

# ECHOES



The  
Escambia  
County  
Historical  
Society,  
Founded  
1971

**The April Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2019**  
**McMillan Museum**  
**Coastal Alabama Community College**  
**Brewton Campus**  
**3:00 p. m.**



**Charlie Ware**

**The Program: “Some Interesting People of Escambia County,” presented by Charlie Ware.**

Charlie will present pictures and stories of people who have played a significant part in the history of the county. This material reflects his research on the history of Escambia

County as part of the collection of material by ECHS possibly to be used as a book to commemorate the state’s bicentennial.

Pilot, author, Charlie is known for his articles that regularly appear in ECHOES and in the Atmore Magazine. He has presented several programs for ECHS on AlaFlora, the Alabama POW Camps, and Macedonia.

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**Women and Children in Pavilion at Montevallo Around 1890**



**From Civil War Data Base at ADAH Which Is Now Complete**

**Volume 46 No. 4**

**April 2019**

**The May Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 29, 2019**

**Program: Dana Thrower will present a program on Peru, showing her collection of items representing Peru’s culture.**

**“Dues” are Due**

**\$50.00/person**

**\$70.00/ family at same address**

**Lifetime, \$500.00/person**

**\$100.00/year business**

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# A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County, Alabama

Images and Texts are from Charlie Ware's Portraits of Interesting People of Escambia County. This newsletter for this month will have part of the collection and the rest will be in the May issue.

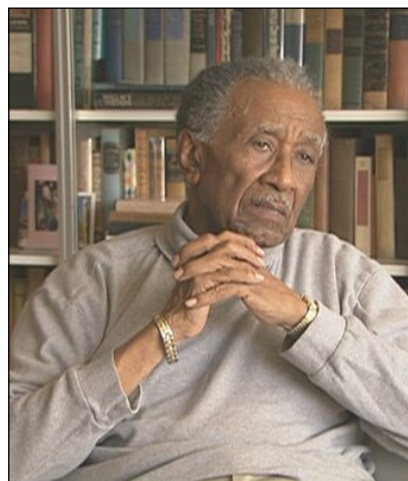


**A. M. Lowery  
(1855-1938)  
(Canoe-  
Minister)  
A. M. Lowery  
and his  
Wife Millie on  
their wedding  
Day.**



**Alamo Joe  
(Born around 1813, Last Reported in 1875)  
Only Male Survivor of Battle at the Alamo.**

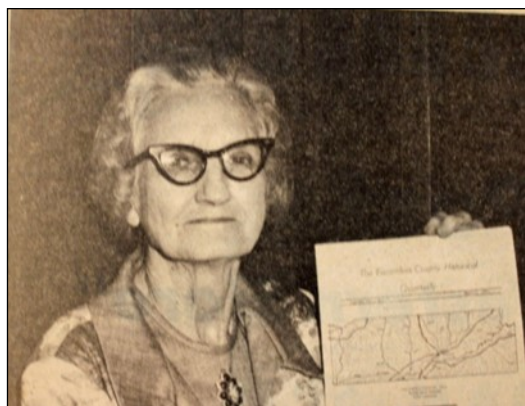
**Scene is from a wall panel in the Alamo  
depicting Joe following Commander Travis  
into battle.**



**Albert Lee  
Murray  
(1916-2013)  
(Nokomis)  
  
Music, Social,  
and  
Literary Critic-  
Author**

**Andrew Jackson  
Hall, Sr.  
(Born in 1823 near  
Oak Grove, Florida)  
(Canoe)**

**Early Settler-  
Founder of Canoe**



**Annie C. Waters  
(1910-1985)  
(Brewton)**

**Teacher-Historian  
Author of the History of Escambia  
County Alabama**

# A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County, Alabama

(Continued from page 2)



