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June 2009

News from Georgia Tourism:

- We are pleased to announce that the **Co-Op Marketing Reimbursement Grants** program has remained in the state budget for another year, FY 2009-2010. However, as with all of our programs, the amount of funding available has been reduced, to \$500,000 - making this year's application process more competitive. The **deadline for applying is July 31, 2009**. Announcement of recipients will be made by October 15, 2009. Please watch for more information coming soon.
- GDEcD has launched a new e-newsletter targeted towards tour operators. "**FYI from the Peach State**" will be sent quarterly to tour operators around the country. If you have any updates or special offers for the tour market and would like to have the information included in the e-newsletter, please contact Katie Baasen at kbaasen@georgia.org.
- **AARP Life@50+ Expo** - Las Vegas, NV - October 22 -24, 2009 (**consumer show**) They are expecting more than 25,000 members and others from all over the United States and abroad to attend the event. The AARP Vegas@50+ event is a great opportunity for your organization to collaborate with AARP and to reach the 50+ audience. It is an opportunity to increase Georgia's visibility among baby boomers; a demographic comprising 26 percent of the U.S. population and a driving force in the market place. Consumer Sales Manager Pam Kruseck (pkruseck@georgia.org) will attend.
- **Snowbird Extravaganza** - Lakeland, FL - January 26 - 27, 2010- (**consumer show**) Expected attendance is 30,000 to 35,000 attendees of which 60% are Canadian Snowbirds and 40% are American Winter Residents. Last year attendees enjoyed the excitement, education, information and variety of activities. Consumer Sales Manager Pam Kruseck (pkruseck@georgia.org) will attend.
- **Southern Women's Show** - Savannah, GA - February 5 - 7, 2010 (**consumer show**) The Southern Women's Show attracts more than 12,000 women over a 3-day period. These consumer shows target women with give-a-ways and tips on beauty, cooking, fashion, health & well-being, shopping, travel and much more! Consumer Sales Manager Pam Kruseck (pkruseck@georgia.org) will attend.
- **GA Made GA Grown Products Web Registry** - The web registry is available for the Creative Economies businesses to register for free. Go to www.gamadegagrown.org - enter your information and please encourage others to register. To learn more about the Creative Economies initiative can be found at www.georgia.org/foundation

- **NEW GEORGIA.ORG WEBSITE**
You may have heard that our Web team has been working on a completely new and improved version of Georgia.org. Well, it's finally here! The site is full of updated content and new functionality to make it more user-friendly. Tourism partners will find tourism marketing information at www.Georgia.org/georgiaindustries/tourism.
- **June 15th is the deadline for entering your attractions and lodging information on the www.exploregeorgia.org website** if you want it to be included in the printed publications for 2010- based on meeting the criteria for printed publications. Please alert your hospitality partners that there will be "fact checkers" calling all listings in the Travel Guide to make sure the contact information is correct for all listings- these "fact checkers" are NOT selling ads they are checking for accuracy in listings only!!
- **The African American Heritage Guide** will be reprinted in February 2010 and the Georgia Golf Guide will be reworked sometime in the spring of 2010.
- **Social Marketing** – Georgia Tourism is now on Facebook and Twitter and Flickr. Go to www.exploregeorgia.org and click the Facebook and Twitter links to read new postings.

Regional News:

- **The Classic South Travel Association's July** meeting will be **July 28th from 10:00am-noon in Greensboro (location to be determined) Jill Teter** from Emmis Custom Publications and Pam Kruseck from the GDEcD will be our guest speakers. Information about the 2010 Georgia Travel Guide and the Georgia Tourism consumer show marketing opportunities will be discussed.
- **The Waynesboro Historic District was just designated as Georgia's 2,000th National Register listing.** This Historic District is significant for encompassing an entire intact historic city with its historic commercial, residential, community landmark, agricultural, and industrial buildings. Waynesboro is an excellent example of Georgians retaining and reusing their historic buildings into the 21st century. (information from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation) **Congratulations Waynesboro!**
- **The Baymont Inn and Suites in Augusta**, located at 2905 Riverwest Drive, has been honored by the Baymont Inn and Suites brand with the "Best of Baymont" award which recognizes properties that excel in customer service, quality and overall performance! Congratulations to our friends at the Baymont Inn and Suites!
- **Flat Creek Lodge was honored to have Governor Sonny Perdue, his wife Mary and several additional family members visit Flat Creek.** The Governor had a great time hunting wild turkey and fishing with his twin granddaughters. **The expedition was filmed as part of the O'Neil Outside television show with O'Neil Williams.** The Governor at Flat Creek episode will air in July. Congratulations to everyone at Flat Creek Lodge!
- The Lincoln County Development Authority and the Classic South region **welcome Ashley Banks** as the new Director of the Development Authority. Ashley can be reached at abanks@lincolncountyga.com or 706.359.7970.
- **The 2009 Georgia Games** will be held at Georgia's Lake Country (Greene, Morgan, Putnam and Baldwin counties on Lake Oconee and Lake Sinclair. There will be 4 events: Mountain Biking - Rock Hawk - Sunday - July 5th
Shotgun - July 11-12th – Lake Oconee Shooting Club
Rowing – Saturday July 11th – Location TBD on Lake Oconee.
Archery - Sun - July 19th – Lake Oconee Shooting Club

Grant Opportunities:

- **Arts Grant Opportunity** - All services must be completed by June 30, 2009. The guidelines/application forms are available on www.southarts.org/southernvisions
For more information contact Nikki Estes, Program Director - Presenting & Touring, at 404-874-7244 ext. 16 or nestes@southarts.org

Mark Your Calendars:

- June 18-19, 2009 Group Tour Boot Camp- Georgia Music Hall of Fame Macon- Free to attend- rsvp- kbaasen@georgia.org
- July 26-31, 2009 STS Marketing College- Dahlonega-North Georgia College
- July 28, 2009 Classic South Travel Association Meeting- Pam Kruseck, GDEcD and Jill Teter, Emmis Custom Publications guest speakers- Greensboro- 10:00am- noon. (location to be determined)
- Aug 31–Sept 2, 2009 Georgia Governor’s Conference on Tourism- Lake Lanier Islands- Registration is open at: www.georgiagtc.com.
- September 22, 2009 Classic South Travel Association Meeting- Augusta- location to be determined- 10:00am- guest speaker- Joy Walstrum, Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia

2009 Georgia On My Mind Days at the State Visitor Centers:

- June 5th – Tallapoosa Tallapoosa@georgia.org
June 19th – Ringgold ringgold@georgia.org
July 17th – Augusta augusta@georgia.org
July 31st – West Point westpoint@georgia.org