

Art, speakers added to Smithsonian exhibit

By Rebekah Davis
Limestone County Archivist

Athens-Limestone area people now have more ways to learn about the county's history as activities surrounding "The Way We Worked," the Smithsonian exhibit now open in Athens, have grown to include an art exhibit at the Limestone County Archives and a speaker series at the Limestone County Event Center.

Now on display at the Limestone County Archives is "How Have You Made Your Mark? A Study of Hands" by Morgan County artist Lee Nabors. The exhibit consists of approximately 50 oil paintings of the hands of North Alabama individuals demonstrating the way they work.

"Because each person's hand and handprint are uniquely theirs, I believe the hands are the symbol and thus the story of an individual's life and work," Nabors said. "As the focus of this project, the subject's hands will reflect the life, passions and influence that he/she has had or continues to have on the local and, in some cases, the global community."

Visitors are invited to view the paintings during regular hours at the Limestone County Archives, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Archives is located at 102 W. Washington Street in the former L&N Passenger Depot. For more information, visit www.leenabors.com.

Wednesday, Oct. 29, from noon to 1 p.m., the Brown Bag Lunch Speaker Series will continue on with "Alabama Cotton and Bemis Bags: Pieced into Quilt History" by Sarah Bliss Wright. Bring your own lunch and enjoy as Wright shares how Bemis Bro. Bag Company in Alabama, at one time the largest cotton bag manufacturer in the United States, influenced the textile industry as a whole through innovative research, development, and marketing.

The speaker series will conclude on Nov. 5 with "The Way Alabama Worked" by John Kvach, lead scholar for "The Way We Worked" in Alabama and professor of public history at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

"The Way We Worked," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition hosted by the Limestone County Archives, is open now through Nov. 8 at the Limestone County Event Center, 114 W. Pryor Street, Athens. Admission is free to the exhibit, which will be open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about The Way We Worked in Athens, and to stay up to date with latest events, visit www.thewayathensworks.com or contact Rebekah Davis at 256-233-6404 or thewayathensworks@gmail.com. To schedule a group tour, contact Misti Fillingame at 205-222-5408 or tourthewayathensworks@gmail.com.

###