**Bobby Lynn Brantley**  
(Born in 1948)  
(Atmore)

**Attorney-  
Politician-  
Lieutenant  
Governor of  
Florida**



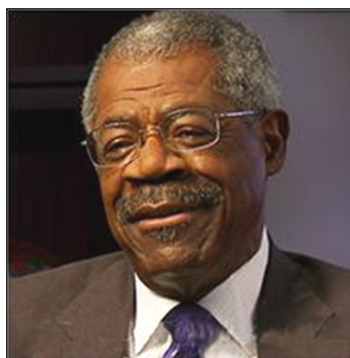
**Buford L. Rolin**  
(Born in 1940)  
(Atmore)

**Creek Indian  
Leader**



**Calvin Culliver**  
(Born in 1955)  
(East Brewton)

**Football Star**



**Carl E. Singley**  
(1946)  
(Brewton)

**Attorney-Dean  
of Temple  
University Law  
School**



**Carl Madison**  
(Born 1931)  
(Atmore)

**High School  
Football Coach**



**Charles Sowell**  
(1835-1919)  
(Brewton)

**Businessman**



**Chief Calvin McGhee**  
(1903-1970)  
(Poarch)

**Creek Indian  
Leader**



**Claude D. Kelley**  
(1907-1998)  
(Atmore)

**Conservationist**

(Continued on Page 4)



# A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County, Alabama

(Continued from Page 3)



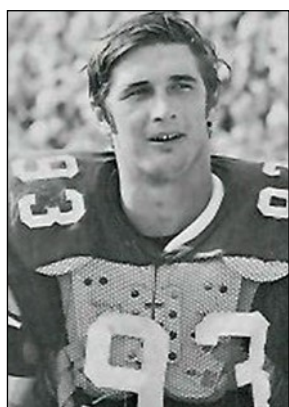
**Col. Charles S.  
Overstreet, Jr.  
(1917-1992)  
(Brewton)**

**Military Leader**



**Col. David B.  
Andrews  
(Born in  
Melbourne,  
Fla., in 1929,  
grew up in  
Atmore)**

**Military Leader**



**Danny Sanspree  
(Atmore,  
a 1969 Graduate  
of Escambia  
County High  
School)**

**Football Star**



**Deanna Jackson  
(Brewton)  
(Born in Selma in  
1979, came to  
Brewton at an  
early age)**

**Professional  
Basketball Player**



**Dewitt Lowery  
(Atmore)  
(1922-2015)**

**World War II  
Soldier-Band of  
Brothers**



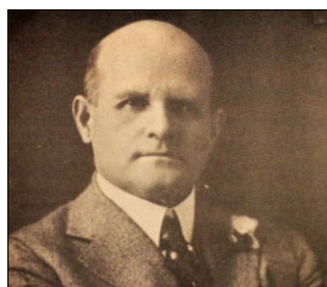
**Don McNeal  
(1958)  
(Atmore)**

**Football Player-  
Community  
Activist**



**Dr. Brad  
Lamont  
Steenwyk  
(Brewton, a  
1991 Graduate  
of Southern  
Normal)**

**Physician-  
Associate  
Professor**



**Dr. Daniel Walter  
(D.W.) McMillan  
(Born in 1869)  
(Brewton)**

**Physician-  
Philanthropist**

(Continued on page 5)

# A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County, Alabama

(Continued from page 4)



**Dr. Darryl Searcy**  
(Born in Conecuh County, spent early years in Missouri, returned to Brewton and graduated from W. S. Neal High School)  
(Brewton)

**Botanist**



**Dr. Edward Osborne (E.O.) Wilson**  
(Born in 1929 in Birmingham, Alabama and lived in several southern towns, including Brewton)

**Biologist-Pulitzer Prize Winner**



**Dr. Earl H. "Buddy" Weaver**  
(1938-2006)  
(Brewton)

**Educator-Businessman)**

**Dr. Frank M. Phillippi**  
(1916-2005)  
(Brewton)

**Physician-Community Leader**

*(No Photograph Available)*



**Dr. Joe A. Lee**  
(Born in Brewton in 1946, graduate of Southern Normal)

**University President**



**Dr. Magnolia "Maggie" Jackson**  
(Graduate of Southern Normal in 1965)  
(Brewton)

**College Professor-Social Activist**



**Dr. Manford Byrd, Jr.**  
(Born in Brewton in 1929)

**Educator**



**Dr. Margaret A. Breland Bradley**  
(Grew up in Brewton, was a 1965 graduate of Southern Normal)

**Educator**

(Continued on page 6)



