



Magnolia Midlands Travel Region

Regional Tourism Representative Report
October 2008

GEORGIA TOURISM DIVISION NEWS

- **AGRITOURISM CONFERENCE CANCELLED:** Due to unforeseen budget restrictions affecting many of our regional partners, we have decided to postpone the upcoming Agritourism Conference that was scheduled to take place November 5 - 6, 2008 in Perry. Our local, state and federal partners are facing strict travel restrictions and tight budgets at this time. The budget reductions are also affecting our registration numbers as well. The theme of the conference is "Regionalism: The Key to Expanding our Agritourism Footprint" and without our regional partners leading sessions, planning programs, sharing regional successes and resources this conference can not take place. This conference is very important to us! The Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter in Perry and our speakers have all agreed to work with us to reschedule the conference for 2009. Thank you!
- **CREATIVE ECONOMIES:** 2008 Creative Economies Summit will be held in Blairsville on Thursday, November 20, 2008 to discuss what is new with the Creative Economies Initiative. Find further details at www.georgia.org/foundation.
- **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:** The second round of product development grants are scheduled to be available the first of November. Please be evaluating plans that you have for product that may be eligible for the product development funding. This grant must be applied for by the City, County or Development Authority. It is a 50/50 match with a cap of \$10,000. For more information, contact your Regional Tourism Representative or visit www.marketgeorgia.org.
- **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE:** Be sure to visit www.marketgeorgia.org for a list and information regarding potential tourism grants. Please take a moment to review your opportunities and ask questions if you have them. During tough economic times, you are encouraged to take advantage of the State resources you have available including your regional representative and product development team.
- **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 statics may be of charge. Please review the opportunities that may benefit your organization at www.marketgeorgia.org under the Industry Research tab.

MAGNOLIA MIDLAND'S REGIONAL NEWS

- **TOURING THE MAGNOLIA MIDLANDS- PRODUCT:** Joseph Eason of Burns World Travel, LTD is currently working on collecting information from prospective attractions for a group tour to be sold through his travel agency. These tours could potentially be one day excursions from Savannah and/or two night, three day or three night/four day trips around the region. If you have attractions that would be interested, please have them contact Joseph at jeason@burnsworldtravel.com.
- **SALES CALLS FOR THE MAGNOLIA MIDLANDS TRAVEL ASSOCIATION:** Please be aware that Dorie Bacon and I will be visiting with communities that are not currently members of the travel association in order to encourage them to participate with marketing the region. During these economically trying times, it is vital to pool our resources and stretch the marketing dollar. Be sure to let Dorie know if there are attractors, hoteliers or community partners that may be interested in joining the travel association. Please refer them to Dorie or www.magnoliamidlands.org.
- **ENJOY THE STATE PARKS:** Remember that the State Parks in our region are incredible assets to tourist appeal. Remember to encourage your tourist and locals to visit the State Parks in your communities for recreation and leisure. For more information, visit www.gastateparks.org.

DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANCE

- **YOUR PARTNER PAGE:** Thank you all for efficiently assisting with proofing of the 2009 Travel Guide. Keep in mind that all the information included in the State's Publications comes directly from www.exploregeorgia.org. You are responsible for populating your partner page and it certainly makes proofing much easier. Please keep your attractions, accommodations and events updated as often as possible. Just because we added information for your community to the accommodations and attractions portions of the guide DOES NOT mean that they are automatically updated on the website. Please take the time to update those items on your partner page. Thank you for being such outstanding tourism partners.
- **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
 - Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie- October 14-16, 2008
 - Magnolia Midlands Travel Association Meeting- Hazlehurst, November 13, 2008
 - 2009 Winter Chautauqua- SAVE THE DATE! March 1-2, 2009 will be hosted in North Georgia



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For travel information, visit www.exploregeorgia.org

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