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CONTACT: Mark Wilson, Alabama Center for the Book, mwilson@auburn.edu, 334-844-4946

Southern Cooking, Biography, History and More at the Alabama Book Festival

(Montgomery)--With over 70 authors on the stages of the 2008 Alabama Book Festival on Saturday, Apr. 19 in Montgomery, there is something for everyone: fiction, poetry and a wide array of history, biography, natural history and other nonfiction.

One tasty treat will be award-winning author Jean Anderson, whose newest book is *A Love Affair with Southern Cooking: Recipes and Recollections*. A child of Yankee parents and the first person on either side of her family to be born south of the Mason-Dixon, Anderson says, "I fell in love with southern cooking at the age of five. And a piece of brown sugar pie was all it took." Her own southern story and snippets of lore and backstairs gossip are as interesting and appetizing as the watermelon rind pickles and skillet trout with parsley-pecan pesto creations found in this unique cookbook.

Readers of history will not be disappointed with Stephen Berry (*House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, A Family Divided by War*), Stephen Fox (*Wolf of the Deep: Raphael Semmes and the Notorious Confederate Raider CSS Alabama*), Jim Noles (*A Pocketful of History: Four Hundred Years of America -- One State Quarter at a Time*) or Philip Beidler (*American Wars, American Peace: Notes from a Son of the Empire*). And two Alabama governors are the subjects of new books by Jeff Frederick (*Stand Up for Alabama: Governor George Wallace*) and Warren Trest (*Nobody But the People*), who will be accompanied by the subject of his biography, Gov. John Patterson.

Goeffrey Hill will be on hand to talk about his search for the near mythical ivorybill woodpecker and his book, *Ivorybill Hunters: The Search for Proof in a Flooded Wilderness*. Doug Phillips, host of APTV's popular "Discovering Alabama," will talk about Alabama wildlands and draw from his recent *Discovering Alabama Forests*.

Also on the program is celebrated columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson, whose newest book, *Poor Man's Provence*, details her encounter with the exotic culture of Cajun Country. Frye Gaillard, award-winning journalist and author of more than a dozen books on Southern culture and politics, will have three new books to talk about, including *With Music and Justice for All: Some Southerners and Their Passions*.

To be held on the grounds of Montgomery's historic Old Alabama Town, the festival will open at 9 a.m. and run until 4 p.m. It is a free event and will include exhibits, activities and presentations for all ages.

Sponsored by the Alabama Center for the Book, Old Alabama Town, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alagasco, AT&T, Auburn University's College of Liberal Arts and many others, the festival is a signature literary event for the entire state. For a full list of festival authors/presenters and more information, go to www.alabamabookcenter.org.

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