were crossed; one at the Choctawhatchee river which consumes about five minutes. This ferry is free, continuous and safe, but it has a bad reputation because in floods a wide detour up into Alabama is necessary. C.R. Horne, the state engineer in charge of the road and bridge work of that district, said the ferry is in service 345 days a year. This shows, Mr. Ayres declares, how a small measure of interruption serves to condemn a large measure of good service...The Choctawhatchee bridge is under contract. A great fill is now being thrown up on the west side and the bridge and approaches will be about 8000 feet.<sup>3</sup>*



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<sup>2</sup> New Orleans Times-Picayune, May 7, 1922, Page 7.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



### **III. Vision Statement**

The long and short Vision Statements for the Historic Highway 90 Corridor used by Walton County were developed in consultation with stakeholders in both Washington and Jackson Counties. This was recommended to be adopted in common by all five counties in the corridor:

(Short)

An unforgettable drive through history, nature and culture.

(Long)

The Historic Highway 90 Corridor will be an unforgettable drive through the unique history, natural wonders and remarkable culture of Washington, Jackson, Gadsden, Holmes and Walton Counties. Expansion of interpretive opportunities and the use of modern technology to help visitors locate and learn about points of interest will make the corridor one of the most unique in the nation.



## **IV. Walton County Segment**

Shortly after crossing the county line, US 90 continues to carry the name "Old Spanish Trail" where it enters the community of Bottle Branch and serves as the northern border of Eglin Air Force Base, although some private property occasionally can be found. Here the road serves as the northern terminus of State Road 285. Continuing along the northern edge of the base, US 90 and I-10 run parallel to each other, until the base territory ends, and I-10 moves to the southeast. In DeFuniak Springs, US 90 runs along the north side of the DeFuniak Springs Airport where it is joined in a concurrency with southbound US 331. After the airport US 90/331 runs along the north side of the DeFuniak Springs Country Club and then intersects a street named Baldwin Avenue, a city street with little importance other than the fact that it runs along the north side of the P&A Subdivision. This concurrency ends as US 331 turns south onto unmarked State Road 83 (Freeport Road), which joins US 90 as they both enter the DeFuniak Springs Historic District until it heads north onto North Ninth Street. US 90 doesn't leave the historic district until the intersection of Second Street, but it encounters three other local intersections after this. A sure sign that the road's presence in the city is coming to an end, is when it approaches the east end of Baldwin Avenue with Dorsey Avenue as the road curves to the northeast along the railroad tracks, eventually leaving DeFuniak Spring and turning more toward the east again.

As the road enters the former community of Koerber, and then passes by the site of the former railroad station, US 90 appears to serve as the southern terminus of CR 183 (Kidd Road). However, CR 183 secretly joins US 90 in a concurrency as they both climb a small hill, and shortly descend near a small industrial area. US 90/CR 183 curve slightly to the southeast as they enter Argyle, where CR 183 secretly joins CR 10A, while US 90 briefly curves to the northeast. CR 10A is named Old Highway 90, then removes the name "Old Spanish Trail" from US 90 as it crosses US 90 before both the old and "new" versions of US 90 cross the Walton-Holmes County Line.

The following planning items will help develop this segment into a major heritage attraction with excellent potential for encouraging both planned visits by vacation travelers and shorter departures from Interstate 10 by tourists:

### **1. Highway Signage**

The placement of suitable and attractive highway signage will be a vital part of identifying the Historic Highway 90 Corridor for visitors and will require a cooperative effort between the City of DeFuniak Springs, Walton County and the Florida Department of Transportation. Placement of signage as follows is recommended:

- A. Large highway signs welcoming visitors to the Walton County segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor should be placed on U.S. 90 east at the Holmes County line and U.S. 90 West at Okaloosa County line. Large highway signs should

also be placed at or near the point where State Road 331 and State Road 83 enters the Defuniak Springs city limits from the north and south of the city.

- B. Smaller signs designating U.S. 90 as the “Historic Highway 90 Corridor” should be placed at intervals along the highway. It is recommended that these signs be placed at least every two miles along the corridor. These signs should be designed along a pattern similar to the “DeSoto Trail” signs utilized in Florida.
- C. Additional signage is needed along U.S. 90 directing travelers to key points of interest.

## **2. Interpretive Signage & Recommendations**

This study identified several key historical and ecological points of interest along the Walton County segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. To fully develop the tourism potential of the corridor, additional interpretation is necessary to improve the experience of traveling Historic Highway 90 for visitors.



## **V. Additional Recommendations**

The development of proper interpretation through the use of kiosks, historical markers and highway signage is an important step in the development of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor, but it is only a first step.

To fully recognize the potential of the corridor to attract tourism traffic, improve community quality of life and stimulate economic progress, additional steps are essential to create an optimum, multi-platform visitor experience. Specific recommendations are outlined below:

### **1. Corridor Beautification & Enhancement**

#### **A. General Corridor Enhancement**

Additional attention should be focused to enhancing the beauty, cleanliness and improvement of the entire Historic Highway 90 Corridor through Walton County. These recommendations are offered:

- a. Develop a program for encouraging resident and property owners along U.S. Highway 90 to join in the Corridor effort. Perhaps form a “Friends of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor” under the umbrella of the Walton County Historical Society and the Tourist Development Council. This effort will help identify additional sites and properties of significance for future interpretation expansion and encourage enhancement and beautification of properties along the corridor.
- b. Establish a “Historic 90 Pride” award program to publicly honor those who maintain beautiful properties and landscaping along the corridor, establish new businesses, expand existing businesses, or enhance existing structures.
- c. Work with the Florida Department of Transportation to establish additional wildflower plots along U.S. 90 and to develop ideas for other landscape enhancements.
- d. Work with the Florida Department of Transportation’s district scenic highways coordinator to have the Walton County segment designated as Florida Scenic Highways (or part of a multi-county scenic highway).

## **2. Systems for Immediate Information**

Tourism is changing with increasing speed due to rapidly improving technologies for delivery of information. Brochures and printed maps still have their place, of course, but a large and growing segment of the traveling population now expects to have current and immediate information available by web, mobile site and phone/tablet app. This technology is inexpensive and the dividends it produces are high. Consider the following recommendations:

- A. Immediately develop a mobile-friendly process. Not only is the number of users accessing the internet through mobile devices surging, but Google and other search providers are moving to systems that rank sites based both on information and mobile friendliness. This enhancement is vital.
- B. Work cooperatively with other counties in the Historic Highway 90 Corridor (Gadsden, Jackson, Washington, and Holmes) to develop an overall, mobile-friendly, website for the corridor, with specific sections that break away to each county's Tourist Development Council website.
- C. Develop a mobile apps that provide the following:
  - a. Current information on key points of interest along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor.
  - b. Current information on accommodations and restaurants along the corridor.
  - c. Current information on heritage-related businesses along the corridor (i.e. antiques, unique shops, businesses located in historic structures, etc.)
  - d. Emergency and road conditions/roadwork along the corridor.

## **3. Marketing**

As the corridor is developed, marketing will be essential to begin the process of drawing travelers from Interstate 10 and attracting those who are planning "off the beaten path" vacations. The following steps are recommended:

- A. Rely heavily on the marketing expertise of the Tourism Director for developing solid cooperation with Visit Florida, the other four counties in the corridor and individual communities in the corridor.

- B. Develop a major news coverage initiative that will focus on press conferences and visual events for print, new media, television and radio coverage. Conduct press tours for travel writers. Help coordinate stories on individual points of interest for print and television journalists.
- C. Target any advertising dollars spent based on the flow of tourists through the visitor center and other locations along the corridor. For example, if visitors from a specific city appear to be traveling the corridor at a higher rate than visitors from elsewhere, find out how they learned about it through conversations and surveys and then target marketing to that city to expand interest.
- D. Become a contributing county to the “Old Spanish Trail” Centennial effort currently being promoted along the route of the historic national highway developed in 1915-1929. Numerous cities and counties, large and small, have joined in this effort and it would be extremely beneficial to the marketing of the Walton County segments for the county to join this grass-roots effort.
- E. Develop and place brochures, maps and other printed materials in Welcome Centers, museums, visitor centers and parks throughout the area.

