



Magnolia Midlands Travel Region

Regional Tourism Representative Report
August 2009

GEORGIA TOURISM DIVISION NEWS

GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE: DON'T MISS IT!:

Make plans to attend one of Georgia's most highly anticipated events held exclusively for the state's tourism industry. Take this opportunity to become informed and energized by dynamic speakers and build relationships with industry leaders. Sessions Include: *Peter Yesawich - What Lies Ahead: Destination Marketing in Times of Uncertainty*; *Susan Sweeney - Past, Present and Future Trends of Online Marketing*; *Podcasting - Part of the New Marketing Mix?*; *Facebook, YouTube, Twitter...oh my! Social Media seems to be everywhere! What's a Marketer to do?*; and *Great Online Gadgets, Tools, Resources*. Panels include Gubernatorial Candidate Forum; Accommodations Tax 101 & Best Practices; Georgia's 2010 Tourism Marketing Plan; Update on Georgia's State Parks and much more! Visit www.georgiagtc.com to register, get lodging information, view schedule and agenda. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

GEORGIA PEACH GREET:

GDEcD has started a new program for tour companies involving the state's 11 Visitor Information Centers. VICs are the perfect place for a pit stop for tour groups, the state's tourism division is encouraging the group leader to plan a stop with the group, so we can showcase our southern hospitality and say "Hey Ya'll". All we need is 48 hours advance notice to prepare special Georgia favors. The tourism division is offering it as an added amenity for a tour operator planning a tour to or through Georgia. This program is in conjunction with the Motorcoach Tracking the VIC staff is currently working on. Thank you to the VIC staff for their efforts on this program. Please contact Katie Baasen at kbaasen@georgia.org for more information.

GEORGIA TOURISM BROCHURE ROOM:

If you are participating in the Brochure Room on exploregeorgia.org you should now be receiving invoices for your mailings. You can view your inventory online. If you have any questions or if you would like to start participating in the Brochure Room program contact Carl Eggerson at ceggerson@georgia.org.

2010 TRAVEL MEDIA MARKETPLACE BIDS NOW ACCEPTED:

The deadline to submit bids is September 10, 2009. If your community is interested in being considered as the host city, contact Stefanie Paupeck at

spaupeck@georgia.org or please call or email Lori Hennesy. The host city can also be a regional partnership among several communities.

CO-OP GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Co-Op Grants will be announced on or by October 15, 2009. Good luck to all Co-Op Grant applicants!

MAGNOLIA MIDLAND'S REGIONAL NEWS

STATE PUBLICATION ORDERS:

In an effort to make sure communities have access to state publications, GDEcD and Emmis Publication are extending an offer to all communities to place a quarterly order to be made to two regional drop locations. It is the responsibility of the community to arrange for pickup of your publications from either Douglas or Metter. Please be sure to get your order in by the specified deadline. There may be a quick turnaround and late orders will not be placed. Please contact Lori Hennesy with any questions regarding your need for publications or your orders.

SUNBELT AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION:

The Magnolia Midlands Regional Travel Association will be partnering with Plantation Trace Travel Association and Presidential Pathways Travel Association to reserve and work a booth at the 2009 Ag Expo in Moultrie. All members of the MMTA will have the opportunity to promote their communities, lodging, events and attractions during the three day festival. Please mark your calendars for October 20-22 if you plan to participate.

POSSIBLE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Public Programs grants
The National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Public Programs funds public projects at museums, libraries, historic sites, and other historical and cultural organizations. The grants support historic site interpretation, exhibits, reading or film discussion series, symposia, and digital projects. For more information contact the Division of Public Programs, 202-606-8269 or www.neh.gov. Application deadlines for funds from America's Historical and Cultural Organizations and Interpreting America's Historic Places programs are August 26, 2009, and January 13, 2010.

GHRAB Historical Records Digitization Services grants

Awards of up to \$10,000 to local governments and historical repositories in Georgia for digitization services. Preference will be given to records of high genealogical value.

www.sos.ga.gov/archives/who_are_we/ghrab/

[grant_programs](#)

[/historical_records_digitization_services.htm](#) or contact Elizabeth Barr at 678-364-3718 or ebarr@sos.state.ga.us.

Due by September 1.

James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation award nominations sought

The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation will award research grants of up to \$25,000 to mid-career professionals who have an academic background, professional experience, and an established identity in historic preservation or related field. The organization also will grant its biennial Richard L. Blinder Award of up to \$15,000 for the best proposal exploring the preservation of an existing structure, complex of buildings, or genre of building type for use for a cultural purpose. More information about these awards is available at www.fitchfoundation.org. The application deadline is September 16.

- **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- Magnolia Midlands Travel Association Meeting: August 20, 2009 in Ocilla and September 17, 2009 in McRae
- Governor's Conference on Tourism: August 31- September 2, 2009 at Lake Lanier
- Sunbelt Agricultural Expo: October 20-22 in Moultrie, GA



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For travel information, visit www.exploregeorgia.org

To learn more about experiencing the Magnolia Midlands, visit www.magnoliamidlands.org