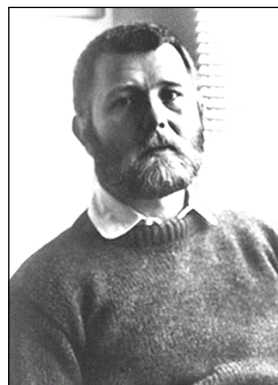
## A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County

(Continued from page 5)



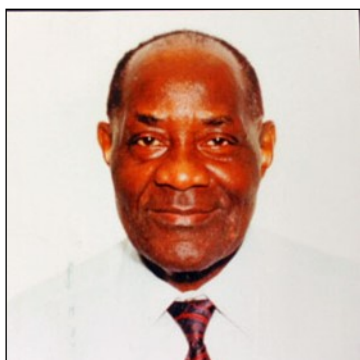
**Dr. Mary De Shields**  
(Valedictorian of her class in 1977 at Southern Normal, Brewton)

**Physician-Medical Research**



**Dr. Michael McDowell**  
(1950-1999)  
(Born in Enterprise but spent much of his youth in Brewton)

**Novelist and Screenwriter**



**Dr. Sam Lewis**  
(Grew up in Brewton in the forties, graduated from Southern Normal)

**Physician**



**Dr. Samuel Odom**  
(Native of Brewton, earned PhD in 2011 from Capella University)

**Professor-Counselor**



**Dr. Shirley Lewis-Brown**  
(A native of Brewton, graduated from Southern Normal in 1965)

**Nurse-Educator-Navy Captain**



**Dr. William R. Harvey**  
(A native of Brewton, graduated from Southern Normal in 1957)

**University President-Businessman**



**Dr. Valda Bettis Chijide**  
(Born in the community of Sunflower, Alabama in 1959, graduated from Southern Normal in 1978)

**Physician**



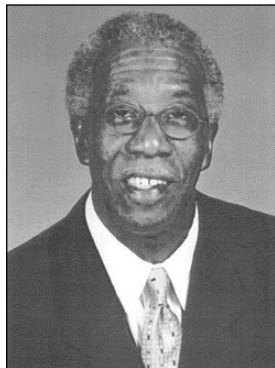
**Dr. Wilmer Baker**  
(Born in Atmore in 1935, graduated from Escambia County High School in 1952)

**Minister-Psychologist-Educator**

(Continued on page 7)

# A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County, Alabama

(Continued from page 6)



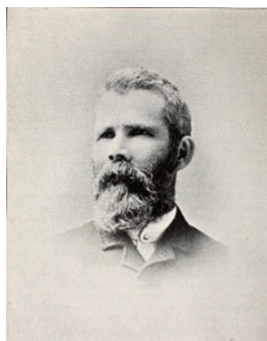
**Dr. Woodrow M. Parker**  
(A native of Atmore and a 1959 graduate of Escambia County Training School)  
**Educator-Author**



**Eddie L. Tullis**  
(Born in 1938 in Mobile, graduated from Earnest Ward High School in Walnut Hill, is now a resident of Poarch)  
**Creek Indian Leader**



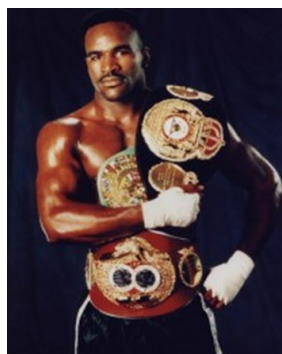
**Drs. Douglas Littles (PhD) and Marcia Jenkins Littles (MD)**  
(Natives of Brewton, both graduated from Southern Normal in 1967)  
**College President-Physician**



**Elisha Downing (1837-1918)**  
(Brewton)  
**Businessman, Owner of Cedar Creek Lumber Co. which eventually became T.R. Miller Lumber Co.**