#### **4. Other Recommendations**

- A. Expand the Geocache trail to include all of the sites being interpreted for the Historic Highway 90 Corridor.
- B. Continue to assemble stakeholders on a regular basis and transition them into a working advisory group as the corridor development goes forward.

# **Appendices**

## **Appendix One: Historical Resources Guide**

### **Historical Resource Guide Historic Highway 90 Corridor Walton County, Florida**

In the spring of 1820, Neil McLendon of Richmond County, North Carolina, his brother Lochlin, brother-in-law Daniel D. Campbell, John Folk and their families started out with their teams in the direction of Pensacola, Florida. After many days full of eventful happenings, the travelers reached Bluff Springs, Florida and camped for a while along the banks of the Escambia and Blackwater rivers. While in Pensacola on a trading trip, McLendon learned about a beautiful area up the Choctawhatchee Bay that was then inhabited by a friendly tribe of Indians known as the Euchees. Soon afterwards, Sam Story, the chief of the tribe, was introduced to McLendon and extended to him a very cordial invitation. Upon seeing the new country, McLendon was well pleased. He chose a new home for his entire company. This settlement was on Bruce Creek opposite what is now known as Eucheeanna.

#### **News of the new country spread...**

News of the new country spread rapidly and soon emigrants from North and South Carolina began to roll into Florida. These emigrants settled in a fertile valley twenty-five miles wide where farming and the raising of sheep and cattle provided a good living for all. This valley was named Euchee Valley in honor of the friendly Euchee Indians who lived there for many generations.

#### **Walton County was created in 1824...**

Walton County was created in 1824; its present area is 1,028 square miles. Portions of territory were given in 1846 to help form Washington County. In 1848 a northeastern portion was given to Holmes County and in 1915, a western portion of Walton and an eastern portion of Santa Rosa counties were untitled to form Okaloosa County.

#### **The census of 1920 reported...**

The Census of 1920 reported the county population as 12,119. The 1980 census was 23,000, and the census of 1990 was 27,759. There are three incorporated towns in Walton County. DeFuniak Springs, the county seat, was incorporated in 1901, Paxton in 1953 and Freeport in 1963.

#### **The county was named for...**

The county was named for Colonel George Walton, secretary of West Florida during the territorial governorship of Andrew Jackson. Walton was the son of George Walton, Governor of Georgia and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

#### **Since the early days, farming...**

Since the early days, farming has been an important occupation of the majority of the citizens in Walton County. The soils of the county vary in character from the heavy river bottom lands to the lighter sandy loam of the hills, under-laid by clay subsoil. The latter type is especially adapted to the growing of wild Satsuma, grapes, pears, figs and peaches. The staple crops most produced are corn, soybeans, peanuts, wheat, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and forage crops.

**One of the principal industrial developments...**

One of the principal industrial developments of the county was poultry raising. The dairy and beef cattle businesses are established industries. Timber and related products (especially pine) are primary resources. tourism is also one of the largest industries in the county. The sugar white beaches are reported to be the most beautiful anywhere.

**In 1881, Colonel W.D. Chipley...**

In 1881, colonel W.D. Chipley, Major W.J. Vankirk and W.T. Wright, members of a surveying party seeking a route for the projected Louisville and Nashville Railroad, planned the town of DeFuniak Springs. As they roamed through the dense pine forest and rested on the grassy slopes near what is now known as Lake DeFuniak, they envisioned a prosperous settlement and named the location for Mr. DeFuniak, a then prominent official of the L&N Railroad.

**A bond company was formed, a hotel built...**

A bond company was formed, a hotel built and soon recruits began to arrive. among the first visitors was Dr. A.H. Gillet of the New York Chautauqua who was looking for a desirable location for the winter assembly. Dr. Gillet's visit resulted in the organization of the Florida Chautauqua Association in August 1884. Arrangements were made for the first assembly to be held February 10 to March 7, attracted much attention and soon families from near and far began to gather about the little town where they saw the realization of their desire for better educational advantages.

**The success of the Florida Chautauqua programs...**

The success of the Florida Chautauqua programs, presented continuously from 1885 to 1922, may be attributed to the genius and unselfish devotion of the Honorable Wallace Bruce and his son, Mr. Kenneth Bruce, whose combined years of leadership nearly spanned the life of the original Florida Chautauqua era. In 1976 the citizens of Walton County expressed a great desire to preserve this great heritage and revived the Chautauqua spirit by way of an annual calendar of events.

**The first institution for higher learning...**

The first institution for higher learning in Walton County was the Knox Hill Academy which was founded in 1884. For more than half a century, this school rendered a real service to the youth. The most outstanding recognition gained by the school was during the years when Professor John Newton, a pioneer schoolmaster of Pennsylvania, directed its activities.

**The State Normal School...**

The State Normal School for white students was authorized by the Constitution of 1885, and opened in DeFuniak Springs on Monday, October 3, 1887. it was devoted exclusively to preparation of teachers for the schools of Florida and was, at that time, the only school of its kind in the state. In 1904, the Normal School was purchased from the state by the Honorable Daniel Campbell and others of DeFuniak Springs in 1906. It was the purpose of the purchasers to give to the public an institution of learning where people of all denominations might send their children to be educated under distinctly Christian influences. The institution was named Palmer College in honor of the late Reverend B. M. Palmer, the first moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The school opened on October 2, 1907 and, through 1916, offered four-year college degrees as well as preparatory courses. General elementary school and secondary school courses were offered through the spring term of 1936. Due to financial difficulties, the trustees decided not to open the school in the fall of that year.

**The Thomas Industrial Institute was founded...**

The Thomas Industrial Institute was founded as a memorial to Dr. Hiram W. Thomas of Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Thomas was a great believer in industrial education long before vocational features were introduced in the schools of the country.

**The county's first high school was...**

The county's first high school was established in DeFuniak Springs in 1903, just a year before the close of the Normal School. It was constructed in 1901 at a cost of \$15,000 and was said to be second to none in the state. Many of the early teachers were also pastors of country-side churches. In numerous instances, the same building was a classroom on weekdays and place of worship on Sunday.

**Tivoli Elementary and Junior High Schools were established...**

Tivoli Elementary and Junior High Schools were established in 1912 for black students. Grade 10 was added in the 1935-36 school year, grade 11 in 1936-37 and grade 12 in 1937-38. The schools were closed in 1969. Currently, the Tivoli Complex is used for district administrative offices.

**The historic downtown area is home to...**

The historic downtown area is home to Lake DeFuniak, a naturally round lake that is approximately one mile in circumference and perhaps fed by a small natural spring. The lake is surrounded by beautiful homes and three churches, along with the Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood and the Walton-DeFuniak Library, which is the oldest continuously operating library in the state of Florida.

**The lake yard is home to Christmas Reflections...**

The lake yard is home to Christmas Reflections from the day after Thanksgiving to December 31. Millions of lights illuminate the pines and oaks along with seasonal displays.

**Beautiful historic DeFuniak Springs is located...**

Beautiful historic DeFuniak Springs is located in the heart of Florida's panhandle at the crossroads of Highway 331 and Interstate 10 and has an estimated population of 5,200.

**Museums and Historical Societies**

Two points of interest provide museum exhibits and help visitors learn more about the Walton County sections of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. Both are located in DeFuniak Springs.

- The Walton County Historical Society Museum is located in a railroad-themed structure. Open on Tuesday through Saturdays, from 1 to 4 PM. The museum features exhibits and historical archives that interpret the long history of Walton County. Popular with visitors is an original moonshine still dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- The DeFuniak Springs Visitor Bureau can be found in DeFuniak Springs on Circle Drive.

**Historical Sites**



### **Alford's Mill**

Location:

1791 Oak Grove Road, Westville, FL 32464

Marker Inscription:

Near this location, Marion Alford established in 1864 a water-powered grist mill that became the focal point of a small farming community that developed in this area of north Walton County. Archaeological remains of the mill dam and foundations still exist along Limestone Creek. Mills played a very important role in the growth of rural Florida communities in the nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries. Alford's Mill provided corn meal, a staple of the local diet, and a gathering place for those who lived and worked in the nearby forests and fields. The community, known as Alford's Mill until the early 1880s when the settlement was renamed Limestone, also included a post office and stage coach stop, churches, cemeteries, homesteads and farms. In 1883, the mill was sold to the Chandlers who operated the facility until 1893 when the Alford family reacquired the grist mill. In 1897 Alford's Mill was converted to a sawmill, which operated until 1904, when the mill at last fell silent as the age of water-power came to an end.



