



Magnolia Midlands Travel Region

Regional Tourism Representative Report
August 2008

GEORGIA TOURISM DIVISION NEWS

- **GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM:** This year GDEcD has teamed up with TDAG and GACVB to host a larger and more comprehensive Governor's Conference on Tourism. Host city Albany, GA is preparing for the hundreds that will attend this year's conference to be held September 10-12, 2008. To register, visit www.georgia.org or <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=615949>.
- **CREATIVE ECONOMIES: SAVE THE DATE!** The Averitt Center for the Arts in conjunction with Georgia Made Georgia Grown, LLC. and GDEcD will be hosting *Make Your Mark on the Magnolia Midlands* Symposium in Statesboro on September 22. All Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs), agritourism sites, creative entrepreneurs and attractors are encouraged to attend. This will be a great opportunity to find out how to get your attractions on a group tour as well as how to package your product with other regional partners.
- **NEW TOURISM SITE:** The new tourism website, www.exploregeorgia.org, is up and running. Features like suggested experiences, travel planner and booking agent are available on the new site. An electronic version of the travel guide is also available. Please create your partner page or update your existing one. **ATTENTION ALL TOURISM PARTNERS:** It is not necessary to continue to update or add to your old partner page on mygeorgia.org. The new tourism site is the official site for both the tourism industry partners as well as the consumer. Please contact your regional rep with questions or comments regarding the site.

MAGNOLIA MIDLAND'S REGIONAL NEWS

- **MR. ANGEL MONUMENT TO OPEN:** Mr. Angel, UGA's first mascot, is buried in the friendly city of Eastman. This October, Eastman will unveil the new monument to recognize Mr. Angel for his service to the Georgia Bulldogs. Contact Jennifer Boutwell at the Eastman-Dodge Chamber of Commerce for more information.
- **THE INN AT BLUEBERRY PLANTATION:** The Inn at Blueberry Plantation will open the end of September 2008. The 14 room lodge will offer a unique accommodation opportunity for the region. The lodge will also feature a full service restaurant and conference center.

DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANCE

- **TECHNO-TOURISM GRANT:** Congratulations to the Magnolia Midland's Travel Association on your recently awarded techno-tourism grant. This will give the RTA additional funds to further the website development and offer new features like a geo-caching trail online. Congratulations to all regional partners that also received the technology grant.
- **SITE VISITS:** It is important that we get our regional partners, such as attractors and hoteliers, involved in regional marketing. I would like to make sure that they are aware of the services available to them. If you have new attractions or old ones that may need help with marketing, please contact me to arrange a site visit. You may email me at lhennesy@georgia.org or call me at 678-640-4342.
- **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
 - Governor's Conference on Tourism- Albany, September 10-12, 2008
 - Magnolia Midlands Travel Association Meeting- Baxley, October 9, 2008
 - Agritourism Symposium- Perry, November 6-7, 2008
 - Magnolia Midlands Travel Association Meeting- Hazlehurst, November 13, 2008