**Ed Leigh McMillan, II (1940-2012)**  
(A native of Brewton, graduated from T. R Miller High School in 1958)  
**Forester-Businessman-Philanthropist**



**Evander Holyfield**  
(Born in Atmore in 1962, His family later moved to Atlanta where he began boxing at the local Boys' Club)  
**Boxer, only five-time World Heavyweight Champion**



**Ed Leigh McMillan (1888-1977)**  
(Brewton)  
**Attorney-Businessman-Community Leader**



**Floyd Adams**  
(A native of Atmore, 1952 graduate of Escambia County High School)  
**Baseball Coach, received the Louisville Slugger Award for outstanding service and contribution to baseball**



# A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County, Alabama

(Continued from page 7)



**Fred Snowden  
(1936-1994)**  
(Born in Brewton, the son of a share-cropper. at age six moved to Detroit )

**College Basketball Coach-Businessman, at U of Arizona, first African-American to be head coach at a major college.**



**George R. Swift, Sr.  
(1887-1972)**  
(Born in Baldwin County, came to Atmore and formed Swift-Hunter Lumber Co. in 1922)

**Businessman-Politician**



**Gail Thrower  
(1943-2011)**  
(Atmore)

**Creek Indian Leader, worked to preserve the heritage and culture of Poarch Indians, instrumental in achieving federal recognition.**



**George Robinson  
(Robin) Swift, Jr.  
(1928-2003)**  
(Atmore)

**Businessman-Politician**  
(Known as a dedicated public servant, his primary career was in the lumber business as the owner of Swift Lumber Company which he purchased from his father in 1955 and modernized and expanded.)



**Gen. Clarence E. Beck  
(Born in Atmore, graduated from Escambia County High School in 1933, passed away in 1997)**

**Army General-Honolulu City Planner**



**Glenn Emmons (right) is congratulated by Undersecretary of the Interior Ralph Tudor (left) after Emmons was sworn in as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Mrs. Emmons (center) looks on.**

**Glenn L. Emmons  
(1913-1984)**

**(Born in Atmore, his family moved to Albuquerque during his teenage years)**

**U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs 1953-1961**

(

Continued on page 9)



## News and Announcements



### **ECHS Loses Long-time Member Margaret Collier in March**

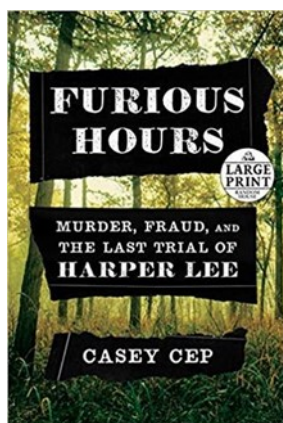
Resident of Century, the Co-founder of the Alger Sullivan Historical Society, Margaret was born in Groveland Massachusetts but had

lived in northwest Florida since 1951.

Margaret was an enthusiastic supporter of ECHS as well as The Alger Sullivan Society. She participated in ECHS's "Show and Tell" programs and often contributed to the refreshments served at meetings. Always a pleasure to visit with at meetings, she will be missed.



**Margaret enjoying refreshments and a visit with Darryl Searcy at an ECHS Meeting.**



### **Author Casey Cep to Present Book Talk at the Archives on May 7 at 6:00 P.M**

*From the Alabama Department of Archives and History:*

On Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m., author Casey Cep will present a book talk on her new publication Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last

Trial of Harper Lee at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in Montgomery. Admission is FREE.

Casey Cep's highly anticipated new book Furious Hours is the stunning story of an Alabama serial killer and the true crime book that Harper Lee

worked on in the years after To Kill a Mockingbird. Reverend Willie Maxwell was a rural preacher in Alabama accused of murdering five of his family members for insurance money in the 1970s. With the help of a savvy lawyer, he escaped justice for years until a relative shot him dead at the funeral of his last victim.

