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# GARDEN & GUN

SOUL of the SOUTH  
MAY / MAY 2018

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*Bonus:*  
A VERY  
SOUTHERN  
WEDDING GIFT  
GUIDE  
P. 65

## Stunning Southern Gardens

A Spring Tour of the South's Prettiest Outdoor Spreads



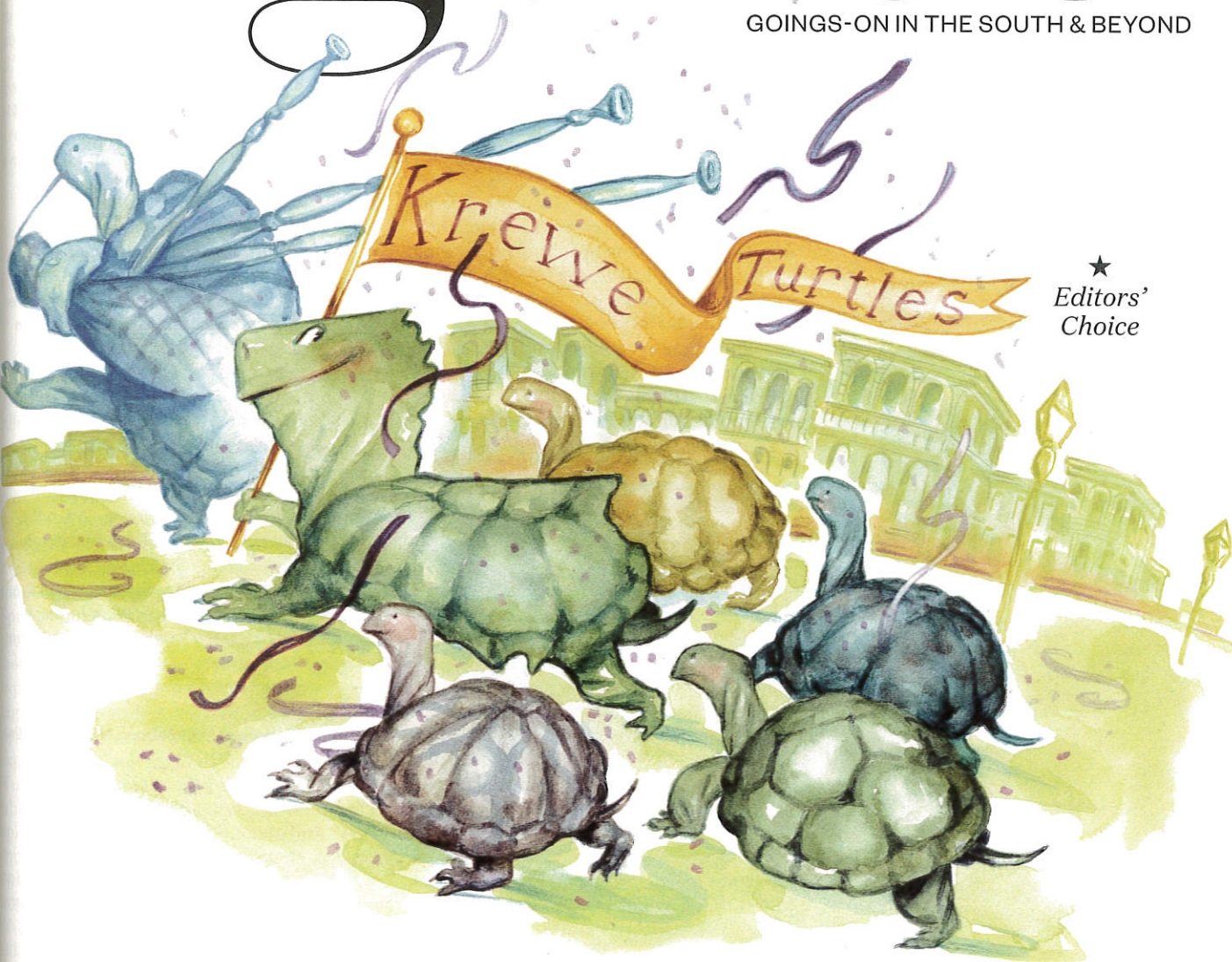
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*Plus:*  
MEET NORTH CAROLINA'S  
NATIVE-PLANT GURU



# The Southern Agenda

GOINGS-ON IN THE SOUTH & BEYOND



★  
Editors'  
Choice

PARADE

## Let the Good Times Crawl

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

In addition to a potent milk punch and the country's preeminent bananas Foster, the team at Brennan's—the pink-and-green-clad culinary grande dame on Royal Street in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter—

makes a standout turtle soup. Paddling around in the courtyard fountain, though, are ten red-eared sliders guaranteed never to see the inside of a stew pot. Not only because they're the wrong kind (Brennan's chefs use





