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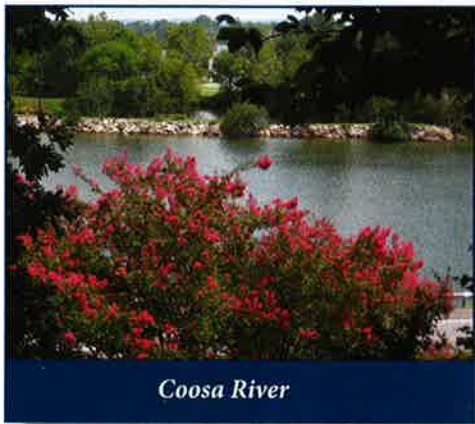
**Community Feature—**  
Coosa County

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## Coosa County

**F**rom cotton to kayaks, the history of Coosa County is a rich one. Named for the Coosa River which winds its way on its western border, the county was created by an act of the Alabama State Legislature on Dec. 18, 1832. The county was one of 14 counties organized from lands relinquished by the Creek Indians in the 1832 Treaty of Cusseta.



*Coosa River*

The county is located in the east-central part of Alabama and is bordered by Shelby, Talladega, Clay, Tallapoosa, Elmore and Chilton counties. It currently comprises 657 square miles of serene woodland, pastures and water-

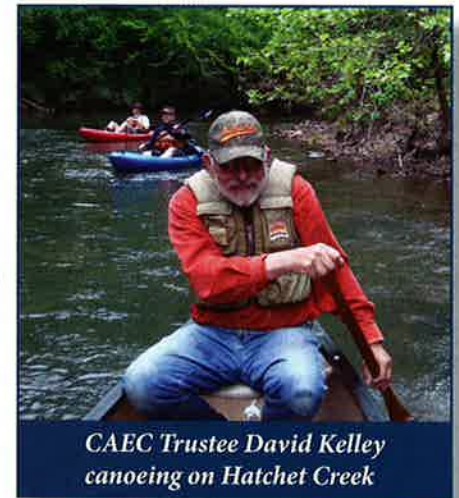
ways with tightknit communities including Equality, Goodwater, Kellyton, Rockford and Weogufka.

Coosa County is known to be home to some of the most tranquil recreational water resources in the state, including the popular lakes Lay, Martin and Mitchell, and the enormous Coosa River, which has played an important part in the history of the county. The Coosa River is one of Alabama's most developed rivers – stretching nearly 280 miles long – it begins at the confluence of the Oostanaula and Etowah rivers in Rome, Ga., and ends just northeast of Montgomery, where it joins the Tallapoosa River to form the Alabama River south of Wetumpka. Approximately 90 percent of the Coosa River's length is located in Alabama. Some of the best outdoor and water sports such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing tournaments are held on this river. One such major annual event is the Coosa River Whitewater Festival, attracting professional whitewater athletes, and this year it will be held May 17-19. For more information about this

event, visit [www.coosariverwhitewaterfestival.com](http://www.coosariverwhitewaterfestival.com).

Coosa County also has two free-flowing streams, Hatchet Creek and Weogufka Creek, which are very popular sites for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Hatchet Creek flows from the northwest corner of the county down to the river mouth on Lake Mitchell. Weogufka Creek runs an almost parallel path a little farther to the north and includes a large primitive section through the Coosa Wildlife Management area. Both creeks have been designated as spur trails of the Alabama Scenic River Trail that runs 631 miles down the heart of Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico.

Taking advantage of its flowing streams, Coosa County will host the first Hatchet Creek Festival on May 18-19, 2013 – a two-day casual overnight weekend float trip. Boaters will launch their kayaks or canoes at the Hwy. 280 bridge and then float down to the halfway campsite. A shuttle will be provided to transport the camping gear to the campsite so it will be waiting when the boaters arrive. Activities at the campsite will include games such as horseshoes, card games, Frisbee, volleyball and pond fishing. Supper



*CAEC Trustee David Kelley canoeing on Hatchet Creek*

will be a catered catfish dinner followed with a program by speakers who will discuss the plants, animals and ecology of Hatchet Creek. The remainder of the evening will be filled with live music and a campfire. The following day, breakfast will be provided and then a casual float down to see the blooming Cahaba Lilies, with take-out occurring below the Hwy. 231 bridge. There will also be a canoe and kayak race for those

who wish to participate, with cash awards for the top three boaters. There is a \$25 per person registration fee to cover meals, a t-shirt and the shuttle. So bring your canoe or kayak, your tent and your lawn chair and come have a great weekend on the creek.

For more information, contact Roger Vines at the Coosa County Extension office in Rockford, (256) 377-4713 or by email at [vinesrc@aces.edu](mailto:vinesrc@aces.edu). ■

*Resources: Encyclopedia of Alabama, Wikipedia, Alabama Cooperative Extension System*

## A SMALL COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO PRESERVE A HISTORIC SITE

There's a quaint community in Coosa County that offers a dinner theatre with shows, hosts the Southeastern Songwriters Festival and features four show-



*Songwriters Festival 2012*

case performances a year – Weogufka. According to *Absolutely Alabama*, a feature segment on Fox 6 WBRC News out of Birmingham, the Southeastern

Song Writers Festival has produced “budding stars” or six-string dreamers hoping their unique talent will be the next big thing.

Formed on April 1, 2007, The Weogufka Alumni School Preservation Committee made it their mission to save the nearly 90-year-old buildings and campus of the Weogufka School and volunteered their personal time and resources to make it happen.

“Our organization was formed because we felt it would be in the best interest of the community to preserve the Historic Old Weogufka School buildings and campus to build a center for arts, entertainment and education,” said Presley Boswell, Board Chairman. “The Center is about providing a venue for great shows and events while preserving the historic old

Weogufka High School for future generations.”

The school was chartered in 1924 and the campus was used as an elementary and high school from 1924 until 1988 and was then used as West Coosa Elementary School from 1989 until 2004. The buildings remained empty and neglected for a few years until the Preservation Committee started renovating and making major repairs, such as installing a new roof and updating the infrastructure.

In 2007, the Superintendent of Education for Coosa County signed the deeds to the Weogufka School Campus over to the Weogufka Center for Arts, Entertainment and Education, Inc.

“It was the greatest entertainment deal in Alabama,” said Boswell.

In 2009, the committee changed its name from Weogufka Alumni School Preservation Committee to Weogufka Center for Arts, Entertainment and Education, Inc. as part of the future use program.

Browse their website, [www.weogufkacenter.com](http://www.weogufkacenter.com), for their calendar of events and take a ride to this delightful community for some live entertainment.



*Annual Mule Day will be held on April 20, 2013.*