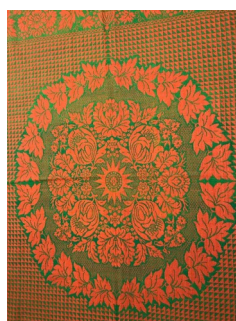
Despite hundreds of witnesses, Maxwell's murderer was acquitted—thanks to the same attorney who had previously defended the Reverend. Sitting in the audience during the vigilante's trial was Harper Lee, who had traveled from New York City to her native Alabama with the idea of writing a true-crime novel. Lee spent many years working on her own version of the case.

Now Cep brings this story to life, from the shocking murders and the courtroom drama to the racial politics of the Deep South. At the same time, she offers a deeply moving portrait of one of the country's most beloved writers and her struggles with fame, success, and the mystery of artistic creativity.

Casey Cep is a writer from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. After graduating from Harvard with a degree in English, she earned a M. Phil in Theology from Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Her work has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, and The New Republic, among other publications.

This is her first book and this event will be Cep's first presentation of the book in Alabama. Copies of Furious Hours will be sold at the event. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the book talk, call Alex Colvin (334) 353-468.



### **Food For Thought for May 16 - Elizabeth Findley Shores will present "Finding Family History: The Secrets in an Antique Coverlet."**

The coverlet, pictured, is now part of the textile collection at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

In this presentation, Shores will explore both the relics and the rituals of her grandmother Earline's life as a small-city matron in the Deep South.

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## News and Announcements

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Tuscaloosa is the “small city.”

Her story presents an engaging portrayal of the complexities of life and class identity during the Jim Crow era in the American South.

Elizabeth Findley Shores is a native of Tuscaloosa and now resides in Arkansas

The program begins at 12:00 and the public is

invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. Admission to Food for Thought is always free.

To learn more, visit <[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)> or call (334) 242-4364.

## Snapshots of the ECHS March 2019 Meeting



### Before the Program

**Foreground, Front Row, L to R, Ranella Merritt, Al and Carol Jokela; Second Row, L to R, Buck and Debbie Quarles, and Robin and Jo Brewton; Back Row, Lee Merritt; Background, Front Row, Jacque Stone; Second Row, Barbara Page, Judy Purcell, Susan Crawford, and Ann Biggs-Williams; Back Row, Blake and June Martin.**



**Back Row, L to R, Darryl Searcy, Charlie Ware, and Lee Merritt: Front Row, L to R, Buck and Debbie Quarles, Robin and Jo Brewton, and Al Jokela.**



## Snapshots of the ECHS March 2019 Meeting *(Continued)*



**Barbara Page**



**Debbie and Buck Quarles enjoying the refreshments.**



**Guest Speaker Mike Brock making a point during his presentation**



**The beautiful refreshment table**



**Jo Brewton and Carol Jokela**



**John Angel (standing), visiting with Susan Crawford and Ann Biggs-Williams.**



## Snapshots of the ECHS March 2019 Meeting *(Continued)*



**Don Sales (Standing) Visits with the Speaker Mike Brock.**



**The Eagle Claw Maple which will be planted on the College campus to honor Darryl Searcy.**



**Dawn Merritt and Jacque Stone.**



**George Washington watches over ECHS members L to R, Al and Carol Jokela, Barbara Page, Judy Purnell and Ann Biggs-Williams.**



# The ECHS *journal* Section

## What Do Canada Geese, A Pot-bellied Pig, and an Invasive South American Skullcap Have in Common?

**By Darryl Searcy**

Let's begin by stating simply that all three have been recently sighted as taking habitat on the Brewton campus of Coastal Alabama College. All are in certain demand, whether as wild game, unique pet, or a tiny garden nuisance that is being tracked by all our major universities throughout the country.

First, a pair of **Canada Geese**, known to ornithologists as *Branta canadensis* was sighted on the lawn at the Fine Arts Building, where our own museum coordinator photographed the couple parading on freshly mown grass in search of food, seemingly in no hurry to lift off and join an overhead "V" formation in its spring pilgrimage to the north country. That is for a reason, as the ambling pair may well have taken refuge in our area as a natural habitat.

