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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON MAY 17 AT 12:00**  
**THE TRUE STORY OF KUDZU: THE VINE THAT NEVER TRULY ATE THE SOUTH**  
**PRESENTED BY BILL FINCH**

Montgomery, AL (5/4/2018)- *Food for Thought* continues another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History on **Thursday, May 17 at 12:00** when Bill Finch presents ***The True Story of Kudzu: The Vine that Never Truly Ate the South.***

Introduced from Asia in the late 19th century as a garden novelty, but not widely planted until the 1930s, kudzu is Alabama's most infamous weed. But is kudzu really the threat it is made out to be? This month, naturalist Bill Finch will discuss how kudzu became such a potent symbol of the South and how southerners became convinced that it would one day overtake everything. He will explore the myth of kudzu and attempt to dispel decades-old misconceptions that have skewed how locals and outsiders view our state's natural landscape.

Bill Finch is a writer and the principal conservation science advisor for the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation and senior fellow for the Ocean Foundation. He is widely recognized for his weekly column in Alabama newspapers, his Sunday morning radio program, and his television segments. Finch has been director of Mobile Botanical Gardens, conservation director of the Nature Conservancy in Alabama, and is an award-winning environmental journalist. His book, *Longleaf Far as the Eye Can See*, is in its third printing with University of North Carolina Press.

Admission to *Food for Thought* presentations is always **FREE**. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages will be provided. **For additional information call (334) 353-4689.**

*Food for Thought 2018* is sponsored by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and made possible with support from the daughters of Judge Alex A. Marks, in his memory.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov) or call (334) 242-4364.

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