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News from Georgia Tourism:

- **The 2009 Co-Op Marketing Final Reports are due by May 29th.** All reports must be submitted to Leslie Breland by May 29th in order to receive your reimbursements.
- **The 2010 Co-Op Marketing Program deadline will be extended until July 31, 2009.** Budgets are not set in stone until the legislative session convenes. The deadline for applications has been extended to give you time to prepare your application.
- **Georgia Logo approval Usage** should be approved by Neil Bowen- her email address is cbowen@georgia.org
- **National Travel and Tourism Week May 9th - 17th** – "Discover Great American Traditions". Click on the link below for a toolkit of resources and special promotional opportunities offered by DiscoverAmerica.com and AOL® Travel in conjunction with National Tourism Week http://www.ustravel.org/pressmedia/TWFA/ntw_week.html
- **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.
- **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.
- **The Group Tour Boot Camp will take place June 18-19th** at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in Macon. The boot camp will focus on itinerary building. More info coming soon!
- **MAKE YOUR EXPLOREGEORGIA.ORG LISTING STAND OUT**
We're now taking into account listing quality when ranking search results. This new "**Most Relevant**" search ranking provides site visitors with a great user experience. Tips for making your **ExploreGeorgia.org** listing stand out:

Upload a Logo/Default Photo: There's nothing more important to the quality of your listing than having your logo (or a small photo) uploaded to represent your listing. These images appear on the search result page and help site visitors identify your listing and entice them to learn more.

Upload More Photos: Now that we've updated the photo gallery page for your listings, it's more important than ever to upload photos of your listing. The more photos you upload, the more opportunities you have to market your attraction/lodging to site visitors.

Have a Great Summary and Description: Your summary gives visitors a quick snapshot of your listing, and should be written to make you stand out in the crowd. You only have 300 characters, so make your words count. Point out a couple of exciting features of your listing. The description is your chance to really market your listing. Take this chance to tell visitors about all of the great features that make your attraction or lodging unique!

Regional News:

- **The Classic South Travel Association's** May meeting will be held in **Lincolnton at Golf de L on May 26, 2009**. Katie Baasen from the GDEcD will be our guest speaker and will talk about the Georgia Group Tour Marketing Program and representatives from Gainesville will also be at the meeting to give us information about the 2009 Georgia Governor's Conference on Tourism.
- **Lauren Neal** has been hired as the new Tourism Director for the Greene County Tourism Office. You can reach Lauren at Lauren@visitlakeoconee.com Welcome to the Classic South Lauren!
- **The Point of Art Gallery & Studio - Awarded *Small Business of the Year* by the Greene County Chamber of Commerce!**
The Point of Art Gallery & Studio
Union Point, Georgia
tel: (706) 486-6808
www.ThePointofArt.net
- www.clarkshillga.org- Check out the new website for the Clarks Hill Partnership group.
- **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
- A very special “**thank you**” goes out to everyone that donated items and attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Ga. Visitor Center on I-20 in Augusta on April 24th.

Grant Opportunities:

- **Save Our History 2009/2010 grant cycle announced** - Applications are due June 5, 2009 <http://www.history.com/content/saveourhistory/grant-program>
Email info@saveourhistory.com for more information.
- **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:

- May 26, 2009 Classic South Travel Association Meeting- Lincolnton
July 26-31, 2009 STS Marketing College- Dahlonega-North Georgia College
Aug 31–Sept 2, 2009 Georgia Governor’s Conference on Tourism- Lake Lanier
Islands- Registration is open at: www.georgiagtc.com.
June 18-19, 2010 Group Tour Boot Camp- Macon (Georgia Music Hall of Fame)

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

- May 15th – Kingsland kingsland@georgia.org
May 22nd – Lavonia lavonia@georgia.org
May 29th – Savannah savannah@georgia.org
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