

MY LIFE

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Annie's Mailbox
and Hints from
Heloise **3B**

SECTION B

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2013



A bald eagle rests on a branch above Lake Martin. JOHN DENNEY/SPECIAL TO THE ADVERTISER

Eagle artists capture *America's spirit*

By Nick Thomas | Special to the Advertiser

Eagles have always been viewed as iconic figures in human culture. The ancient Sumerians, the Romans and Napoleon all borrowed the awe-inspiring bird as a symbol of their own strength and greatness.

Unique to North America, the bald eagle was endorsed by the Continental Congress as a national emblem when the great seal of the United States was adopted in 1782. It was a natural choice for a proud, young nation about to spread its own wings of freedom and make its mark on the world.

Within two centuries, however, the widespread use of agricultural pesticides (DDT) brought the great birds to the edge of extinction across the U.S. By the 1960s, they were all but wiped out in Alabama.

"It is the consummate wildlife success story. They now nest on every large water body in the state, so it's not uncommon to see a bald eagle year round in Alabama."

KEITH HUDSON, wildlife biologist with the Division of Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.

Since reintroduction in the 1980s, they have become a common sight, majestically sweeping down from treetop nests to feed at rivers and lakes from the Appalachian foothills of north Alabama to the

Gulf shores.

"It is the consummate wildlife success story," said Keith Hudson, wildlife biologist with the Division of Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. "They now nest on every large water body in the state, so it's not uncommon to see a bald eagle year round in Alabama."

Bald eagles are, of course, anything but bald. Bald is a derivation of "balde," an Old English word meaning white, and used by the early colonists who admired the bird's glorious white head and neck feathers. Their fierce beauty, combined with their rise from near extinction, has also inspired countless artists to capture the bald eagle's symbolism in paintings, photographs, and sculpture.

Award-winning Mobile artist Ainsley

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Eagle

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McNeely (<http://sites.google.com/site/ainsleysgallery>) has painted Alabama's bald eagles from Mobile County to Lake Guntersville, and designed colorful posters for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ADECA.

"Eagles are one of my favorite subjects," said McNeely. "They are such powerful, magnificent creatures. Up close, you can see their proud carriage and that 'don't mess with me' look in their eyes — something I have always associated with the U.S. They are a powerful symbol for all Americans."

On canvas, few wildlife painters have surpassed the late Hartselle artist Larry Chandler's (larrychandlerart.com) stunning portrayal of the national symbol. In an interview with this writer three years before he passed away in 2007, Chandler spoke of the importance of capturing the eagles' eyes — portals to the very soul of these noble creatures.

"In most cases I will

paint the eyes first," Chandler said. "The entire focus of life, character, and mood are always in the eyes."

"Symbols of America since 9/11 have taken on an entirely different meaning than ever before," Chandler added. "The bald eagle is the single most known icon for freedom around the world."

While he also paints, Alexander City photographer John Denney (johnndenney.com) creates wildlife images on electronic media, and has photographed bald eagles near the River Region.

"Most bald eagles I photograph are on Lake Martin and all of the nests are accessible to the public except for one," said Denney. "I first started seeing them on the lake in about 2002 and they were a very rare sight. These days I see them on a fairly regular basis."

World-renowned sculptor Mike Curtis (mikecurtis.com) has been using bronze to depict bald eagles for 40 years, including a life-size bronze eagle installed earlier this year at the Birmingham Har-

bert Center to honor Alabama businessman Hall W. Thompson.

Currently based in northern Idaho, Curtis built his studio overlooking Lake Pend Oreille after observing a bald eagle during his first visit to the peaceful mountainside retreat.

"This beautiful and powerful eagle was perched high up in the tree and looking out over the land, as though protecting and keeping watch," Curtis recalled. "As an American citizen and a U.S. military veteran, I am inspired by the power and strength of the bald eagle and to portray these exciting and magnificent creatures in the most beautiful way possible."

With their patriotic symbolism, it's not surprising that depictions of the bald eagle have found their way into the offices of many public figures. The paintings and prints of Larry Martin (larrykmartin.com) have been presented to Alabama governors, members of the U.S. Congress, and generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell.

The Anniston artist recalls seeing a copy of *George* magazine in which founder John F. Kennedy Jr. interviewed Powell "with my eagle print between them," Martin said proudly.

Martin has over two dozen bald eagle paintings to his credit, many based on nesting birds near Scottsboro. "I still find them to be jaw-dropping in their powerful, graceful movements, and simple in their anatomy," Martin said. "They may well be the most glorified symbol in the animal kingdom, and are deserving of that position."

