

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
P.O. Box 300100
624 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 35130-0100

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sherrie Hamil
(334-353-4712)
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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
THE LAND OF ALABAMA BY JOHN HALL
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought will celebrate the *Year of Alabama History* through a series of sequential lectures in Alabama history by leading experts in the field. Join us for the first in the series at **noon on Thursday, January 15** as **John Hall** presents *The Land of Alabama*, a talk on the physical geography and geology of Alabama. This presentation will be held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

The varied landscape of the state is often taken for granted, but the state is the result of a half-billion years of changes. It has endured continental collision, the up-thrusting of a mountain range, deposition of a giant coastal plain—twice—and the recent massive erosion of its valleys. It has survived near-misses by glaciers, strikes by giant meteorites and its mountains being worn flat and thrust up again. Parts of it have been sea bottoms full of giant reptiles while dinosaurs roamed its hills and valleys. All this before the Indians arrived and made it theirs. This presentation will introduce the physical landscape of the state and set the stage for the talks to come in the rest of the 2009 ArchiTreats series.

John Hall is presently Curator of the new Black Belt Museum at the University of West Alabama. He is the retired chief naturalist at the University of Alabama - Museum of Natural History in Tuscaloosa and is a well-known Alabama naturalist and teacher. He specializes in the connections of science and history in Alabama. He is well-known for his programs on botanist William Bartram and the Sylacauga meteorite.

This ArchiTreats presentation is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4712.

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