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**News from Georgia Tourism:**

- **Flavor of Georgia Food Product Contest Registration Open** Entries are now being accepted for the 2011 Flavor of Georgia contest, conducted by UGA's Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development (CAED). The annual contest will be held at the Georgia Freight Depot in downtown Atlanta. Winners are chosen in seven categories: confections; dairy products; jams, jellies and sauces; meat products; snack foods; barbecue and hot sauces; and other products. A grand champion is selected from all of the category winners. Savannah Bee Company won the 2010 Flavor of Georgia food product contest for its Grill Honey served on melted brie with raspberries. SBC's honey earned the grand prize. The contest is only a starting point for many winners, said Sharon Kane, CAED economist and contest director. "Most of last year's contestants, 80 percent, saw an increase in their sales and business contacts following the contest, Winners will be announced during Ga. Ag Day March 22, 2011. **Online registration will run through Feb. 18, 2011** [www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu](http://www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu) For more info, call 706-542-9809 or e-mail [spkane@uga.edu](mailto:spkane@uga.edu) Judges look for market-ready foods, either commercially available or prototypes, from across the state. Entries judged on flavor, best use of Ga. ingredients, Georgia theme, unique/innovative qualities, commercial appeal and originality.
- Make plans to attend the **29th Annual Travel South Showcase in Atlanta- Feb.22-24, 2011**. Showcase is the only regional tourism marketplace for the southern USA. Hundreds of tourism partners have begun planning to host over 600 tour operators, journalists and southern suppliers. The Classic South Travel Association is an official sponsor- so please contact me if you are interested in participating.
- The dates for the **2011 GOMM Days at the Georgia Visitor Centers** are posted on <http://www.georgia.org/GeorgiaIndustries/Tourism/VICs/Pages/GAonMyMindDays.aspx>
- **Jonathan Boisjolie joined the Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Division's sales team on Monday (Jan 25) as our International Accounts Manager.** Jonathan comes to us with a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst and 10 years of experience in the Travel/Tour industry - most recently as the Senior Manager of Group Sales and Special Events at the High Museum of Art – Atlanta and before that having his own tour operator firm in Orlando.
- **The GDEcD has launched a website [www.gacivilwar.org](http://www.gacivilwar.org) to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War in Georgia.** Check out the site- you can also purchase great collectable items from this site. For special dealer pricing on the items please email [info@gacivilwar.org](mailto:info@gacivilwar.org)
- **Fort Bragg & Camp Lejeune Military Base Travel Shows 2011-** Expand your marketing reach and capture more from the military market. Mills Marketing Group is

offering these two military shows as an excellent opportunity to encourage travel to your destination for your special events, weekend getaways or for a complete vacation. This is the 19th annual Travel Extravaganza held at Fort Bragg. The military impact on the Fort Bragg service area is in excess of 170,000 people, including retirees who number 40,000. The travel show is a great way to reach this viable market and we'll explain all the opportunities available for their leisure travel. THINK GROUP BUSINESS TOO! Camp Lejeune's combined population of base personnel and authorized off-base users is over 150,000 people. For more info contact Jeffrey L. Mills at [jeff-mmj@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeff-mmj@bellsouth.net) or call 678-442-6391.

### **Regional News**

- **Erin Pollock has been hired as the Tourism Director for Washington** and will start on February 1, 2011. Erin is replacing Ashley Barnett that has decided to work part time. Erin is a graduate of Ole Miss with a degree in Broadcasting and a Minor in English with an emphasis in Public Relations. She did her internship at Tunica, MS CVB and then at Channel 6 News in Augusta! We welcome Erin to the Classic South!
- **Linger Longer Steakhouse will be reopening in April 2011.**
- **The Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson** will be open for tours on Monday, February 21, 2011 in honor of Presidents' Day. Tours will be given on the hour between 10 am and 4 pm. **Admission on Presidents' Day will be buy one, get one of equal or lesser value for free.** Regular admission prices are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for students K-12, and free for children under age 5. For more information, call Historic Augusta at 706-724-0436 or visit [www.wilsonboyhoodhome.org](http://www.wilsonboyhoodhome.org)
- **Congratulations Columbia County!** Columbia County, Georgia, the Division of Community and Leisure Services and the CVB have been named to SportsEvents Magazine's coveted list of "Destinations to Watch in 2011," which recognizes outstanding destinations and venues for hosting sporting events with a "Readers' Choice Award." A special feature highlighting the destinations as well as event organizers recognized for their efforts was included in the January 2011 issue of SportsEvents Magazine.
- **The McDuffie Arts Council is pleased to announce that renovations to the 90+ year old building are complete and that the Gallery/Studio at 107 Main St is opening.** MAC hosts a Drop-In from 5-8pm on Saturday, Feb 12. MAC on Main showcases the best in local & regional art and cultural events. Please join us as we celebrate the completion of this seven month-long project.

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

<b>February 22-25, 2011:</b>	Travel South Showcase- Atlanta
<b>March 6-7, 2011:</b>	Winter Chautauqua- (location TBD-Historic High County)
<b>March 22, 2011:</b>	Classic South Travel Association Meeting- Savannah Rapids Pavilion- Martinez- Georgia Tourism Sales Staff- Guest Speakers
<b>April 4-10, 2011:</b>	Masters 2011
<b>May 12-14, 2011:</b>	Travel Media Marketplace (Blue Ridge and Elijah, Georgia)

