



Magnolia Midlands Travel Region

Regional Tourism Representative Report
September 2009

GEORGIA TOURISM DIVISION NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: SOUTH GEORGIA'S AGRITOURISM WORKSHOP:

This year, there will be three Agritourism Workshops to serve the state in North Georgia, Central Georgia and South Georgia. You may sign up for the workshop nearest you, but for the most part South Georgia's workshop will best serve Magnolia Midlands. The dates and locations follow:

North Georgia
The Dillard House
Dillard, GA
November 5-6, 2009

Central Georgia
Oakhurst Farm
West Point, GA
December 2-3, 2009

South Georgia
Rainwater Conference Center
Valdosta, GA
November 16-17, 2009

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the Agritourism workshops!

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.

2010 TRAVEL MEDIA MARKETPLACE BIDS NOW ACCEPTED:

We are looking forward to once again hosting Travel Media Marketplace in May 2010. We are hopeful that many of Georgia's cities or regional partnerships are ready, willing and able to host popular and successful event.

Please note - communities will now be responsible for providing transportation from Atlanta to the host destination. We will coordinate and escort, but the cost of the transportation will fall on the host community or regional partnership (neighboring communities).

We will make a big push for local and regional media this year in an effort to keep airfare costs down, but also to focus on visitors in our drive markets.

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

SWEETWATER HORSE TRACK:

One of the newest attractions in Magnolia Midlands, The Sweetwater Horse Track, will have a special performance by Lance Stinson on September 12, 2009. Located on Hwy 280 East in Glenwood, Sweetwater Horse Track offers horse races, special concerts, kiddie play land and so much more. For more information, contact 912-682-9007.

MATERNITY LEAVE:

If all goes well, I'll be going on maternity leave beginning September 28, 2009 until January 4, 2010. Fay Tripp (ftripp@georgia.org) will handle most of my duties during my leave. If you have critical projects that must be addressed before I go out on leave, please contact me immediately so we can schedule a meeting. Please feel free to contact Fay with questions or concerns. Monthly reports will resume in January 2010. Feel free to check out other regional reps reports, like Jeannie Buttrum in Classic South, for the latest news from the State Tourism Office.

POSSIBLE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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: September 17, 2009 in McRae and no meeting will be held in October (Sunbelt Ag Expo)
- 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