



***Press Release***

For Immediate Release  
November 2, 2015

Contact: Georgia Ann Conner  
334.328.9088

**ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION  
*COLLARDS: A SOUTHERN TRADITION FROM SEED TO TABLE*  
BY EDWARD H. DAVIS**

*ArchiTreats: Food for Thought* concludes another year of interesting and informative talks on Alabama history at the **Alabama Department of Archives and History on Thursday, December 17 at noon**. Edward H. Davis will present *Collards: A Southern Tradition from Seed to Table*.

Collards may be the food that best tells the story of southern identity, for no other food is so unique to the South and so much a mix of cultural ancestries. Collards were brought to America by British settlers, but were a minor part of their cuisine. By the early 1800s, however, the culinary genius and folk nutritional wisdom of African American women and men pushed collards onto the main plates of Southern tables. This presentation is about this amazing, oftentimes under-appreciated, southern food staple.

Edward H. Davis grew up without collards in the heart of the Collard Belt, because his mother thought they smelled bad. In spite of this handicap, he grew up to become a cultural geographer, earning a PhD from the University of Illinois. Dr. Davis has studied cultural landscapes for 25 years, in places such as Guatemala, Belize, Ghana, Great Britain and Portugal. His favorite region, however, is the U.S. Deep South, much of which he and his colleague John T. Morgan have recently explored in search of seed savers with the help of a USDA Seed Exploration Grant. What they learned about collards almost makes up for his childhood deprivation. It became the valuable fodder for their new book, *Collards: A Southern Tradition from Seed to Table*, published this year by the University of Alabama Press. Dr. Davis is now a professor of geography at Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia.

This ArchiTreats presentation 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 brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission is always FREE!**

###

Alabama Department of Archives & History  
624 Washington Ave.

Montgomery, AL 36130  
[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)