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**News from Georgia Tourism:**

- **ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE?** The Georgia Tourism has set aside \$50,000 for a Georgia Holiday Promotion. Georgia tourism professionals are encouraged to assemble teams to work together on a creative proposal to drive holiday visits to Georgia – the more creative the better! Go to [www.marketgeorgia.org](http://www.marketgeorgia.org) for all the details or send questions to [SMACKDOWN@georgia.org](mailto:SMACKDOWN@georgia.org)
- **GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S TOURISM CONFERENCE: SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2011 MACON!** Make plans now to attend Georgia's premiere tourism conference where you will: build professional relationships, discover tools and practical solutions, analyze new trends, innovations and technologies and more! Visit [www.marketgeorgia.org](http://www.marketgeorgia.org) for details.
- **The exciting new "80 Days of Georgia Giveaway" contest is now online.** Go to [exploregeorgia.org](http://exploregeorgia.org) to see all the details. A special THANK YOU to the partners who provided prizes for this promotion. We have already received a lot of coverage on TV, radio, print and online outlets. It is also getting picked up by random blogs and coupon sites. We have 4,000 new facebook/twitter fans and are increasing that number daily.
- **Governor Nathan Deal signed legislation May 12 that officially moves Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) under the operational umbrella of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) beginning July 1, 2011.** House Bill 264, which contained specific language regarding the transfer, was passed virtually unanimously by the House and Senate during the 2011 legislative session.
- **"Beyond the Grave" Cemeteries Conference - June 22-24, 2011** - "Beyond the Grave: Cultural & Ethnical Burial Customs" is a two-and-a-half-day, statewide event co-sponsored by The Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association, The Georgia Historic Preservation Division and GDEcD. It will be held at the Savannah Civic Center June 22-24, and will feature interesting presentations from more than 20 archaeological, cultural, historical, and religious experts, as well as informative tours of three significant local cemeteries. For more information contact the Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association at (912) 651-6843 or visit their website at [www.GMCAweb.org](http://www.GMCAweb.org)
- **2012 Places in Peril – Call for Nominations – Deadline June 27, 2011** - Do you know of a special irreplaceable historic building or site that is highly threatened by demolition, neglect, inappropriate development or other threats? If so, this is your opportunity to help save it. Georgia Trust's Places in Peril program seeks to identify and preserve historic sites threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development or other threats. They are interested in sites that represent significant preservation issues and trends in the state that need attention. Examples could include a building type that's particularly endangered or a potential heritage tourism district. Nominations forms available at [www.georgiatruster.org](http://www.georgiatruster.org) or call Jordan Poole at 404-885-7818.

- MOBILE EXPLOREGEORGIA.ORG** The Georgia Department of Economic Development has partnered with ITI-Marketing to develop a brand new, consumer friendly mobile site in September 2011 - [m.ExploreGeorgia.org](http://m.ExploreGeorgia.org). This all new state-of-the-art mobile site is designed for the travel consumer on the go, with emphasis on functionality and features that enable easy access, advanced search and partner links and previews that will enable you to put your brand and your message in front of millions of Georgia travel consumers. With increasingly more travelers reaching for their mobile devices to search for destination and travel information, this mobile site will provide you an outstanding opportunity to interact with your target travel audience just as they are actively seeking your information. E-mail: [info@iti-marketing.com](mailto:info@iti-marketing.com) or call (912) 267-1558 if you have any questions or would like more information.
- Below is a link to the **STS Top 20 Events website**. Please note the next cut off for the **1st quarter events in 2012 (January, February, March) is July 8, 2011**. Please note on the nomination form all the requirements needed to be nominated as an event. You will only need to send two copies of the nomination form plus two copies of supporting materials and the \$20 nomination fee. Go to <http://www.southeasttourism.net/top20Events.cfm> for more info and nomination forms.
- The dates for the **2011 GOMM Days at the Georgia Visitor Centers** are:

June 17 – West Point	<a href="mailto:westpoint@georgia.org">westpoint@georgia.org</a> - 706-645-3353
June 24 – Ringgold	<a href="mailto:ringgold@georgia.org">ringgold@georgia.org</a> - 706-937-4211
July 15 – Augusta	<a href="mailto:augusta@georgia.org">augusta@georgia.org</a> - 706-737-1446
- Pam Kruseck and Jonathan Boisjolie will be attending the Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA) Conference August 19 - 24, 2011 in New York, NY.** The SYTA Conference is the premier event for the student and youth travel market and serves as the essential marketplace and networking event for the industry. GDEcD will participate in pre-scheduled appointments with tour operators who specialize in the student market. For co-op information, please contact Pam Kruseck at [pkruseck@georgia.org](mailto:pkruseck@georgia.org)
- Nija Torrence will attend the Georgia Motorcoach Operators Association (GMOA)/Motorcoach Association of South Carolina (MCASA) joint annual meeting from August 21 - 24, 2011 in Savannah, GA.** The Annual Meeting will include appointment sessions with members of each Association as well as educational seminars and networking opportunities. For co-op information, please contact Pam Kruseck via email at [pkruseck@georgia.org](mailto:pkruseck@georgia.org)
- The Tourism Product Development Resource Team's schedule is listed below-** for return visits as well as future sites:

