

**Subject—Publicity Release for Wetumpka Impact Crater Events**

**From-- The Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission  
Marilee Tankersley, Publicity Chairman (334)567-4637**

## **Wetumpka Crater Events Set for March 5 – 7, 2015**

**If you have an interest in history, meteors, and the earth, you won't want to miss this year's Crater events. Wetumpka is the site of the greatest meteor strike to ever hit Alabama. It created a five-mile wide crater that is still visible in the city. This happened over 85 million years ago near the end of the "Age of Dinosaurs".**

**First discovered in the mid 1970s, an astrobleme, meaning "star wound" was confirmed and registered in 1998 by Dr. David King Jr., Professor of Geology, Auburn University, as the Wetumpka Impact Crater. Because the location was covered by a shallow sea at the time of impact, scientists have declared it to be one of the "best preserved marine impact craters in the world".**

**Each year the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission and City of Wetumpka sponsor several Crater events, a Thursday evening public lecture by Dr David King and Friday school tours and Saturday public tours of the Crater.**

**Prior to the lecture on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> by Dr King, at 5:30pm the public is invited to a reception and viewing of "When Dinosaurs Roamed", a special "Crater Art exhibit" at the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery, upstairs in the City Administrative Building. The display will be open from February through April.**

**Dr. King will conduct the free public lecture on the science of the Crater on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Wetumpka Civic Center, Main Street. This is an excellent opportunity to hear how scientists have proven the size and scope of the impact and get an update on Dr King's most recent research related to the crater.**

**The Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> tours will be open to a limited number of school students on a first reserved basis. Teachers can call Marilee Tankersley, (334)567-4637 for reservations and additional information.**

**On Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Crater Tours will be held hourly on starting at 9:00am, with van transportation provided. The tour is divided into two parts, first, a video and short orientation, followed by the van tour. Total cost of both parts of the tour including a guidebook is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children up to 12, accompanied by an adult. (Not recommended for very small children.) You can attend only the lecture and the charge is \$5, with children up to age 12, admitted free. Additional guidebooks can be purchased for \$5, if available.**

**Lectures begin at 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:30am & 12:30pm. The van tours will load immediately following the lecture. Van tour space is very limited and must be reserved before February 25<sup>th</sup>. Participants need to meet at the Wetumpka Civic Center on Main Street, 15 minutes prior to their tour time. Reservations are required.**

**For additional information and reservations (starting January 5<sup>th</sup>), contact Donna at 567-5147 or e-mail [dcarboni@cityofwetumpka.com](mailto:dcarboni@cityofwetumpka.com)**

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