



## **Monthly Update –October 2008** **The Georgia Coast Travel Region**

**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT MY CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED\***

### **Kudos**

- **Azalea Inn and Gardens and Park Avenue Manor** were chosen as two of the 'Best of the South' in the BestofBedandBreakfast.com Awards!

### **Coast Mentions in the Media**

- **October - Lufthansa Magazine** by Dr. Stefan Elfenbein. Stefan was on the Coast November of 2007. This article featured Savannah and Charleston and is a cover story. Stefan mentions Owens-Thomas House, Lady & Sons, Gullah Geechee culture, Old City, Monterey Square, Mrs. Wilke's Dining Room. The circulation for this publication is 613,000. The ad value is \$82,000.
- **October – AJC – Best of the Big A.** Best One-Tank Trip - Readers picked Savannah/Tybee Island! [http://www.accessatlanta.com/best-of-the-big-a/content/best-of-the-big-a/best-of-atlanta.html/?cxntlid=homepage\\_tab\\_newstab](http://www.accessatlanta.com/best-of-the-big-a/content/best-of-the-big-a/best-of-atlanta.html/?cxntlid=homepage_tab_newstab)
- **October - Southern Living - South's Best Fall Travel**  
[http://www.southernliving.com/southern/travel/travel\\_south/article/0,28012,1841333-1,00.html](http://www.southernliving.com/southern/travel/travel_south/article/0,28012,1841333-1,00.html)
- **Oct. 3-5 and beyond - AJC's Southeastern Festivals**  
**St. Simons Island** — The Southern Soul BBQ & Bluegrass Bash, Oct. 4, celebrates fall food this year with slow-smoked barbecue pork, beef brisket, fresh fried fish, local shrimp, roasted oysters, Southern side dishes and more food than you care to eat. Twelve dollars gets a bottomless barbecue plate (portions of proceeds benefit Harmony Square, a community education center). Live music includes Cornpone Nation and Rollin' in the Hay. 912-638-7685,  
[www.southernsoulsbbq.com](http://www.southernsoulsbbq.com).  
<http://www.ajc.com/travel/content/travel/southeast/southeastern-festivals.html>
- **Oct – Various papers across the US -** 25 places to see in Georgia before you ... well, you know Mary Ann Anderson – Savannah, Jekyll Island and Okefenokee included.
  - Boise Idaho Statesman (ID)
  - The Sun Herald (MS)
  - Centre Daily Times (PA)
  - Anchorage Daily News (AK)
  - Lexington Herald-Leader (KY)
  - Raleigh News & Observer (NC)
  - Columbus Ledger-Enquirer (GA)
  - Macon Telegraph (GA)
  - And more – Google title and author!<http://www.catholic.org/travel/story.php?id=29522>

### **Media Opportunities**

- **Georgia Municipal Associations** prints a monthly newsletter called *Georgia Cities* that is distributed to Georgia's 502 municipal governments. Their website is [www.gmanet.com](http://www.gmanet.com). The back page features Fairs & Festivals all across Georgia. To place a Fairs & Festivals listing, contact Amy Henderson at [ahenderson@gmanet.com](mailto:ahenderson@gmanet.com).

## FAMs and Press Trips

- **Joni Strandquest** is currently on the Coast. She is on assignment to write an article on the Gullah Geechee culture. She will be attending the Sapelo Island Heritage Festival. Joni was introduced to the area by another writer who attended the Travel Media Marketplace post-press trip to the Coast.
- **JTA/Continental Airlines** - I will be escorting a group of 10 travel agents from JTA and Continental Airlines on the Coast this week. Based on requests made by the participants we will be visiting Savannah, Brunswick and the Golden Isles area and the Okefenokee Swamp at Folkston.
- **GDEcD will host a Travel South FAM** April 8-11. Itinerary has been approved. I will begin planning with partners shortly.

## Grants

- **Tourism Product Development Grant** – the next round is scheduled to launch around November 3rd, with the deadline for submittal on December 31st. Grants will be awarded in mid January with a completion date for the project by June 29th 2009. Maximum grant amounts will remain at \$10,000 requiring a dollar for dollar local match. I will share more info as it becomes available.
- **David R. Coffin Publication Grant** - The Foundation for Landscape Studies invites applications for the David R. Coffin Publication Grant, named in honor of the eminent scholar of landscape and garden history, for the purpose of research and publication of a book in the English language that advances scholarship in the field of garden history and landscape studies. It is awarded without restrictions to the period or subject treated, or to the nationality of the author. It will be selected by a jury comprising members of the foundation's board of directors and any outside professionals they may wish to appoint. Deadline: 12/1/2008. For more information, visit: [http://www.foundationforlandscapestudies.org/awards\\_davidcoffin.html](http://www.foundationforlandscapestudies.org/awards_davidcoffin.html)

## From The State

- **Georgia Travel Guide** – Did you know the guide can be viewed online at [ExploreGeorgia.org](http://ExploreGeorgia.org)? It's also downloadable.
- **Peach Byte** – Look for a new updated look with the November issue. Receive industry news with Peach Byte, Georgia's e-newsletter for the tourism industry. If you don't currently receive this free monthly news info, sign up by sending an email to [peachbyte@georgia.org](mailto:peachbyte@georgia.org)
- **www.ExploreGeorgia.org** – Make sure you are updating your free listing on the State tourism website. If you need assistance with how to register or navigate the partner admin pages, please contact me.
- **Public Relations** – Stefanie Paupeck, Communications Specialist, and her intern Mark Avera are sending press releases to local, regional and national media, initially on a weekly basis, then monthly beginning January 09. If you produce an e-newsletter promoting your community, be sure to add Stefanie to your distribution list. Her email is [spaueck@georgia.org](mailto:spaueck@georgia.org).

