



**WHEELER NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE
DECATUR, ALABAMA**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY
JANUARY 12-13, 2019

WORKSHOPS • CONCERT • SPECIAL GUESTS

THE REFUGE VISITOR CENTER IS LOCATED ON AL HWY. 67 JUST EAST OF DECATUR. TAKE I-65 EXIT 334. SHUTTLE PICK-UP AT PRINCESS THEATRE, 112 2ND AVE NE, DECATUR, AL 35601



PRESENTED BY
WHEELER WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION &
WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



**WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE VISITOR CENTER**
3121 VISITOR CENTER ROAD
DECATUR, AL 35603
(256) 350-6639

friendsofwheelerrefuge.com

FESTIVAL *of the* CRANES

SATURDAY - SUNDAY || JANUARY 12-13, 2019



Crane art by
Chelsea C. Lanier

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DECATUR, AL

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www.friendsofwheelerrefuge.com
www.facebook.com/FOCatWheeler

PRE-FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

DECATUR, ALABAMA



Ibex Puppetry Show at the Princess Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019 at 6 p.m..



John Paul White at the Princess Theatre on Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 at 7 p.m..

FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES SHUTTLE SERVICE

(Please note: parking at the refuge will be very limited.)

Take a "Flight" on the Festival of the Cranes Shuttle Service!! Only \$2 round trip!

Pickup point at the Princess Theatre downtown starting from
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Jan. 12-13, 2019!

Wristbands can be purchased in advance at the NARCOG Transit office located at 401 2nd Ave SE, or on the day of the event at the shuttle access points. Shuttle wristbands allow each person who purchases one, unlimited rides to and from the event site and will allow for easy access when leaving the event. Wristbands may be purchased before the event at the NARCOG Transit Office, located at 401 2nd Ave SE, Decatur, AL. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Correct change must be used. Office staff and drivers do not have change and do not accept debit or credit cards.

This service is open to the public and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, height, weight, physical or mental ability, veteran status, military obligations, and marital status. Deviations within one mile of the shuttle route can be made upon request by calling NARCOG Transit, at least three days in advance of the event, at 256-580-2088.

2019 FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events are FREE to the public unless otherwise noted.

Community Partner activities can take place before, during and after the actual festival dates at WNWR.

www.fws.gov/wheeler | friendsofwheelerrefuge.com | facebook.com/wheelerwrcmplx

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

6:30 PM • Decatur Public Library / Main Area
504 Cherry St NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.mydpl.org

Simon Says, Dance Like a Crane! Free program presented by Lexington Eiler -Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION.

DECEMBER 18, 2018 - JANUARY 31, 2019

Self-Guided Tour • WNWR / Atkeson Cypress Trail
StoryWalk® on the Atkeson Cypress Trail behind the Visitor's Center at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. *Song for the Whooping Crane* by Eileen Spinelli.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

6:30 PM • Decatur Public Library / Main Area
504 Cherry St NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.mydpl.org

Wild About Whooping Cranes. Free program presented by Lexington Eiler -Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

6-7 PM • Alabama Center for the Arts / Performing Arts Recital Hall
133 2nd Ave NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.alabamacenterforthearts.org

Film showing of *Journey of the Whooping Crane* with special guest speaker and film producer, Rhett Turner.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

7 PM • John Paul White • Princess Theatre • Admission
112 2nd Ave NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.princessestheatre.org

Tickets: \$25.00 plus fees for the balcony and \$30.00 plus fees for the floor.



2019 FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES • WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019

6:30 AM • Sunrise Breakfast at the Refuge / Classroom

The early birders get the biscuits! Come out and enjoy a good breakfast with other hearty souls in the Visitor Center classroom before joining former Refuge Manager Dwight Cooley on an early morning birding walk. Watch the cranes and other waterfowl arriving in the fields to begin their day of feeding and loafing. The Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association will be providing and serving the Jack's 6th Avenue sausage biscuit, breakfast pastry, coffee and orange juice. \$5.00 per person and all proceeds benefit future refuge programs.

Opening Saturday Morning • High School Students Crane Art Show • Old State Bank Museum
925 Bank St NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.decaturparks.com
High school students crane art show M-F from January 12 - March 15, 2019 at the Old State Bank.

All Day...

Visit the Observation Building to view thousands of Sandhill cranes along with several Whooping cranes, ducks, geese, raptors and perhaps a bald eagle from the comfort of the heated building. There are bleachers and spotting scopes available along with volunteers and staff standing by to answer all your questions.

8 AM • Birding 101 / Meet at the VC information desk.

Join members of the Alabama Ornithological Society/Tennessee Valley Audubon Society for a beginner course in birding. Learn the basics of birding as you walk along the grounds of the Visitor Center.

9 AM • David Akoubian Bear Woods Photography Workshop / Auditorium

David has been a photographer since 1972 when his father presented him with his first camera, but his career in photography started in 1992. David learned his craft originally as a painter and from his father who shares his love of nature and photography. Early in his career, he traveled with, learned from and taught beside some of



the masters of nature photography including John Shaw, Art Wolfe, Galen Rowell, Bryan Peterson, Pat O'Hara, and Rod Planck. David has been teaching photography since 1994 in the classroom and leading workshops around the United States.

