



Magnolia Midlands Travel Region

Regional Tourism Representative Report
September 2008

GEORGIA TOURISM DIVISION NEWS

- **GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM:** Albany hosted a successful Governor's Conference on Tourism with GDEcD, TDAG, and GACVB. Thank you to all attendees for coming and supporting tourism in the State of Georgia.
- **CREATIVE ECONOMIES:** Statesboro and the Averitt Center for the Arts hosted a successful *Making Your Mark on the Magnolia Midlands* Symposium on September 22. Brochures on the Georgia Made Georgia Grown Products Program were distributed. For more information on the program, visit 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.

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.
- **SHANNON VINEYARDS and WINERY:** Opening this fall, Shannon Vineyards and Winery will be joining Meinhardt Vineyards and Winery in Statesboro as the second winery in the Magnolia Midlands. Shannon Vineyards and Winery is in Sylvania off of the Savannah River Parkway. The Winery will be a tremendous asset to the region. In 2010, Watermelon Creek Winery is slated to open in Glennville. I hope to facilitate a winery trail for southeast Georgia after Watermelon Creek is open.
- **SAVANNAH RIVER PRESERVE:** Recently I toured the Savannah River Preserve with Heidi Jeffers in Sylvania. It is over 1200 acres with four spacious cabins each sleeping 4-6 people. They also offer sporting clays, pheasant hunting, quail, hog, deer and turkey hunting. It is a great get-

a-way location for a mancation or a relaxing couples retreat. For more information, visit www.savannahriverpreserve.com.

DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANCE

- **ECONOMIC IMPACT RESEARCH:** The 2007 Economic Impact figures and research for the State have been posted on www.marketgeorgia.org under Industry Research. However, the regional analysis has not been made available. Some counties have not submitted their information and until their numbers are in the complete report will not be available.
- **TOURISM PUBLICATIONS:** 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. Thank you for being such outstanding tourism partners.
- **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:**
 - Magnolia Midlands Travel Association Meeting- Baxley, October 9, 2008 HAS BEEN CANCELED**
 - Agritourism Symposium- Perry, November 6-7, 2008 (Remember Judy Randall will be the keynote speaker and you won't want to miss her. Encourage your agritourism sites and potential sites to attend the conference as well.)**
 - Magnolia Midlands Travel Association Meeting- Hazlehurst, November 13, 2008**