



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Georgia Ann Conner
334.328.9088

ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
ALABAMA'S GOT THE BOLL WEEVIL BLUES
PRESENTED BY JAMES C. GIESEN

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of interesting and informative talks on Alabama history at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon** on Thursday, **December 19th** as award-winning author and historian Dr. James C. Giesen presents *Alabama's Got the Boll Weevil Blues*.

Between the 1890s and the early 1920s, the boll weevil slowly ate its way across the Cotton South from Texas to the Atlantic Ocean. By the early 20th century, it had invaded Alabama and was quickly decimating our state's cotton crop. Dr. Giesen, author of *Boll Weevil Blues: Cotton, Myth, and Power in the American South*, will explore how southerners misrepresented the invasion of the boll weevil. Central to his presentation is the odd case in Coffee County, where citizens built a monument to the insect in Enterprise in 1919. Join us this month to discover the many ways in which southerners learned---and didn't learn---the lessons taught by a voracious little beetle.

A native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Dr. James C. Giesen is a historian who specializes in the environmental and agricultural histories of the American South. His main interest has been attempting to understand the ways in which rural southerners represent their past. Dr. Giesen's book and articles have won a number of scholarly awards including the Deep South Book Prize, the Francis B. Simpkins Award, and the Vernon Carstensen Award. He is an associate professor of history at Mississippi State University where he directs the Center for the History of Agriculture, Science, and the Environment in the South. He and his wife, Mississippi State historian Dr. Anne Marshall, have two young children. Copies of Dr. Giesen's book, *Boll Weevil Blues: Cotton, Myth, and Power in the American South*, will be available for purchase on December 19th.

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.

###

Alabama Department of Archives & History
624 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36130
www.archives.alabama.gov