### **Darlington School**

Location:

Highway 181, Darlington Community.

The Darlington School once served as a public school built in the early 1900s and closed in the early 1980s. Today, the building is still standing and is used by the community for various reunions and gatherings. The Board of County Commissioners has accepted responsibility for maintaining the building and will work to restore the school as funding permits.

### **Defuniak Springs Historic District**

**Circle Lake and the historic Florida Chautauqua Assembly**

A walk around Lake DeFuniak is a walk back into Victorian times, when labor and materials were plentiful and elaborate architectural details were incorporated in the homes being built. Turrets, double verandas, classic fluted columns, gingerbread trim, and window dormers all resulted in interesting architecture.

When the railroad began operation in 1882, "Open Pond" was identified as a railroad stop. "Open Pond" soon became known as DeFuniak Springs. It was named "DeFuniak" in honor of Frederick deFuniak, Chief Engineer of the L&N Railroad. "Springs" refers to the almost perfectly round freshwater, spring-fed lake located in the center of town.

Cultural, educational, and religious activities came early when the town was chosen as a winter home for the New York Chautauqua. The Florida Chautauqua program continued from 1885 to 1922 and attracted thousands of visitors to DeFuniak Springs. Programs were held in tents and small buildings near the lake until the Chautauqua "Hall of Brotherhood," with its 4,000 seat auditorium, was built in 1909. The growing town was the home of the State Normal School (c.1885), which moved to Tallahassee in 1905 where it became Florida State College for Women, known today as Florida State University. Other early educational institutions in DeFuniak Springs included Palmer College (1907-1936) and the Thomas Industrial Institute (1913-1924). The Florida Education Association (FEA) was founded in DeFuniak Springs in 1886.

Influence of the Chautauqua movement is very much alive in DeFuniak Springs. In 1996, local residents revived the historic event through the Florida Chautauqua Center, Inc., and the organization hosts the conference-style program during the last week of January. Another organization formed in 2008 called the Florida Chautauqua Assembly, Inc., which also hosts a similar Chautauqua program during February.

## **Historic District Homes & Buildings**

### **Overview**

All structures listed below are on the National Register of Historic Places. These homes, buildings and churches are all located on Circle Drive in the historic district of DeFuniak Springs, Florida. This neighborhood rests on the banks of a perfectly round, spring-fed lake called Lake DeFuniak. The structures listed below are in chronological order of address around the lake.

### **95 Circle Drive - CHAUTAUQUA BUILDING**

(c. 1909). Completed in 1909 at a cost of \$28,000, the original building had a portico at each end in addition to the three across the front. The porticos were supported by a total of forty columns, representing the forty existing states. The building, topped by the "Lantern of Religious Trust," was called the Hall of Brotherhood. Upstairs, classrooms could be opened up to seat 1,000. An auditorium attached to the back of the building seated 4,000. However, Hurricane Eloise destroyed the auditorium in 1975.

### **132 Circle Drive**

(c.1900). Prominent citizen and realtor R.E.L. McCaskill sold his property with a small frame structure to W.J. Davis for a family residence in 1914. Davis and subsequent owners have made various modifications to the original frame structure.

### **144 Circle Drive - ST. AGATHA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(c.1896). The church was founded in 1890, and the building was completed in 1896. It is the oldest church building in the city, and its stained glass windows are of special interest.



### **150 Circle Drive - PARISH HOUSE OF ST. AGATHA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(c1900). Now the Parish House of St. Agatha's Episcopal Church, this home served as a boarding house during the Chautauqua Era.



#### **Eden Gardens**

Location

Point Washington, FL

Marker Inscription:

"Who loves a garden, still his 'Eden' keeps." -Amos Bronson Alcott

The estate was bought in 1963 by Lois Genevieve Maxon, who restored the mansion in antebellum style and planned the gardens which enhance the lovely natural setting. Built in 1895 by lumberman William Henry Wesley, the house had elaborate Victorian trimming. The restoration fulfills a local legend which claims that the original design was inspired by an antebellum plantation house where the builder was given shelter on his way from the War Between the States.

Wesley's lumber partner and father-in-law, Simeon Strickland, had an identical house nearby, of which a portion still stands. Traces of their mill, where lumber for the two houses was cut, may still be seen on the Eden grounds.

### **Eucheeanna Community**

Location

DeFuniak Springs, FL

Description

Eucheeanna, the first Scottish settlement in territorial Florida, was named in honor of the Euchee Indians. Tradition holds that the first slave child was born in the settlement.

Eucheeanna consisted of a school, court house, jail, Masonic and Odd Fellows halls, general stores, a sawmill, and a grist mill. The first monument in Florida erected to Confederate dead was located in Eucheeanna in 1868 by the Ladies' Monument Association. At that time, Eucheeanna was the county seat for Walton County until the courthouse was burned by an arsonist in May 1885.

On May 27, 1886, a commission approved moving the Walton County seat to DeFuniak Springs. Finally, the monument was moved to Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church and later moved to DeFuniak Springs. The Civil War came to Eucheeanna on September 23, 1864 when the federal

troops, under General Ashboth, came to raze and plunder on their way to Marianna and Tallahassee.

## **Florida Education Association**

### **Location**

Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood, 95 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL

### **Description**

Florida teachers and administrators numbering 700 met here in Chautauqua Hall for a "teachers institute" called the Florida Chautauqua. The meeting was called to order by J.A. Graham, City Superintendent of Schools, Key West, at 12:30 pm, on Thursday March 4, 1886.

The major purpose of the gathering was a short but intensive training period mainly in subject matter fields, for many teachers were mere "grammar school grads." Here was the beginning of the Florida Education Association. A separate black teachers' association was formed in 1890. On July 1, 1966 the black and white organizations merged. The name Florida Education Association was continued for this combined organization and, in 1975, the word "United" was added when FEA and Florida's American Federation of Teachers merged.

The Florida Education Association has become a symbol of the achievements of the past and an inspiration to those who will promote excellence for Florida's public schools, colleges, and universities in the future.



**Florida's First Confederate Monument**

### Location

DeFuniak Springs, FL

### Description

Shortly after the Civil War, the women of Walton County organized a Ladies' Memorial Association to erect a marble monument honoring Walton County's Confederate dead. They were able to raise \$250 for the monument.

The monument was first erected in 1871 at Valley Church. It was moved to Euchee Anna, the County seat, and then to DeFuniak Springs when it became the County seat.



### Knox Hill Academy

#### Location

DeFuniak Springs, FL

### Description

The Knox Hill Academy, a boarding school, was founded in 1848 by the Rev. John Newton (1814-1871), a Presbyterian minister whose motto was "You must learn and obey." The school was first located near a spring northeast of the Morrison Place on Knox Hill. The original sponsors of the school were the Campbells, McLeans, Gunns, Morrisons, Gillies, McCaskills, McPhersons, and McDonalds.

The new school replaced the log Henry School House. The first building was a split-log house built on top of a hill; the school was furnished with single desks and blackboards. Slates and chalk were used for writing. Between 84 and 100 regular pupils attended.

In January 1859, the academy was moved to a large, two-story frame building north of the original site. Classes for older students were held on the second floor, and the younger students had class on the first floor. The building also housed a laboratory for chemistry and physics.

The Knox Hill Academy was highly acclaimed, and it provided education to students from west Florida and southern Georgia and Alabama.

Rev. Newton closed the school in 1871 and moved to Mary Esther, where he opened another school.



### **Walton-DeFuniak Library**

#### **Location**

DeFuniak Springs, FL

#### **Description**

The Walton-DeFuniak Library opened during the first decade that DeFuniak Springs became a town. The community originated in the early 1880s as a station on the new Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad. The town was named for Frederick de Funiak, president of the P and A Railroad, a subsidiary of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

In the mid-1880s, representatives of the widely popular Chautauqua Association, an adult education movement combining education with religion and recreation, selected DeFuniak Springs as the Florida assembly grounds site. In 1885, the first annual session of the Florida Chautauqua Association was held here, and local women realized that library resources would be needed. In 1886, an Aid Society was formed, which became the Ladies Library Association the next year.