The Canada Goose, also known incorrectly as the "Canadian Goose" (Ganso de Canadá - en Espanola), is widely distributed across Canada and the United States, as well as a very thin line of territory south of the Rio Grande. While the Canada Goose is well known for flying in a distinctive V-formation and having a loud "honk" and unmistakable looks, it is usually expected to keep to a migrating flock. It is little known that a huge population of *Branta canadensis* is quite happy to remain in our warmer climate, mate for life, and raise a nest of cute little goslings every year.

Have you heard the expression of "What's



**The Canada Goose**

good for the goose is also good for the gander"? So it is, as their habits and their markings are virtually the same. Whereas the gander can reach upwards to 14-15 pounds at full maturity, the goose is slightly smaller at 8-10 pounds, but both might have a wing spread of up-

wards to 5 feet. To identify, males and females have very similar plumage; head and neck are black, with bold white cheek patch. The body is grey-brown and the under tail feathers are white. In flight both let loose with a series of loud honks, but when in "V" formation, you can be sure a strong male is at the point.

The Canada Goose is the most familiar and widespread goose in North America; found in all kinds of water all across the continent, from the tundra to the Gulf Coast. Some populations have become resident in urban areas, and often come into conflict with people. It is also little known that the species is locally common throughout the lowlands of the state in the wetlands and waterways, cities, and agricultural areas. Their habitat preference includes ponds, lakes, rivers, grain fields, fresh and saltwater marshes, wherever it finds an assortment of its favorite aquatic plants, small aquatic animals, grass, and grains.

When it's time that the lady feels the urge to get in the family way, the couple builds a large mound of vegetation such as grass and cattail stems lined with down taken from him

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# The ECHS *journal* Section

## What Do Canada Geese, A Pot-bellied Pig, and an Invasive South American Skullcap Have in Common?

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and herself. The nest is usually located within sight of water. Four to seven white eggs make up a typical clutch and incubation is done solely by the female. The gander zealously guards the nest and will attack any intruders. Incubation takes 25 to 30 days and the goslings are led to water within a day after hatching. The little ones stay with the parents until the following spring. The female is always at the front of the clutch while the gander takes up the rear. The gander is a fierce defender of his mate and offspring, and will charge any suspected enemy, even one as large as an elephant. Mated pairs can be together as long as 20 years, but should a partner die, the other is quick to join a migrating group of its own kind and find a new mate.

Scientists think that the reason these birds fly in the V-formation is due to what is known as the 'drafting effect'. Basically, this helps the birds to conserve their energy while flying long distances. The leader in the front splits the air current (and at the same time uses the most energy). When he tires, he moves to the back then another gander takes over the lead spot.

Migrating birds usually follow the same path every year. These paths are called routes or flyways. The flyways used by the Canada Goose are: the Atlantic flyway (along the east coast of North America), the Mississippi flyway (named after the river), the Central flyway (along the Rocky Mountains) and the Pacific flyway (west of the Rockies). Of course, there are times when human activities confuse the fliers, as was the case a few years

back when a flock put down on I-75 while passing over Georgia during a rain storm. Traffic backed up for miles, both north and southbound, while the birds took a rest and feasted on Georgia grasshoppers. The rain stopped and the flock lifted off to continue their journey to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

Some migratory populations of the Canada Goose are not going as far south in the winter as they used to. This northward range shift has been attributed to changes in farm practices that make waste grain more available in fall and winter, as well as changes in hunting pressure and changes in weather.

So now test time is upon us - Did you know? The female is called a goose and the male is a gander. The young are known as goslings. The northern birds form flocks to fly south for the winter, but sometimes the warm winters are so accommodating a few pairs decide to stay.

The Canada goose has webbed feet for swimming. A group of geese has many collective nouns, including a "flock", "chevron", and "string" of geese.