- **Register for Georgia's Eternal Places historic cemetery conference Nov 13-14-** The Family Plot will be held in Washington, Georgia. Learn about the best practices of historic cemetery conservation, heritage tourism, cemetery landscapes, success stories and more. The conference is presented and hosted by the City of Washington in partnership with the Historic Preservation Division and the Tourism Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, with financial support from a Preserve America grant. For registration information, contact Conference Coordinator David Jenkins at [djenkins@washingtonwilkes.org](mailto:djenkins@washingtonwilkes.org) or 706-678-4654.
- **Save the Date** - Winter Chautauqua dates for 2009 are March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Details will be forthcoming as the program is developed.
- **Creative Economies conference calls -**  
**October 21, 10am**  
**November 18, 10am**

The Georgia Tourism Foundation and Georgia Made Georgia Grown, LLC invite you to participate in our Conference Calls. We have a lot to share about the *Georgia Made Georgia Grown Products* programming and the statewide database. The software developers are hard at work and creative businesspeople will be able to load their information into the system in a couple of weeks!

Dial 616.597.8000. When asked for the Access Code, dial 625746#. The call is free of charge, except for whatever long distance fees your carrier charges.

Please reply to [camille@georgiamadegeorgiagrown.com](mailto:camille@georgiamadegeorgiagrown.com) to let me know that you will attend. If you have questions or would like us to talk about specific details, tell me about them.

- **Postponed - 2008 Agritourism Conference** – Due to unforeseen budget restrictions affecting many regional partners, it was decided to postpone the upcoming Agritourism Conference scheduled for November 5 – 6, 2008 in Perry. Local, state and federal partners are facing strict travel restrictions and tight budgets at this time. The budget reductions are also affecting registration numbers as well. The theme of the conference is “Regionalism: The Key to Expanding our Agritourism Footprint” and without our resources this conference can not take place.
- **Industry Research Co-Op:** As mentioned at the 2008 Governor’s Conference on Tourism, you as a tourism partner will have several opportunities to co-op on new types of Industry Research. Some research will remain available at no cost, while other vital statistics may be of charge. Please review the opportunities that may benefit your organization at [www.marketgeorgia.org](http://www.marketgeorgia.org) under the Industry Research tab.
- **DCA’s October 2008 newsletter** published by DCA Communications. [www.dca.state.ga.us/dcanewsletter/200810.html](http://www.dca.state.ga.us/dcanewsletter/200810.html)
- **The Okefenokee Swamp** is featured in the “Must See” section of Georgia’s Destinations 2 Discover page for the month of Oct, and Savannah is featured in the “Must Experience” section <http://georgia.destinations2discover.com/>
- **Peach Byte!** – GDEcD’s official Georgia Tourism Monthly E-Newsletter available to anyone. If you have not yet signed up to receive Peach Byte, please send an email to [peachbyte@georgia.org](mailto:peachbyte@georgia.org) requesting that your e-mail address be added. If you would like to see past editions of Peach Byte, visit: <http://my.georgia.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=244185.72586.26.3011>

- **Market Georgia Tourism is an excellent resource for tourism professionals.** You will find industry research, industry presentations, excellent contact information and more...information is added weekly:  
<http://my.georgia.org/core/item/page.aspx?s=72456.72586.26.3011>  
 UPDATE: In April 09, [www.marketgeorgia.org](http://www.marketgeorgia.org) will be redirected to [www.georgia.org/travel](http://www.georgia.org/travel).

## Exploregeorgia.org

- **New Booking Engine on the Exploergeorgia.org website** – If you haven't seen this new feature, check it out - <http://www.exploregeorgia.org/>  
 If you have questions please let me know.

## From the Governor's Conference on Tourism

- All of the presentations that have been shared are now listed at <http://www.gacvb.com/2008-governors-tourism-conference.html>

## Georgia Visitor Information Center Marketing Opportunities & News

- **The Georgia Visitor Center in Tallapoosa invites you to join them on Friday, November 7th from 10am-2pm** as they promote holiday festivities in Georgia. Reserve your spot by the 30th of October 770-574-2621 or email: [tallapoosa@georgia.org](mailto:tallapoosa@georgia.org). Please bring your own table and chairs.

## Dates to Remember

- **October 17, 2008** – 10:30am - GA Coast Travel Association meeting – Folkston, Okefenokee Education and Research Center. For more information and/or directions please contact Ginny Howell. [gcta.exdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:gcta.exdirector@yahoo.com) 912-635-2697
- **November 7, 2008** Tallapoosa Visitor Information Center hosts Holiday Festivities in Georgia
- **Nov 13-14, 2008** *Georgia's Eternal Places: The Family Plot* Historic Cemetery Conference, Washington, GA
- **January 27, 2009** Tourism Day at the Capitol
- **March 1-2, 2009** - Winter Chautauqua- SAVE THE DATE!
- **April 8-11, 2009** - Travel South FAM on the Coast

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### Regional Contact Information

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