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## SOUTHERN AGENDA

CONTINUED

snappers), but also because these turtles are family. When Ralph Brennan purchased the aging restaurant from his cousins in 2013 and began a top-to-bottom renovation, the turtles decamped from their decades-long home to temporary lodging in the backyard of chef Haley Bittermann. As the restaurant prepared to reopen in late 2014, Brennan and company decided that “the moths and the othas,” as the turtles are known—they’re named for the mother sauces of French cuisine and five other classic Crescent City sauces—needed a proper reintroduction. In New Orleans, what else could “proper” mean than a parade? Brennan’s employees spent months designing and building the first **Krewe of Turtles** floats in 2015. Led by bagpipers and a police escort, Hollandaise, Béchamel, Espagnole, and the rest made their way through the French Quarter, ending at the restaurant. You can join the fourth-annual parade on May 12, and stick around for the turtles’ official pardoning as well as complimentary grasshoppers and dessert in the courtyard. Can’t make it? Follow @brennansnurtles on Twitter to see what Remoulade and Mignonette are up to today.

■ [brennansneworleans.com](http://brennansneworleans.com)

OPENING

## Alabama

PAST DUE

“The history of Montgomery mirrors the history of our nation,” says Kiara Boone, a deputy program manager at the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), the social advocacy group behind the **Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration**. The new museum explores racial injustice in the United States from slavery to Jim Crow to today’s justice-system struggles, with a particular focus on Montgomery’s own tumultuous history. Visitors entering the downtown property—an 11,000-square-foot space on the site of a former slave warehouse—will experience what it might have felt like to await fate through recordings of historic first-person accounts. Employing film, fine art, sculpture, music, and groundbreaking research, the museum, which is scheduled to open on April 26, also tackles the racial terrorism of lynching with unflinching and unprecedented honesty. EJI compiled startling new statistics on the number of African Americans killed by mobs across the South from 1877 to 1950—more than four thousand. Its findings



## Best of the Fests

As the days heat up, so does the music-festival circuit. Here are four gatherings to hit this spring

**Juke Joint Festival,**  
Clarksdale, Mississippi

April 14

*Nobody rolls together food, music, history, and community quite like the folks in the Delta. Between bites of fried catfish, catch one of the hundred blues acts scattered across thirteen daytime stages, carrying over to venerated clubs at night.*

**High Water, North**  
Charleston, South Carolina

April 21–22

*High Water provides a true Lowcountry experience—brunch by some of Charleston’s best chefs, oyster-education classes, and showstopping performances on the banks of the Cooper River by such acts as Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Band of Horses, Brandi Carlile, and hometown heroes Shovels & Rope.*

**MerleFest, Wilkesboro, North Carolina**  
April 26–29

*Founded by the late Doc Watson in memory of his son, Eddy Merle Watson, this Blue Ridge gathering showcases the best of “traditional plus” music, which Watson defined as Appalachian music—plus whatever else he felt like adding. This spring, Rhiannon Giddens and Robert Earl Keen lend their voices to the mix.*

**DelFest, Cumberland, Maryland**  
May 24–27

*Nestled on the Potomac River, DelFest honors the Del McCoury Band’s string-heavy legacy. Hear the namesake jam alongside Ricky Skaggs and Old Crow Medicine Show as well as a onetime festival collaboration of elite pickers dubbed the Bluegrass Congress.*



are the foundation of the **National Memorial for Peace and Justice**, which opens simultaneously with the museum. An easy fifteen-minute walk from downtown, the memorial sits on six acres overlooking the city. Eight hundred large steel sculptures, one for each county in the United States where a lynching occurred, are dedicated to the victims. "The memorial offers a chance for people to engage with this history of violence in a way that is both intellectual and emotional," Boone says. "The same way you would leave the 9/11 Memorial or the Holocaust Museum, we want people to leave here with a reckoning."

■ [museumandmemorial.eji.org](http://museumandmemorial.eji.org)

GARDEN

## Arkansas

SPRING FORWARD

The Arkansas-bred landscape designer P. Allen Smith tends his "rich spot of earth"—a six-hundred-acre expanse in Roland called Moss Mountain Farm—with Jeffersonian zeal. Every Thursday and Friday through June 29, Smith, who hosts three popular TV garden shows, welcomes inquiring green thumbs to his private retreat overlooking the Arkansas River as part of the farm's **Spring Lunch Tour** series. Stroll through the riverfront terraced garden, the ornamental vegetable patch (this year, Smith is experimenting with carrots), and the heritage English-style rose garden, and the designer's devotion to both preservation and experimentation quickly becomes clear. "I use the farm as a canvas," he says. "It is a laboratory—a sort of living studio for developing new design concepts and plants." For showy blooms, late April is your best bet, Smith advises. Though you'll most likely miss the daffodils then—he plants upwards of four hundred thousand bulbs on Daffodil Hill—you'll catch both the tulips and the early roses. (Moss Mountain is also renowned for its collection of antique Noisette roses, the first rose developed on American soil.) Poultryville—home to the property's sixty rare and endangered breeds of chicken, geese, and turkey—is the last stop on the circuit before lunch in Grange Hall, the farm's barn turned dining space. Pro tip: Check the schedule for bonus once-a-month Saturday tours for a chance to glean gardening advice from Smith in person.

■ [pallensmith.com](http://pallensmith.com)



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