**The Pot-bellied Pig, aka Potbellied Pig, aka Vietnamese Pot-bellied (*Sus scrofa domestica*)**

The Vietnamese Pot-bellied is an exonym (an external name for a geographical place, a group of people, an individual person, or a language or dialect) for the "Lon I" or "I pig." As a food source, the pig has become an endangered traditional Vietnamese breed of small domestic pig. It is uniformly black and has short legs and a low-hanging belly, from

(Continued on page 15)



# The ECHS *journal* Section

## What Do Canada Geese, A Pot-bellied Pig, and an Invasive South American Skullcap Have in Common?

*(Continued from page 14)*

which the name derives. In Asia the pig is reared for its meat. Though slow-growing, the meat has a good, and exceptional flavor. In North America the little fellow is treated as a pet. It has a friendly nature and curiosity for anything-everything that moves and likes to play. A few “T” pigs, if any, are raised as a food source in North America, but they cannot compete with the more popular breeds of hog in this country: Yorkshire (all white), Poland China (black with white spots), Birkshire, Hampshire, and Big Chinas (up to 6 feet long and really heavy).

So, a pot-bellied pig was seen wandering around the Coastal Alabama campus, garnering playful amusement among the students, and like a wide-eyed puppy looked the students up and down, making friends, with probable hopes of a food handout. A couple of young women approached the museum coordinator and asked if he had seen the pig. He replied that he thought there was already a bar-b-que in process near the library courtyard. With teary eyes the ladies gasped that they came to see the pig and not to eat it.

The pot-bellied pig isn't the 200 pound variety you'd find on a farm, but a smaller breed that makes a pretty good pet. Think about this: George Clooney famously cared for a pot-bellied pig named Max for more than 18 years. If it was good enough for what's his name, it should certainly be good



**The Pot Bellied Pig**

enough for the rest of us. These squealers are relatively odor-free and easy to train. Police departments have even used pot-bellied pigs as drug sniffers, because of their trainability and the fact that they have an amazing sense of smell.

So what do these outrageous sniffer hogs like to eat? Well, it's a regimented schedule actually, so exercise

and mealtimes should be the same every day, and mind you - not just when you feel like it, but if you started this pig's regimen at 10:00 a.m., you need to keep it up or it becomes disgruntled - like feeding an infant. According to our veterinary expert, Dr. John Grider, at the Monroeville Pet Clinic, who has one that takes free range throughout his exam room, the pet cages and his surgery. “They have a tendency to become obese,” Dr. Grider says, “so it's important to maintain a balanced diet and make sure that they get plenty of exercise. Pot-bellies can be trained to walk on leashes, so you can walk your pig the same way you would walk a dog for daily activity. If you start it on hog mash, dog food, or whatever, keep it up - no changes, thank you very much!”

Pot-bellies are intelligent and affectionate animals, but they might not make great pets for everyone. For one thing, the pot-belly likes to be the center of attention, so one pig is enough for any family. According to the Merck Veterinarian Manual, this sense of

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# The ECHS *journal* Section

## What Do Canada Geese, A Pot-bellied Pig, and an Invasive South American Skullcap Have in Common?

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importance can lead to aggressive behavior. Therefore, this peculiar pet doesn't make a good match for a family with small children. The pot-belly also loves to root and can destroy carpet, if yours is an indoor pet. And it's worth stating that this pet is not a good choice for anyone who takes pride in a perfectly manicured lawn.

So now you have it, Mr. Coastal Alabama, what do you plan on doing with it? We at the Escambia County Historical Society say: "Find it a good home where it can root, bask in the sun, and grunt in total bliss for the rest of its natural life."

**South American Skullcap (*Scutellaria racemosa*)** Mint, family - therein is a mouth full, to say the least. The plant was first seen as this person was about to enter the Fine Arts Building. A tiny flicker of color was noticed and I stashed my bundles to the side to get a better look-see. My first thought was that it was a miniature Japanese Mazus, but on closer inspection what I saw was new to me, which discovery was reason to get pictures, as well as take a small specimen for study.