By the end of 1887, the building was completed. The institution became the Walton County Public Library in 1966. In 1975, it was renamed the Walton-DeFuniak Library. At that time, the library building was the oldest structure in Florida built as a library and still serving as a library.

## **Additional Resources**

More information on the points of interest along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor can be obtained at the Walton County Visitor Center in South Walton. The center is open Monday-Friday during business hours. For more information, please visit the Walton County Tourist Development Council's website at [www.visitsouthwalton.com](http://www.visitsouthwalton.com).

## Appendix Two: Stakeholders' List

# US-90 Corridor Master Plan Stakeholders List

Walton County Tourist Development Council

Jason Cutshaw – [Jason@visitsouthwalton.com](mailto:Jason@visitsouthwalton.com)

Walton County Commissioners

Bill Chapman – [chabill@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:chabill@co.walton.fl.us)

Cecilia Jones – [joncecilia@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:joncecilia@co.walton.fl.us)

Bill Imfeld – [imfbill@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:imfbill@co.walton.fl.us)

Sara Commander – [comsara@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:comsara@co.walton.fl.us)

Cindy Meadows – [meacindy@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:meacindy@co.walton.fl.us)

Walton County Administrative Offices

Melinda Gates, Coastal Resource Liaison – [gatmelinda@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:gatmelinda@co.walton.fl.us)

Mac Carpenter, Planning Manager – [carmac@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:carmac@co.walton.fl.us)

City of Defuniak Springs

Bob Campbell, Mayor - [dfs mayor@defuniaksprings.net](mailto:dfs mayor@defuniaksprings.net)

Sara Bowers, City Manager – [bowsara@defuniaksprings.net](mailto:bowsara@defuniaksprings.net)

Kelly Schultz, Planning Manager – [schkelly@defuniaksprings.net](mailto:schkelly@defuniaksprings.net)

Walton County Chamber of Commerce

Gabrielle Kilgore, DeFuniak Springs Chamber Office Coordinator -  
[gabrielle@waltonareachamber.com](mailto:gabrielle@waltonareachamber.com)

RiverWay South

Betty Webb, Project Manager – [bettytaylor.webb@gmail.com](mailto:bettytaylor.webb@gmail.com)

Florida Department of Transportation, District 3

Zena Riley-Taylor, Scenic Highways Coordinator – [zena.riley-taylor@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:zena.riley-taylor@dot.state.fl.us)

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Christina Coger – [Christina.Coger@nwfwater.com](mailto:Christina.Coger@nwfwater.com)

Walton County Heritage Association

Marie Hinson

Defuniak Spring Visitors Bureau

Dennis Ray

Downtown Defuniak Springs Merchants

## Other Key Business Stakeholders

Walton County Native American Communities  
Ann Tucker - [MuscogeeNation@aol.com](mailto:MuscogeeNation@aol.com)

Walton Outdoors  
Lori Ceier

## **Appendix Three: Minutes of Stakeholders' Meeting**

### **US-90 Corridor Master Plan Agenda**

Date and Time: April 25, 2016 10 o'clock A.M.

Location: Defuniak Springs Community Center – Activity Room

Located at: 361 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435

Call to Order – 10:00 AM

Welcome from Project Mangers

Summary of Project

Goals/Discussion Items for the Meeting:

- ☐ Creation of a Vision Statement for the Historic Highway 90 Corridor Project.
- ☐ Discuss strategies for signage/way-finding,, marketing and promotion,
- ☐ Suggestions for possible improvements to parks and eco-tourism sites, and recommend proposed infrastructure improvements that will encourage tourism and downtown revitalization by attracting Interstate-10 travelers along the US Highway-90 Corridor or states that no infrastructure improvements are recommended or proposed.

Minutes:

12 in attendance

- Jason called the meeting to order and phoned Melinda Gates to join the meeting.
- Melinda introduced the reason for the meeting to gain the thoughts and opinions of the stakeholders, expressed the possibility of getting folks off the I-10 to visit the US90 area and take advantage of the tourism aspect of North Walton.
- Heather, presented information on the Historic Highway 90 project, developed from a co-op project Between Jackson and Washington county. She covered the development of the plan and the technical assistance grant program. She shared the rack cards and the transparencies in the welcome centers.
- Grant is individual to each county the goal is to merge all the counties together.
- The TDC is creating the plan in house.
- Melinda: The 20k will come back to the tdc to produce the materials for advertising and promotions.
- Diane Merkel advised reaching out to Dale Cox to provide support and some of the grant work.
- Heather: hopes to link all the counties through North Florida
- Jason: Went over the deliverables: 1 Identify Stakeholders, meeting and develop a community vision statement. 2: Create a Calendar of community events and inventory of historic sites.
- Lori asked if we would be developing the plan today and how far will the area expand to? Jason responded that it's not limited in the county.
- Shared the Beyond the Exits magazine. As a possible supporting direction guide for the US 90 corridors.
- Melinda: we have access to all the prior plans and once we put (master plan) it together we can send it to Dale to review.
- Jason: read the Vision Statement / group adopted the statement as written.

- Heather shared the Logo and the signage on the pamphlet they produced and all seemed to like the logo.
- All shared in the support of creating a pamphlet for Walton County similar to Heathers example.
- A list of additional historic sites was asked, such as the train depot.
- An idea of doing a historic tour of the area was brought up.
- Idea of possibly having a small visitor off the I-10, such as the Winery as a testing location.
- Resource guide, a tri fold or a two sided pamphlet / rack cards possibly with a co-op with Walton County and City of Defuniak. Question of which to do.
- Possible Plan and meet with the historical experts of the county.
- Reviewed the over view of the grant and the deliverables.
- May 31 is the deadline and we hope to meet the goals of the rack card and deliverables.
- Possible of using Geo-caching as a means of promotion and or to draw in guests.
- 20k we would develop a rack card and or a visitor guide to be printed. Need to have it done and approve the verbiage and proof.
- Recommendation of one side us highway 90 and other side historic sites, eco touring, springs, zoo etc. (circle Drive tour etc)
- Also the historic APP we may add to the printed material.
- More information to follow on the written cards and Visitor Guide.
- Both Melinda and Jason thanked the stakeholders for the support and time.

Meeting Adjourned:



## Appendix Four: Calendar of Events

# Walton County Calendar of Events 2016

### January

DeFuniak Springs:

- **Gras Fest 2016, Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10 AM-4 PM:** Street fair, parade, food, and fun for the whole family! (GPS 30.655503, -86.080814)
- **Chautauqua Assembly, January 28-30, 2016:** *The Florida Chautauqua Assembly is a 4-day educational program for families featuring famous keynote speakers, educational breakout sessions, performance teas, evening dinner performances and exhibits relating to an annual theme.* (GPS 30.732873, -86.113819)

Freeport:

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

South Walton:

- **30A Songwriters Festival, January 15-17, 2016:** Event features 150 songwriters and more than 200 performers. (GPS 30.340914, -86.205348)
- **Wine Women and Shoes South Walton, February 14, 2016:** Charity fashion event. (GPS 30.369855, -86.327002)

### February

Freeport:

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

South Walton:

- **27th Annual Sandestin Gumbo Festival, February 12-13, 2016:** Food Festival (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)
- **Wine Women and Shoes South Walton, February 26-28, 2016:** Charity Fashion event. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

### March

Defuniak Springs:

- **Zerbini Family Circus, March 6 and 7, 2016:** A real old-fashioned circus will offer fun for the whole family at the Walton County Fairgrounds, 790 Highway 83 North (North 9th Street). The circus features clowns and aerialists as well as trampoline, comedy, and balancing acts. Camel and pony rides will be available one hour before showtime for an additional charge. The performances will start at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 6, and at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7. The adult price

is \$15.00; two kids will be admitted free with each paid adult. Purchase tickets at the door.