Auburn Montgomery professor and freelance writer Nick Thomas has written for more than 300 magazines and newspapers. Contact him at his blog: <http://getnickt.blogspot.com>.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Montgomery Humane Society

Howdy! My name is Gomer and I am a blue tick hound. Folks would think that a dog like me would be found out in the country, but I was found by a nice lady here in the city. She knew I was lost so she took me to her vet and let me stay a few days, while everyone looked for my owner. My owner could not be found, so she brought me to the shelter so I could find a new home. While I have been here, I have gotten all of my shots, was tested for heart worms, got a microchip and was neutered. I can be a city dog or a country dog — whichever you like. Just give me lots of exercise and a ton of love and attention and we will get along fine! To learn more, go to www.montgomeryhumane.com or call 409-0622.



Gomer

Humane Society of Elmore County

I'm Banner, a 1-year-old shepherd mix who weighs about 40 pounds and probably won't get any bigger. I came to the shelter as a stray with two puppies. I am a very gentle and loving boy, a bit shy at first, but I warm up quickly. I would love a family to call my own.

Adoption fees are \$100 for dogs and \$50 for cats completely covers the mandatory spay or neuter, basic immunizations, de-worming, microchip, heart worm check for dogs, rabies vaccination if old enough, 45 days of pet health insurance and a free health exam with your participating veterinarian.

To see more adoptable pets, go to our www.elmorehumane.org for more information, send an email us at hselec@bellsouth.net or call 567-3377.

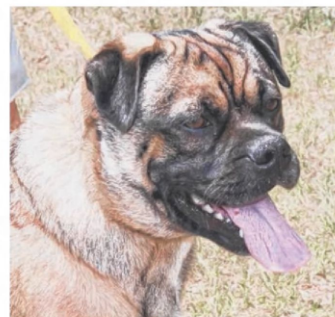


Banner

Prattville/Autauga Humane Society

I am a 3-year-old male, possibly a pug mix named Rowdy. I have already been neutered. Actually, I am somewhat of a mystery in regard to my breed. I do have the face and coloring and tail of a pug but I weigh 50 pounds! I may have pug in me but I am clearly mixed with a larger dog. My coat is tan with black markings and I have light tan on my chest. I am very active, playful, friendly and fun to be around. I get along well with other dogs and would be a great children's dog. My breed may be a puzzle but I am going to make someone a great family dog!

The shelter currently has a "Black Dog Special" — all black dogs and



Rowdy

puppies may be adopted for \$50. Cats 7 months and older may be adopted for \$50. Kittens under the age of 7 months may be adopted for \$80. PAHS is also offering the Better with a Buddy Program; if you adopt one kitten, you can adopt his or her buddy for half price. Starting on July 12, the shelter will be open until 6 p.m. every Friday through the month of August. It will be closed Thursday. For more information, call 358-2882, visit www.autaughahumanesociety.com or send an email to autaughahumane@yahoo.com.

B&H VEGETABLES

NEW TO THE AREA!

Vegetables	10 Lbs.	5 Lbs.
Crowder, Blackeye & English Pea	\$23.00	\$14.00
Purplehull, Purplehull w/snaps, Zipper, Lady Crème	\$24.00	\$15.00
Speckled Butterbeans	\$24.00	\$15.00
Baby Limas (Pettite), Southern Butter Peas	\$24.00	\$15.00
Ford Hook Limas, Navy Beans	\$24.00	\$15.00
Cut Okra, Cut Squash, Snap Beans, Broccoli, Cali Blend (Broccoli, Carrots, & Cauliflower)	\$21.00	\$13.00
Baby Boiling Okra, Season Blend	2lb. Bag	\$6.00
Turnip Greens, Collard Greens	3lb. Bag	\$6.00
Super Sweet Cut Corn, Shoepeg Corn	\$23.00	\$14.00
Mixed Vegetables	\$23.00	\$14.00
Brussels Sprouts	2lbs	\$6.00
Fruit	5 Lbs.	
Sliced Peaches	\$16.00	
Blackberries	\$16.00	
Pineapple Chunks	\$15.00	
Whole Strawberries	\$15.00	
Mixed Fruit (Peaches, Pineapple & Strawberries)	\$16.00	
Mango	\$16.00	
Blueberries	\$16.00	

ALL ITEMS ARE FRESH, CLEAN, CUT, SHELLD AND PACKAGED
NOW ACCEPTING EBT & ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

Saturday July 6th 10 am to 12:30 pm
Beside Jans Beach House Grill
(850 Eastern Blvd) in the empty Texaco Parking lot
Montgomery, AL

Saturday July 6th 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
The American Legion 498 Doster Rd. (near the Pratt Park)
Prattville, AL

See our new website
www.bhandvegetables.com

See us on Facebook

2 LOCATIONS

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