Here's what I found. The plant is commonly known as "Blue Skullcap, Mad Dog Skullcap, and Side-flowering Skullcap, native to South America, but over the decades has escaped to North America and is considered extremely invasive. So, how was



**South American Skullcap**

it discovered on the Coastal Alabama, Brewton campus?

As stated above, pictures were taken and specimens harvested. A short essay to that effect follows, along with many thanks of appreciation to the young ladies who were willing to snap the photographs for me, as they displayed hands far more steady than my own.

When I inquired as to their being at the Fine Arts Building location, and hoping that I would not delay their classroom routine, I was told that they had heard about a loose pig on the grounds and they wanted to see it first hand.

Thanks ladies. I am grateful for your help. This is what you helped me uncover.

After adjusting photos to a size approximately 20x the actual size of the specimen, the following description was offered to the Freeman Herbarium in these scientific terms. The plant specimen taken is a weak-stemmed perennial herb, freely branched, rhizomatous; slender, quadrangular, glabrous to sparingly covered with long soft hairs. The leaves are petiolate (stalked); blades are lance-like to lanceolate-hastate, glabrous (smooth) or nearly so, gland dotted beneath. The apex is acute; base obtuse to rounded; margins entire, often enrolled, to 3 mm long.

The flowers are slender, about 12 mm long, pedicels about 3 mm long. The calyx is tuberosus to hispidulous, at flowering, 2 mm long, enlarging to 3 mm long in fruit. The corolla is small to about 6 mm long,

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# The ECHS *journal* Section

## What Do Canada Geese, A Pot-bellied Pig, and an Invasive South American Skullcap Have in Common?

(Continued from page 16)

variously colored violet to red or white with purple spots. The lower lip is often paler than the upper tube, which ascends to 4 mm long, widening to 20 mm at the throat; the lips are sub-equal. Stamens reach outward to the apex of the upper lip; the lower pair is attached about 2 mm above the base of the tube. The fruit is a nutlet about 1 mm long, pale brown, minutely rounded (tuberculate).

From the Alabama Plants website, the following information was garnered: This little species can be found in just a hand full of counties. The plant is easy to identify because of its ascending stems and tiny flowers. The flowers are one at each axil and paired at each node. The genus name derives from the Latin “scutella” meaning “a dish” in reference to the expanded fruiting calyx. The species name “racemosa” derives from the Latin “Raceme” meaning “a cluster” referring to the flowers.

It’s a little one, to be sure, with an upright growth habit of about 4 inches in maximum height. It’s also a wetland-loving species and grows near marshes, meadows, and other wet habitat. The tiny flowers are just under 1/8 inch long and appear along the stem and slender side branches. With that description and measurements in mind, is it any wonder that it would find habit among the lush grasses and ample moisture on the campus of Coastal Alabama in Brewton?

While the great universities of Alabama are keeping a keen eye on its invasive habits and requested specimen, which I eagerly obliged,

I am also compelled to take the subject a bit further and explain to our membership in laymen’s terms what this tiny piece of greenery is all about.

The Mad Dog Skullcap contains numerous medicinal properties and is an important sympathetic drug in other countries, Argentina and Chili in particular. The plant contains falconoid and is used in herbal medicines throughout South America, which is intended to be a mild sedative and sleep promoter. Indeed, its properties have been tested and analyzed in this country as well and found to possess the same chemistry as Germander, which is potentially damaging and destructive to liver cells. Luckily, the plant is so tiny and difficult to see, it has not yet proven to be a harmful plant, as humans are unlikely to notice it, let alone ingest it, aside from minute quantity. The flavonoids are found throughout the plant but are more concentrated in the leaves, and the concentrations are found to decrease slightly as the plant matures. The dried leaf is reported to contain about 50 mg of flavonoid per gram, and are readily extracted in a hot water tea.

Nevertheless, armed with this vague information, specimens were harvested and sent to Troy and Auburn universities for further identification and tracking purposes.

And now to conclude the story -- this is what Canada Geese, Pot-bellied Pigs, and South American Skullcap have in common. They are all found on the campus of Coastal Alabama Brewton.

**ECHOES**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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