9-10:30 AM • Children's Activities / Classroom

Calling all kids (regardless of age) to join in the fun educational activities – create a crane mask, crane puppet and crane origami. Visit with the FWS Blue Goose and the ICF Whooping Crane mascots.



9-11 AM • Alabama Center for the Arts / Visual Arts building 3M Room
133 2nd Ave NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.alabamacenterforthearts.org

The ACA is pleased to offer *Creating Nature from Paper*, a free hands-on art activity limited to 20 participants on a first come, first serve basis. All supplies are provided. Participants will create two cranes and two types of flowers in this two hour class.

9 AM-3 PM • Alabama Center for the Arts / Visual Arts building Walking Gallery
133 2nd Ave NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.alabamacenterforthearts.org

The Alabama Center for the Arts 5th Annual Juried Festival of the Cranes Exhibition, January 12-February 22, 2019, with special weekend hours on Saturday, January 12, 9am-3pm.

10 AM-3 PM • Carnegie Visual Arts Center
207 Church St NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.carnegiearts.org

Crane Journal Workshop: Doug Baulos will be leading a free workshop at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center where participants will create and experiment with a variety of handmade paper to create a small book examining Whooping cranes. This workshop is come and go and is open to the public. Recommended to participants 12 yrs old and up. The Carnegie is an official stop on the Crane Shuttle tour bus.

10 AM-4 PM • Carnegie Visual Arts Center
207 Church St NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.carnegiearts.org

Night After Night O'Moon

This exhibit by Birmingham artist, Doug Balous, features an ecological installation inspired by Doug's time spent at the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, Japanese Inari Shrines and the Ikan Crane Center. Doug has collaborated with Alabama high school art students, Priceville Elementary kindergartners and artist Jerry Slayton for a portion of the exhibit to include whooping crane puppets, found nature elements and digital art.



10:30 AM and 3 PM • President Theodore Roosevelt as portrayed by Joe Wiegand / Auditorium

Joe Wiegand entertains audiences nationwide with his reprisal of President Theodore Roosevelt. As a one-man theater show, Joe's T.R. shares stories full of adventure, laughter, and inspiration. T.R. will be in character throughout the day.



11 AM - 1 PM • Domino's Pizza Lunch with drink and dessert, sponsored by WWRA / Classroom

\$5.00 per person and all proceeds benefit future refuge programs. Have a good lunch and help support the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association.

11 AM & 1:30 PM • Auburn University Southeastern Raptor Center Presentation / Princess Theatre

The Southeastern Raptor Center presents its educational program to teach about birds of prey. You can see the birds up close while learning about habitats, conservation and ecology. Hawks, eagles, falcons and owls will educate and excite audiences of all ages.



12 PM Discovering Alabama Whooping Crane Video / Auditorium

The beauty of cranes over-wintering at Wheeler NWR and North Alabama may be beyond the reach of words; they are not, however, beyond the reach of the camera. Join Dr. Doug Phillips for a very personal - and beautiful - visit with North America's tallest and one of its most endangered bird.

1:30-3 PM • Children's Activities in the Classroom continue

1:30 PM • Michael Graham Allen, Flutist / Auditorium
Michael Graham Allen is the principal flutist, composer, and founder of the band COYOTE OLDMAN. An early researcher and builder of ancient flutes of North America. M.G. Allen has been a professional flute maker since the mid 1970's.



6 PM • Ibox Puppetry Show • Princess Theatre • Admission
112 2nd Ave NE, Decatur, AL 35601 | www.princess theatre.org
"Celebration of Flight" is a spectacle designed by Heather Henson. Giant dragonflies, cranes, and the spirits of the air will descend

to earth when called by drums and noisemakers of the audience. Families will play music, fly kites, and dance along with the creatures that fill our sky as part of the performance. Tickets: \$5.00 plus fees for children and seniors and \$10.00 plus fee for general admission.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019

7 AM • Nature Walk / Meet at the Visitor Center information Desk
Come early and join President Roosevelt on an early morning nature walk.

9 AM • David Akoubian Bear Woods Photography Workshop / Classroom
(See Saturday event for description.)

9 AM • Michael Graham Allen, Flutist / Auditorium
(See Saturday event for description.)

10:30 AM • President Theodore Roosevelt as portrayed by Joe Wiegand / Auditorium
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The beauty of cranes over-wintering at Wheeler NWR and North Alabama may be beyond the reach of words; they are not, however, beyond the reach of the camera. Join Dr. Doug Phillips for a very personal - and beautiful - visit with North America's tallest and one of its most endangered birds.

3:00 PM • President Theodore Roosevelt Speaks! / Auditorium
Theodore Roosevelt was a soldier and statesman, explorer and scientist, historian and author. Our youngest president, he personified a vigorous nation on the cusp of the American Century. President Roosevelt will close out the 2019 Festival of the Cranes as only TR can do!