*Sponsored by the Walton County Fair Association.* facebook.com/Zerbinifamilycircus (GPS 30.732873, -86.113819)

- **Family Movie Night, Friday, March 11, 2016:** See "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" (PG) at 7:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater on Circle Drive. If it rains, the movie will be shown in the DeFuniak Springs Community Center, 361 North 10th Street. Concessions will be available. A qualifying food purchase will enter you in a raffle drawing. Free admission. *Sponsored by the City of DeFuniak Springs Special Events Committee and the Walton-DeFuniak Library.* 850-892-8500. (GPS 30.719116, -86.114195)

- **Antique Tractor Show and Pull, March 12, 2016, 9:00 AM-4 PM.:** Antique car show, tractor show, tractor pull competitions and more at Pleasant Ridge Arena. For more info contact Jim Wasson, 850-859-2414. Concessions available. Pleasant Ridge Arena is located at 1433 Pleasant Ridge Rd., Defuniak Springs. (GPS 30.686401, -86.175174)

- **Jump for the Rose Skydiving Benefit, March 18-20, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.** Skydive of North Florida is hosting a special event March 18-20. Jump for the Rose is a benefit to help provide funding for The Rose, a non-profit organization which provides support for uninsured or underinsured women in the process of receiving cancer treatment. The three-day event will offer skydiving opportunities to benefit The Rose. Licensed skydivers will have the chance to be on one of three donated loads (trips) sponsored by SunPath Products, Inc., and Parachute Technologies for a \$10 donation, instead of the normal \$26. But the skydiver must wear a pink bra on the skydive – all to show support for breast cancer research. Tandems will be available for \$185. Go to the website, skydivenorthflorida.com to schedule. Spectators are welcome to watch the skydivers for a \$10 donation at the door. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. \$5 lunch/\$10 dinner will be offered with proceeds going to the JFTR. Hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. March 18-20. Skydive North Florida is located at 5138 Co. Hwy, 0605, Defuniak Springs, FL 32433. (GPS 30.919165, -86.218391)

Freeport:

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

- **Easter Antique & Classic Car Show, March 26, 2016, 8:00AM-5:00 PM, Freeport Regional Sports Complex:** Antique and Classic Car Show (GPS 30.485725 -86.151956)

South Walton:

- **14th Annual Seaside School Half Marathon & 5K/Taste of the Race, March 4-6, 2016:** Half marathon event in seaside. (GPS 30.320168, -86.137936)

- **30A Wine Festival at Alys Beach, March 11-13, 2016:** The Sixth Annual 30A Wine Festival is a must-experience venue for the vintner's craft and the culinary arts. But, on an even larger scale, is the reason behind the event. This year the Wine Festival will be supporting the Children's Volunteer Health Network, a nonprofit dedicated to providing access to health services for children in Walton and Okaloosa counties. We invite you attend this year's event at Alys Beach, your attendance will be appreciated by us and many more. (GPS 30.285682, -86.028781)

**April**

Defuniak Springs:

- **Auditions, Saturday, April 9, 2016:** The public is invited to audition for the next production by Grit & Grace, the Official Folk Life Production of Walton County. Auditions will be held on Saturday, April 9, at 2:00 p.m. at the DeFuniak Springs Community Center, 361 North 10th Street. The mission and purpose of Grit & Grace is to preserve the history of greater Walton County through storytelling, music, and dance. *Sponsored by Grit & Grace, Inc.* [www.gritandgrace.org](http://www.gritandgrace.org). [info@gritandgrace.org](mailto:info@gritandgrace.org). 850-270-7008. (GPS 30.721623, -86.115665)

- **Pig Roast, April 16, 2016:** Join locals and visitors for the 2nd Annual Pig Roast at 676 Circle Drive from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. The festivities will include food, a street dance, a tour of the historic home, an art show, antique car rides, line dancing, cartoon sketching, entertainment, a silent auction, and a 50/50 drawing. Only 200 tickets will be sold. They will be sold for \$40 (cash or check only) at the DeFuniak Springs City Hall (71 US Hwy 90 West), Nook and Cranny Home Consignment (676 Baldwin Avenue), Southeby's Antiques Gallery (27 Crescent Drive), and Sanford & Sisters (938 Highway 331 South). *All proceeds will go towards the restoration of the Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood.* (GPS 30.716059, -86.108645)

- **Marvel of Flight, April, 22-23, 2016:** Bring the family to enjoy the sights and sounds of one of the largest fly-in and aviation expos in Northwest Florida! Marvel of Flight features a variety of aircraft static displays, flight demonstrations, aerospace career exploration exhibits, pilot workshops, concerts, free kids activities, food/aviation/art/crafts vendors; and lots of thrills for individuals of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy. The theme of the Marvel of Flight 2016 is "A Tribute to Vietnam War Era Aviation." Marvel of Flight 2016 will take attendees on a journey back in time to revisit the highly misconceived and misreported era of the Vietnam War through the eyes of the American aviators and aircraft that played such a vital role in this tragic conflict. Free admission. *Sponsored by the City of DeFuniak Springs.* [www.marvelofflight.com](http://www.marvelofflight.com). (GPS 30.732244, -86.154048)

Freeport:

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

South Walton:

- **South Walton Food Film Festival, April 4-8, 2016:** Experience food like never before...Created by Emmy award-winning filmmaker **George Motz, the Food Film Festival™** breaks new ground in food experiences, allowing attendees to screen the best of today's food documentaries while tasting the tempting dishes they encounter onscreen. For the festival's inaugural venture in Florida, *The Local Palate* magazine has collaborated to bring favorite Southern personalities to South Walton for an unprecedented weekend of all-star dining. (GPS 30.301249, -86.064803)
- **30th Annual Sandestin Wine Festival, April 14-17, 2016:** Three Day wine festival event. (GPS 30.379032, -86.6329709)
- **11th Annual Destin Charity Wine Auction, April 28-May 1, 2016:** Founded in 2005, Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation (DCWAF) has donated more than \$10 Million to Northwest Florida charities through hosting world class wine and culinary events. These funds have impacted the lives of over 60,000 youth, including those afflicted by health issues and abuse. DCWAF has

been recognized as one of the nation's 'Top 10 Charity Wine Auction in the U.S.' by Wine Spectator Magazine for the last four consecutive years. (GPS 30.379328, -86.316234)

- **South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival, April 28-May 1, 2016:** South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival presents great wines, fine foods, world-class tasting seminars, live music from national artists, culinary celebrities and more. It's a weekend to escape into a lifestyle where you can be yourself, dress up or come as you are, be seen or simply lay low. Our only requirement is that you have great time enjoying a convivial gathering at your pace and lose yourself for the weekend. Please join us! (GPS 30.319760, -86.137120)

## May

### Defuniak Springs

□ **Family Movie Night, Friday, May 13, 2016:** See "How to Train Your Dragon" (PG) at 7:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater on Circle Drive. If it rains, the movie will be shown in the DeFuniak Springs Community Center, 361 North 10th Street. Concessions will be available. A qualifying food purchase will enter you in a raffle drawing. Free admission. *Sponsored by the City of DeFuniak Springs Special Events Committee and the Walton-DeFuniak Library.* 850-892-8500. (GPS 30.726675, -86.116172)

-**LakeFest, Saturday, May 21, 2016:** All day event on Lake DeFuniak featuring arts, recreation, sports, and entertainment. *Sponsored by the City of DeFuniak Springs.* 850-892-8500. (GPS 30.718956, -86.111827)

### Freeport:

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

### South Walton

- **ArtWeek South Walton 2016, May 5-15, 2016:** Ten day collection of art events. (GPS 30.318406, -86.132448)

- **Digital Graffiti at Alys Beach, May 12-14, 2016:** Digital Graffiti at Alys Beach is an innovative and dynamic event that celebrates the many possibilities found at the intersection of art and architecture. During the three-night event, dozens of digital artist finalists from around the globe are invited to showcase their original work and vie for cash prize awards in a juried art competition. Utilizing the latest technologies, the finalists' art is projected throughout the town on its iconic white walls. (30.285059, -86.027906)

## June

### Defuniak Springs

- **Family Movie Night, Friday, June 10, 2016:** See "Rise of the Guardians" (PG) at 7:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater on Circle Drive. If it rains, the movie will be shown in the DeFuniak Springs Community Center, 361 North 10th Street. Concessions will be available. A qualifying food purchase will enter you in a raffle drawing. Free admission. Sponsored by the City of DeFuniak Springs Special Events Committee and the Walton-DeFuniak Library. (GPS 30.726445, -86.115893)

