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News from Georgia Tourism:

- **On November 29, Governor Nathan Deal named Chris Cummiskey as his choice for Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development.** Chris Cummiskey joined the UGA as the Director of State Relations in 2008. In this role he represents the university in matters with state government offices and is the primary liaison with state officials. Prior to joining the university, Cummiskey served as the chief of staff for Georgia House Speaker Glenn Richardson. In that position, he oversaw House research and communications staff as well as all administrative staff. Previously, he was the state director for U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson for three years. As the state director, he worked with the Georgia General Assembly, the governor's office, local officials and Georgia businesses on matters relating to the federal government. After graduating from UGA, Cummiskey worked for eight years with energy companies in Georgia, California and Texas managing their energy trading desks.
<http://georgia.org/About/Bios/Pages/default.aspx>
- Travel South USA announced the 2011 Executive Board Officers in January 2011. **Kevin Langston, Deputy Commissioner for Tourism for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, was named 2011 chairman of the board and assumes leadership of the Southern Travel Directors Council, Inc.** Travel South USA is the Official Regional Destination Marketing Organization for the Southern United States, representing the states of ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA, and WEST VIRGINIA.
- **Flavor of Georgia Food Product Contest Registration Open** Entries are now being accepted for the 2011 Flavor of Georgia contest, conducted by the University of Georgia 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, The winners will be announced during Ga Ag Day March 22, 2011. **Online registration will run through Feb. 18, 2011** www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu For more info, call 706-542-9809 or e-mail spkane@uga.edu Judges look for market-ready foods, either commercially available or prototypes, from across the state. Entries are judged on flavor, best use of Georgia ingredients, Georgia theme, unique/innovative qualities, commercial appeal and originality.

- **AAA Great Vacations Expo - Columbus, OH - January 21 - 23, 2011** - Did you know that Ohioans spend more than \$1.5 billion on vacation travel/ accommodations annually? We look forward to sharing information about Georgia with attendees. In 2010, 12,900 travelers attended the expo. GDEcD is offering tourism partners an opportunity to co-op for this event. Contact Pam Kruseck at pkruseck@georgia.org for co-op information.
- **North Carolina Motorcoach Annual Meeting & Marketplace - Wilmington, NC - February 3 - 6, 2011** Pam Kruseck will attend the annual meeting and marketplace including taking appointments and networking opportunities with Tour Operators. A co-op opportunity is being offered for partners who are interested in having their profile sheets we will be distributing during appointments. For more information, please contact Pam Kruseck via email at pkruseck@georgia.org
- **Southern Women's Show - Savannah, GA - February 4 - 6, 2011** - The Southern Women's Show attracts more than 12,000 women over the three-day period. This consumer show offers women travel information, beauty tips, cooking, fashion, health & well-being, shopping, giveaways and much more! To learn more about the Southern Women's Show, visit www.southernshows.com. Please contact Pam Kruseck via pkruseck@georgia.org for co-op information.
- **Bank Travel Conference - Baton Rouge, LA - February 6 - 8, 2011** Pam Kruseck will attend the annual conference that is expected to attract more than 200 attendees. GDEcD will attend networking events and have marketplace appointments with Bank Directors. A co-op opportunity is being offered for partners who are interested in having their profile sheets we will be distributing during appointments. For more information, please contact Pam Kruseck via email at pkruseck@georgia.org
- 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 Ga. Civil War Heritage Trails has a new website:** www.CivilWarHeritageTrails.org If your hometown or organization is planning any type of public event or activity related to Georgia's history between or close to the years 1860 and 1865, or if you know of other similar events to occur in Georgia which are not already included in the events section please forward your information to Steve Longcrier at slongcrier@hotmail.com
- **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-mmg@bellsouth.net or call 678-442-6391.
- **The GACVB Winter Meeting will be held in Savannah Feb. 7-9, 2011.** They are looking for silent auction items/donations to raise money for the GACVB Scholarship program. The funds raised by the Silent Auction are used for STS Marketing College Scholarships and partial registrations for the GA CVB Annual Meeting. For more

information or to send your donations please contact: Kym Hughes, Executive Director, Sandy Springs Hospitality & Tourism (P) 770-206-1436- or email Kym at kymberly.hughes@sandyspringsga.org

Regional News

- **The Morris Museum of Art staff is pleased to announce that Michelle Schulte has accepted the position as the Curator of Education.** Schulte, the former associate curator of education at the Morris, is assuming the duties of David Tucker who retired on December 15, 2010.
- **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!
- **The Symphony Orchestra of Augusta is pleased to announce that Carolann Webster has accepted the position of Director of Marketing and Public Relations.** Contact Carolann at 706.826.4706 or via email carolann@soaugusta.org

Mark Your Calendars:

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| January 25, 2011: | Tourism Day at the Capitol |
| February 22-25, 2011: | Travel South Showcase- Atlanta |
| March 6-7, 2011: | Winter Chautauqua- (location TBD-Historic High County) |
| March 22, 2011: | Classic South Travel Association Meeting- Savannah Rapids Pavilion- Martinez- Kevin Langston, Deputy Commissioner of Tourism, GDEcD Guest Speaker. |
| April 4-10, 2011: | Masters 2011 |