  - Summer 2011, Team visits Hawkinsville, Pulaski County...date not set;
  - Early fall 2011, Team visits Banks County...date not set;
  - Late fall November, Team visits Effingham County...date not set;
  - Winter 2012 (February), Team visits Carroll County...date not set;
  - Spring 2012 (April), Team visits Haralson County...date not set;
  - Summer 2012 tentative Catoosa County
- ExploreGeorgia updates:** Please remember to add New Hotels, New Attractions and Special Offers to the website as well as all your 2012 special events. A logo or photo must be included with all listings. The more information you provide in your listing, the more likely you will be featured in one of our many newsletters.
- To sign-up for the monthly "Peachbyte" newsletter** which gives you all the latest Georgia Tourism News please email [peachbyte@georgia.org](mailto:peachbyte@georgia.org)

- **Ga. Tourism Industry Calendar** – For a listing of tourism industry events visit [www.georgia.org/GeorgialIndustries/Tourism/Pages/IndustryCalendar.aspx](http://www.georgia.org/GeorgialIndustries/Tourism/Pages/IndustryCalendar.aspx)
- **Learn how to become Camera Ready by visiting** <http://www.georgia.org/GeorgialIndustries/Entertainment/FilmTV/cameraready/Pages/default.aspx>
- For years, golfers have enjoyed challenging play and rates as low as \$25 on Georgia's State Park Golf Courses. Now, they can save even more with the **new Golf Club Member Card. For a \$25 annual fee, golfers can enjoy a variety of discounts and specials at nine award-winning, well maintained (GSP) golf courses across the state.** Participating Georgia State Park Golf Courses include:

The Creek at Hard Labor, Rutledge  
 Highland Walk at Victoria Bryant, Royston  
 Arrowhead Pointe at Richard B. Russell, Elberton  
 Meadow Links at George T. Bagby, Fort Gaines  
 Wallace Adams at Little Ocmulgee, McRae  
 Brazell's Creek at Gordononia-Alatamaha, Reidsville  
 The Lakes at Laura S. Walker, Waycross

Golf courses at Brasstown Valley Resort near Blairsville and Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele are also participating in the new Club Card. The wide range of course designs and styles take advantage of the state's unique geographic diversity. Club Cards may be purchased at the individual club houses, and tee times can be made by calling 1-800-434-0982. More information is available at [www.GeorgiaGolf.com](http://www.GeorgiaGolf.com)

### **Regional News**

- Earning national acclaim, **The Spa at The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation has received top honors in Condé Nast Traveler magazine**, which ranks the award-winning 27,600-square-foot wellness facility as "Number Five" in its 21st annual readers' survey of the Top 100 U.S. Spas.
- **The Chicken Coop, a new B&B in Crawford, opened this month.** The Chicken Coop is a lovely 2 bedroom w/private baths B&B located at 1030 Athens highway in Crawford. (Oglethorpe County) Visit their website [www.thechickencoopbedandbreakfast.com](http://www.thechickencoopbedandbreakfast.com)
- **The Augusta CVB will be hosting an Electronic Media Seminar on June 29, 2011** from 8:30 a.m. – Noon at the Morris Museum of Art Auditorium- 1 Tenth Street- \$25 per person, Lunch is included and reservations are needed. Contact Ashton Randall at the Augusta CVB at [arandall@augustaga.org](mailto:arandall@augustaga.org) for more information or registration.
- Champions Made from Adversity- [www.cmfa.us](http://www.cmfa.us) will hold its inaugural Chilly Chili Cook-Off- Saturday, December 10, 2011 at the Augusta Commons. The event will be sanctioned by both CASI (Chili Appreciation Society International) and ICS (International Chili Society), and it will attract participants from both circuits, Please make plans to attend this event and help support Champions Made from Adversity!
- **Southern Living Magazine just released an article "The South's Greatest Lakes."** Congratulations to Lake Rabun, **Lake Oconee**, Callaway Gardens (Lake Martin & Mountain Creek Lake) and Lake Lanier Islands for being on this special list! Go to: <http://www.southernliving.com/travel/south-central/best-southern-lake-vacations-00400000047134/page24.html> to read all about these great Georgia lakes!

**Mark Your Calendars:**

- Jun 24, 2011:** GA On My Mind Day, Ringgold VIC
- July 8, 2011:** STS Top 20 Events deadline for events in January, February and March 2012
- July 26, 2011:** Classic South Travel Association Meeting- Lucy Craft Laney Museum- Phillips Street Augusta. 10:00am-noon.
- September 12-14, 2011:** Governor's Conference on Tourism- Macon
- October 7, 2011:** STS Top 20 Events deadline for events in April, May and June 2012