### Freeport:

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City**

**Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

South Walton

- **Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Classic, June 15-19, 2016:** Join us for the 4th Annual Alys Beach 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run, presented by Visit South Walton, on Sunday, September 6, 2015 in Alys Beach, Florida. Located along Hwy 30A, the course winds through the resort town and ends with an oversized obstacle course for kids of all ages, music, food, and beverages available in the Amphitheatre. (GPS 60.387213, -86.326007)

## July

Defuniak Springs

- **Fourth of July Around the Lake, July 4, 2016:** Parade and Fireworks event. (GPS 30.719675, -86.112396)

Freeport

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City**

**Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

## August

Freeport

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City**

**Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

South Walton

- **Sandestin Triathlon, August 20, 2016:** Triathlon event (GPS 30.379328, -86.329194)

## September

Freeport

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City**

**Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

South Walton

- **Alys Beach 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run, September 4, 2016:** Join us for the 4th Annual Alys Beach 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run. Located along Hwy [30A](#), the course winds through the resort town and ends with an oversized obstacle course for kids of all ages, music, food, and beverages available in the Amphitheatre. (GPS 30.282799, -86.029443)

- **Bazaar South 2016, September 9-11, 2016:** Celebration of Culture and Creativity. (GPS 30.286653, -86.040460)

- **Black Tie Classic Rally, September 20-25, 2016:** Ferrai driving event. (GPS 30.318221, -86.131955)

## October

Defuniak Springs

- **Peddler Ally, first Saturday of the Month:** A market offering everything from A to Z (antiques, crafts, flea market items, garage sale items, bake sale items, plants and flowers, canned and preserved goods) (GPS 30.715130, -86.117552)
- **Walton County Fair:** Agriculture Fair that has always been committed to promoting agriculture in the community. The Fair provides an opportunity for youth and adults alike to showcase their talents for artwork, handicrafts, growing crops, rearing livestock, etc. This is an excellent forum to bring the community together for great food, fun, and entertainment. (GPS 30.732544, -86.113863)
- **Chautauqua Vinyard Harvest Calendar:** Free wine tastings, live music, craft vendors, food plates, wine by the glass, slushies by the glass. (GPS 30.693279, -86.120066)
- **Trick-or-Treating Around the Lake, October 31, 2016, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM:** Large trick-or-treat event for the entire family. (GPS 30.719246, -86.113328)

Freeport

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

## November

Defuniak Springs

-**Energy Expo, first weekend of the Month:** Alternative sources of energy including solar, CNG and geothermal power will be on display as well as builders and contractors demonstrating the most energy-efficient means of construction or renovation. (GPS 30.732544, -86.113863)

-**Christmas Reflections, Friday after Thanksgiving to New Year's Day:** Christmas lights display around the lake. (GPS 30.719246, -86.113328)

- **Hometown Christmas, Friday after Thanksgiving Day:** Handcraft good, food, and entertainment. (GPS 30.719246, -86.113328)

Freeport

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

## December

Defuniak Springs

-**Christmas Reflections, Friday after Thanksgiving to New Year's Day:** Christmas lights display around the lake. (GPS 30.719246, -86.113328)

Freeport

- **Picking on the Porch – 2nd Sunday of the Month, 2 PM – until whenever, Freeport City Hall:** Jam Session for the entire family of Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel music. (GPS 30.499546, -86.137391)

## Appendix Five: Inventory of Historic Sites

### Inventory of Historic Sites Historic Highway 90 Corridor Walton County, Florida



1. **95 Circle Drive Chautauqua Building** (c.1909).

Completed in 1909 at a cost of \$28,000, the original building had a portico at each end in addition to the three across the front. The porticos were supported by a total of forty columns, representing the forty existing states. The building, topped by the “Lantern of Religious Trust,” was called the HALL OF BROTHERHOOD. Upstairs classrooms could be opened up to seat 1,000. An auditorium attached to the back of the building seated 4,000. Hurricane Eloise destroyed the auditorium in 1975.

2. **132 Circle Drive** (c.1900).

Prominent citizen and realtor R.E.L. McCaskill sold this property with a small frame structure to W.J. Davis for a family residence in 1914. Davis and subsequent owners have made various modifications to the original frame structure.



3. **144 Circle Drive. St. Agatha's Episcopal Church** (c.1896) pictured above in an early photo. The church was founded in 1890, and the building was completed in 1896. It is the oldest church building in the city, and its stained glass windows are of special interest.

4. **150 Circle Drive** (c.1900).

Now the PARISH HOUSE of St. Agatha's Episcopal Church, this home served as a boarding house during the Chautauqua Era.

5. **168 Circle Drive** (c.1895).

The home is known as the CHARLES E. MURRAY HOUSE. Mr. Murray was the owner of the merry-go-round and the first theatre in downtown DeFuniak Springs.



6. **188 Circle Drive** (c.1895).

The THOMAS HOUSE or formerly the Bullard House is an outstanding example of Queen Anne style. Special features include a three-story round turret with conical roof, patterned shingles, a two-story canted bay, and elaborate verge board and truss work.

7. **208 Circle Drive** (c.1902).

This two-story house features special curved corners on its double verandas. These corners were created by heating and bending the timbers into shape. Special notice should be taken of the diamond-shaped stained glass window on the right side.



8. **234 Circle Drive** (c.1884).

Known as the THOMAS T. WRIGHT COTTAGE, this charming board-and-batten Folk Victorian home was built for Col. T.T. Wright, an early developer of the Florida Chautauqua and DeFuniak Springs. Circle Drive was originally named Wright Avenue in his honor.

9. **262 Circle Drive** (c.1904).

The VERANDAS is an example of Folk Victorian style. The unique “steamboat” design features double wrap-around verandas on the front and both sides. The main house, maid’s house and other dependencies, and wood-frame wire fence have been painstakingly restored to their original design and condition.

10. **278 Circle Drive** (c.1889).

This house has the distinction of having been moved twice. It was moved sometime prior to 1907 from its location next door to the Episcopal Parish House to its present site. Its second move was in 1986 when it was repositioned again on its site.

11. **294 Circle Drive** (c.1912).

This house was built as a model house for the sale of “pre-cut houses” to be sold by the “One Price Cash Store” in DeFuniak Springs. The house has triple hardwood floors and double wooden walls that give it extra strength and durability.



12. **302 Circle Drive** (c.1910).

This wood frame house was a “pre-cut house” ordered through McCaskill’s “one Price Cash Store.” It was remodeled extensively in 1985.

13. **Tree - Magnolia Grandiflora** (c.1840).

The tree has a spreading crown of 72 feet, is 60 feet high, and has a trunk circumference of 12.5 feet. The tree ranks as the eighth largest of Florida’s champion trees.



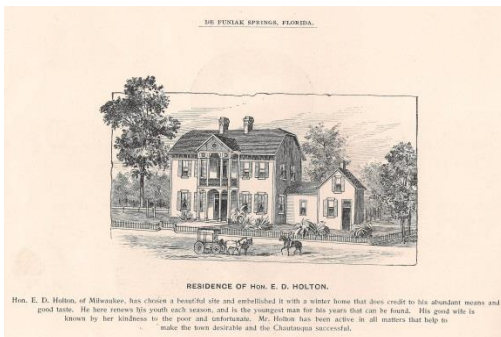
14. **392 Circle Drive** (c.1900).

The PANSY COTTAGE was the home of Isabelle McDonald Alden, an author with the pen name of “Pansy.” The above photo is how the home appeared after being built in 1885. She wrote more than 100 books between 1890 and 1900. The Walton-DeFuniak Library has three of the books. Ms. Alden was also the aunt of author Grace Livingston Hill.



15. **404 Circle Drive** (c.1885).

The DREAM COTTAGE was built for Wallace Bruce, former U.S. Consul to Scotland and prominent leader of the Florida Chautauqua. The Folk Victorian cottage is one of the most historically significant homes on Circle Drive. Given in 1905 to his daughter Clara and her new husband George Abernethy as a wedding present, and later his son Malcolm Bruce lived here.



16. **470 Circle Drive** (c.1887).

