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<p><b><a href="http://www.ExploreGeorgia.org">www.ExploreGeorgia.org</a> ~ <a href="http://www.GeorgiaMountains.org">www.GeorgiaMountains.org</a></b>          Tourism news/updates on Twitter.com: <b>NEGATourism</b></p>	

## NORTHEAST GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL TOURISM REPORT August 2009

### TOURISM DIVISION UPDATE

- Don't forget to register for the 2009 Governor's Conference on Tourism at Lake Lanier Islands. Go to [www.MarketGeorgia.org](http://www.MarketGeorgia.org) to get information and register.
- [www.ExploreGeorgia.org](http://www.ExploreGeorgia.org)
  - If you are partners in the Brochure Room, you can see your inventory. You just need to contact Peggy Smith to set up an account for you. Contact Peggy at psmith@georgia.org
  - You can submit PACKAGES New packages can be sent to Vickie at any time. Just please put it in a format that is easy for her. Location Name...Location City...Package Name...Package Dates...Package inclusions...Package Cost, etc.
  - Update your information on [www.ExploreGeorgia.org](http://www.ExploreGeorgia.org) – your listing is only as informative as you make it
- Civil War Book – “*Crossroads and Conflict*” will be coming out this fall. There will be a cost. Go to [www.georgiacivilwar.org](http://www.georgiacivilwar.org) to preview book. Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations/events are being scheduled over the four-year period of the Sesquicentennial.
- If you are planning on bidding on the 2010 Travel Media Marketplace – Deadline is September 2009
- **Governors Conference on Tourism** at Lake Lanier Islands – August 31 thru September 2, 2009. Go to [www.georgiagtc.com](http://www.georgiagtc.com)
- Marketing Co-op application and guidelines are posted on [www.MarketGeorgia.org](http://www.MarketGeorgia.org) – **Deadline August 15, 2009**
- Check out our bi-weekly press releases. The bi-weekly press release is a great way for us to get the word out about all the Georgia has to offer visitor and locals. