

On the Trail Again June 2009 – Fair Hope, Alabama

Ray asked me if I'd like to go to Charleston for our anniversary. Of course, I'd like to go to Charleston! It would be so romantic. I haven't been there in years! I attended the Charleston Spoleto Festival with my best friend when we were in graduate school! At the time, I didn't even know where or what Spoleto was, but I certainly enjoyed the old homes (which I call architectural antiques), antique shops, visual arts, dance, music, and theatre! |



Then I had a second thought: I really wanted to visit **Fairhope, Alabama** to add some of those famed antique shops to the AlabamaAntiqueTrail.com website. Ray and I had been to Fairhope twice for lunch from Orange Beach several years ago. In May, I had joined the Bunko Babes (the name Ray has given my girl friends who have played bunko together for over 30 years) there for lunch. We were honored to be invited to an acquaintance's recently rebuilt and beautifully renovated home which was one of the older typically southern homes on the bay near the Buffets (as in Jimmy Buffet, Margaritaville). The acquaintance also showed us several of the antique and collectible shops in Fairhope.

I also noted to Ray that Fairhope might be a great place for us to dock our sailboat and finally learn to do some blue water sailing. I suggested we visit the local marinas. He was hooked.

Before we even found Fairhope, we found Daphne and the [Eastern Shore Antiques](#). This shop is a must see. They have beautiful European imports and are very knowledgeable about each piece in their antique store.

For our accommodations, we chose the [Bay Breeze Guest House](#) on the bay in Fairhope which is owned and operated by Bill and Becky Jones.



This has been their private home for most of their married lives and was Becky's parents' home. This photo is Becky as a young girl.



The B&B is so comfortable and the view is spectacular. We found Becky watering the beautiful gardens, and Bill holding down the pier—working on the herb garden on the pier, that is. Their gray cat was guarding the front door.



Just before sunset, we headed for the end of the Bay Breeze pier for wine and cheese "dinner".



Becky prepares a different breakfast each morning for her guests. She also gives each guest a small cookbook.



One doesn't need lunch after a breakfast like this! That is Ray at the head of the table. These are our new friends that we met at the B&B.

Becky's mom's antique wicker set is still being used at the B&B.



The next day I found a new and unique favorite gift for personal friends. [McKee Vintage Silver Designs](#) takes vintage silver and engraves endearing expressions on it. For example, an olive spoon may say “olive you”. These are simple, lasting gifts that are also “green” and silver! Click on the shop name to see photos!

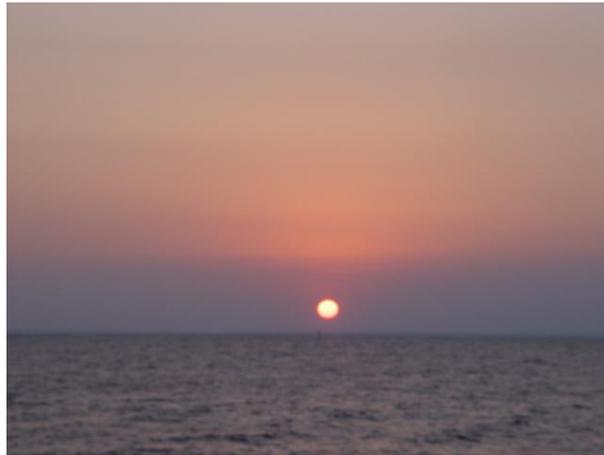
In the next shop I enter, I find what I will be dreaming about for the next several years – a George III chest on chest. [Betty G Hanie Antiques and Fine Art](#) has many excellent English, French, and American pieces. The George III chest on chest would fill that empty space in my hallway!

All too soon, we head back to Auburn. On the way, we stop at [Daphne Antique Galleria](#), which is known for being the largest antique mall on the Gulf Coast. It takes quite a bit of time to go through this mall! Plan ahead.

I really did not want to leave without visiting *all* of the Fairhope antique and collectible shops. I wanted to look at everything in each shop, but also talk with them about joining the best place to find antiques stores in Alabama, [AlabamaAntiqueTrail.com](#), but I guess I’ll be forced to go back to the bay again soon!

Here are a few more photos of the Fairhope area...





The end of another day on the Alabama Antique Trail...