The MAGNOLIA HOUSE is named for the twelve stately magnolias on the property. Originally called Springside by its first owner Mr. E. D. Holton of Wisconsin; it is an example of Colonial

Revival style. In keeping with southern architectural practices, the original kitchen was separated from the main house by a covered walkway.

17. **484 Circle Drive** (c.1910).

This Frame Vernacular house was built for the James Bullard family. It was remodeled extensively in the 1940s.



18. **504 Circle Drive** (c.1940).

This large two-story Colonial Revival brick house was built by Ruby Walden Burton. Mrs. Burton was the first female Gulf Oil Distributer in the company's history. The only two-story brick home in DeFuniak Springs, the house has an octagonal window and a segmented arch pediment.

19. **534 Circle Drive** (c.1938).

This Masonry Vernacular house was built in 1938 for the Henry Elliot family. It has a cross gable roof with a gable Porte cohere extension. Mr. Elliot was a local banker.



20. **550 Circle Drive** (c.1907).

This grand Queen Anne style house was built for Kenneth Bruce, son of Wallace Bruce. As a symbol of hospitality, the original wrought-iron gate has never been fitted with a catch for closing. The Bruce collection of armor, now displayed in the Walton-DeFuniak Library, was originally housed here.

21. **608 Circle Drive** (c.1915).

Dr. Albert Dye, from the Dakota Territory, was an early resident of this house, perhaps the only house in the area with a full basement.

22. **620 Circle Drive** (c.1915).

The Frame Vernacular style house was built for the L.I. Smith family. Mr. Smith and Dr. Albert Dye (see No.21 above) were owners of a frontier bank in the Dakota Territory before they moved to DeFuniak Springs.

23. **634 Circle Drive** (c.1922).

The original house was built for the family of John L. McKinnon, author of History of Walton County, published in 1911 (and recently republished by the Walton County Heritage Association). The house was renovated and remodeled in 1993.



24. **650 Circle Drive** (c.1905).

Built for Judge Angus Graham Campbell, the house has had only two owners in its long history. An interesting detail of this house is the 45-degree “cut corner” with a window for increased view, light, and air circulation.

25. **676 Circle Drive** (c.1905).

The MCLEAN HOUSE was built for James McLean. It is an example of French Colonial style and features a distinctive hip roof. Mr. McLean considered it “the best spot on the lake” due to the view of the sunset. The house remained in the McLean family for 85 years.

26. **702 Circle Drive** (c.1915).

The Bungalow style house was built by Thomas McConnell as a wedding present for his daughter. The house has a wide overhanging enclosed porch which protects it from the weather. This solid squared-up house with multiple corners was meant to last for many generations.

27. **730 Circle Drive** (c.1902).

The house was built for T.M. McConnell, a wealthy turpentine dealer. The house features a large two-story bay. Double verandas encircle the front and left side of the house.



28. **772 Circle Drive** (c.1905).

The Classical Revival style house was built for Stuart Knox Gillis, a teacher and prominent attorney. Mrs. Gillis stenciled various designs on the walls of the first floor, a decorative technique which was quite unusual at that time. The house was given to Palmer College in 1931 to be used as the home of its president.



29. **812 Circle Drive** (c.1895).

The Classical Revival style house was built for the F.Q. Tervin family by the well-known local architect, Duncan Gillis. It is the only known house in the area with reverse mansard eaves.



30. **836 Circle Drive** (c.1910).

The Classical Revival style house was built by local architect and builder Duncan Gillis for his own home. However, it remained unfinished until it was sold by the family in 1945.



31. **854 Circle Drive** (c.1929).

This Masonry Vernacular style house is DeFuniak's only stucco house that meets requirements for listing on the National Register. It was built for D. Stuart Gillis, a well-known Circuit Judge of the First Judicial Circuit of Florida.



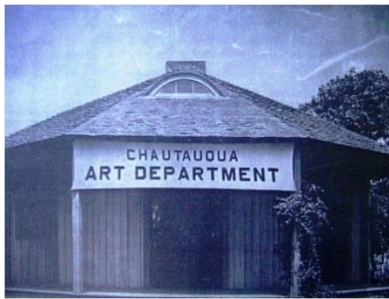
32. **1063 Circle Drive. First Presbyterian Church** (c.1923).

The original church was organized in 1883. The present building was completed in 1923 after the original sanctuary was destroyed by fire. It is one of two known buildings constructed of petronite blocks, which were being made in DeFuniak Springs in the early 1920s.



**33. 1140 Circle Drive - L&N Depot (c.1909).**

The first depot was built in 1884, as a very small single room building. The second larger one was built shortly after to accommodate the incoming traffic for Chautauqua. The current depot was built in 1909. As many as 4,000 passengers a day arrived at the station during the Chautauqua Era. The building is now owned by the City of DeFuniak Springs and serves as the home of the Walton County Heritage Museum.



**34. 1264 Circle Drive (c.1885).**

An original Chautauqua building, the OCTAGON COTTAGE was the arts and craft shop. It was later used as a childcare center for children whose parents attended Chautauqua. In 1906 Kenneth Bruce used it as his home while his new home was being built across the lake, by 1910; it had been remodeled for Wallace Bruce to live in while in DeFuniak in the winter.

**35. 1272 Circle Drive (c.1910).**

This Frame Vernacular style house was the home of the Dr. J.C. McSween family in the 1920s and was sold to Dr. R.B. Spires in the 1930s. Dr. Spires built the Lakeside Hospital next door and practiced medicine in Walton County until his death.



**36. 1290 Circle Drive (c.1938).**



This building served as Lakeside Hospital until 1973. The upper floor has been converted into a spacious living area which creatively incorporates many of the hospital's original features. Professional offices occupy the bottom floor.



**37. 3 Circle Drive Walton-DeFuniak Library (c.1886).**

The Library is the oldest structure in Florida built as a library and still serving that purpose. It houses the Bruce collection of armor and other interesting artifacts. (See nearby historical marker for additional details.)



**38. 14 Circle Drive (c.1887).**

The home WILE AWAY was built for W.J. Van Kirk, a land agent for the L&N Railroad. The three-story square bay is an unusual feature. Mr. Van Kirk's original plat for DeFuniak continues to be used for property descriptions.



**39. 62 Circle Drive (c.1907).**

The Queen Anne style house was built for Burruss Cawthon, a prominent local merchant. Outstanding features include the octagonal tower with tent-style roof, Doric pillars encircling the porch, hexagonal shingles on the upper story, central hip roof with four sloping gables, and the two-story bay.

**Off the Circle**



**40. 34 East Main Ave.**

Originally built for Timber man, and First National Bank of DeFuniak Springs founder Malcolm M Morrison.



**41. Home of A. P. Jones.**

One of DeFuniak's early business men.



**42. Thomas Industrial School, a Methodist Conference school.**

These two buildings located at 365 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and the home just north of it is all that remain of the Thomas Industrial School. Florida's 30<sup>th</sup> Governor Fuller Warren graduated from both Walton High School and Thomas Industrial School in DeFuniak Springs.

**Inventory of Ecotourism Sites  
Historic Highway 90 Corridor  
Walton County, Florida**

## **Guided Eco Adventures**

### ***Coffeen Nature Host Guided tour – Nature Preserve***

Contact: Susan Paladini at (850) 622-3700.

As many people buzz up and down U.S. Highway 98 in Santa Rosa Beach, few ever notice the small entrance signs to the Coffeen Nature Preserve and Four Mile Village. Nestled just east of Topsail Beach and Racquet Resort and just west of Topsail Hill Preserve State Park, however, is a 210-acre protected land trust chock full of local history.

Robert Busnell of Massachusetts purchased the parcel in his mother's name, Mary in 1944. Although the land had already been timbered, he recognized the natural beauty of the rolling dunes and panoramic views of the Gulf of Mexico.

However, shortly after purchasing the land it the Army/Air Force took acquisition of the land for a top-secret military operation.

Chosen for its elevated sand dune ridge, Coffeen became the testing site of the JB-2 missile, the America-built version of the famous German V-1 "buzz bomb" that destroyed thousands of lives in Great Britain during WWII.

### ***Guide Services – Choctawhatchee River fishing tours, eco tours and kayak/canoe rentals in Ebro Bed and Breakfast located on the river***

Contact Kathryn Hardy – (850) 835-1784 [choctawlodgeretreat.com](http://choctawlodgeretreat.com)

When Ron and Kathryn Hardy of Panama City Beach walked into Sandi's Feed and Seed in Lynn Haven back in 2009, they had little idea about how dramatically their lives were about to change.

Spotting a small index card on a bulletin board with a message "Riverfront Property For Sale," the couple decided to find out more about an area they knew little about, the Choctawhatchee River.

Both of them grew up as "river rats," according to Kathryn, who grew up along the Ocmulgee River in southeast Georgia and Ron near the Tensaw River in the Mobile River Delta in Alabama. After marrying, the couple would frequently go all the way to the Mobile area for their river weekend getaways.



The property for sale had nothing more than a small singlewide trailer situated right along the river. It did however, have a great porch with a spectacular view, and the couple were immediately taken – hook, line and sinker. They purchased the property and began spending every weekend on the river.

### **Head out to the Choctawhatchee River with Backwater Tours**

Interested in exploring a tucked away crystal clear spring on the Choctawhatchee River? Head out and discover nature at its best on with a river cruise with Backwater Tours.

Captain Andy Coleman knows the Choctawhatchee River waterways and shares stories of its history as a major thoroughfare for logging and commerce. Living here and exploring the area since 1976, Capt. Andy will take you to some tucked away places only the locals know. One of those special places is a spring run with clear, cool water.

Explore the spring run on a YOLO board with Backwater tours. Lori Ceier/Walton Outdoors

The vessel is a 26 ½ ft. Panga that glides through the water smooth and easy. A nature lover himself, Capt. Andy also enjoys exploring the water on a YOLO stand up paddle board. He will bring a few boards along to explore the crystal clear waters of a spring run.

The vessel can hold up to six adventurers, and snacks and drinks are provided. Four hour and two hour tours are available. The boat launches from the Point Washington boat ramp on CR395 in Santa Rosa Beach.

Expect to see a variety of wading birds, osprey, turtles, and maybe a gator or two. Head out and explore the real Florida with Backwater Tours.

Call YOLO Board Adventures to book a trip at 850-419-6188, or call Andy directly at 850-865-0420.

### **Take a fly fishing adventure with a master from Old Florida Outfitters**

#### ***Guided tour – Fly fishing charters and instruction***

Contact Jason Stacy at (850) 534-4343

[oldfloridaoutfitters.com](http://oldfloridaoutfitters.com)

In our fast paced world, it is reassuring to know that a few great sports stand the test of time. One popular ancient sport, fly fishing, dates as far back as the 2nd century.

The fine art of fly fishing is thriving in the Walton County area thanks to Freeport resident Jason Stacy. Working at Old Florida Outfitters in Santa Rosa Beach, Stacy is the shop's in-house expert on the sport. Not only does he instruct a fly fishing school, he also offers a guide service and is the fly tying expert at the outfitter.

Fly tying is the process of producing an artificial fly used by anglers to catch fish in shallow water. Fly-tying is a process of binding various materials to a hook using thread such as chenille, rubber, feathers and foam. The design replicates various insects, reptiles or crustaceans that fish feed on.

**Walton County area farm offers fresh vegetables, camping, fishing, agritourism and more**  
***Guide/Self Guide Services – Fishing, camping, farm tour***

Contact Luke Langford at (850) 685-5890 [www.cypresscattle.com](http://www.cypresscattle.com)

2890 R. M. Ward Rd., Ponce De Leon, FL.

Tucked away near Ponce de Leon, straddling Walton/Holmes County line, sits 1,100 acres of rolling hills, magnificent live oaks, cypress ponds, pastures and acres of fresh produce.

Cypress Cattle Company has been a family-run farm for generations. W.J. Sapp started in the family business in the 1920s farming sugar cane and potatoes. The farm then migrated to dairy until 1991, when they switched to cattle farming, which is its mainstay to this day

Now managed by Sapp's great-great nephew, Luke Langford, and his father Ken, Cypress now offers farm tours, primitive camping and fishing on any of their seven ponds for crappie, bass and bream. And, in keeping with all things fresh, Cypress now commercially grows produce, selling locally.

**Get aboard Nonie's Ark for a wildlife adventure**

***Guide Services – Environmental education parties and guided evening hikes for children***

**Local wildlife educator makes learning about wildlife a fun event**

Contact: [noniesark.com](http://noniesark.com)

Walton County resident Nonie Maines has loved wildlife as long as she can remember. Growing up in South Florida, Nonie's step-father would bring home unwanted or abandoned exotic pets while working as a pool installer. Nonie and her mother would nurse the critters back to health and raise them.

Learning about animal husbandry along the way, Nonie went on to get a summer job at the animal nursery at Busch Gardens right out of high school. Her career has been wrapped around animal care and education ever since.

Nonie's love for animals is what inspired her to create Nonie's Ark wildlife encounter parties, geared for children ages 5-11.

Nonie calls herself an "edutainer," part educator, part entertainer. With more than 30 animals in her repertoire, Nonie educates children about wildlife and the risks involved in owning exotic pets. Children interact with the animals as Nonie explains the animal's biology. Wildlife included in her shows may include a tarantula, turtle, snake, frog, severe macaw and a hissing cockroach.

**A peaceful journey for nature lovers awaits at the Shoal Sanctuary**

***Host guided tour – Nature preserve in North Walton***

Contact: Robert and Chris Larson: *Call first for reservations:* Phone: (850) 651-0392

For more information, go to: [www.ShoalSanctuary.com](http://www.ShoalSanctuary.com)

Tucked away off the beaten path in north Walton County there is a unique outdoor experience for nature lovers called the Shoal Sanctuary.

Located on 50 acres of trails, sculptures and serene vistas, proprietors Robert and Chris Larson welcome visitors to their retreat dedicated to sharing the beauty of the outdoor experience and appreciation of Mother Nature's gifts.

Recorded history dates back to the 1830s. The property is believed to have been along the path of the "Trail Of Tears." After the U.S. government's "Indian Removal Act," Cherokee, Seminole, Creek, Timuquan, Muskogean, and Apalachee were forced migrate west, and lore sites a leg of that journey along the old Indian footpath now called Crowder Chapel Road near the retreat. Local Native Americans have said that Shoal Sanctuary was once a ceremonial gathering place.

**Seacrest Wolf Preserve provides safe haven for displaced gray wolves and an experience not easily forgotten**

***Host guided tour – Gray wolf preserve, Chipley, Fla.***

Contact: Cynthia Watkins (850) 773-2897 [www.seacrestwolfpreserve.org](http://www.seacrestwolfpreserve.org)

Cynthia Watkins, owner of the Seacrest Wolf Preserve has been fond of animals as long as she can remember. A show breeder of Siberian Huskies early on in her career, she became interested in the conservation of wolves in the 1980s. In 1995, Cynthia became involved with the Yellowstone National Park Wolf Reintroduction Program where she experienced her first physical contact with a wolf.

"The experience stoked the fire of conservation in my heart," Cynthia said beaming with enthusiasm for the animals.

What started off as a small conservation effort in 1999, Cynthia and her husband Wayne now care for 25 pure gray wolves along with several other animals at their preserve.

The primary goal of the Seacrest Wolf Preserve is to provide a safe, humane habitat for displaced wolves. Their interpretive educates visitors on their beauty, intelligence and importance of the animal's role as a keystone species in their natural environment.

**A journey to the Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve**

***Host guided tour – Nature Preserve, North Walton***

Contact John Wilkerson: Call ahead for reservations: (850) 859-2141, [www.glendalenaturepreserve.org](http://www.glendalenaturepreserve.org)

Up in the Northern part of Walton County sits an extraordinary and interesting place called the Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve. What a great morning I had off the beaten path, exploring living things, rusted things, and eco-friendly methods of laying the deceased to rest. Where else can you find a bamboo farm, Rustaphorian sculptures, a chufa farmer and a green burial ground?

John Wilkerson, along with his brother Bill and John's better half, Barbara run the Preserve, and offer the only green burial option available in Northwest Florida. Not only can you acquire this eco-friendly option, the Wilkerson's offer what John calls "the perfect eco coup."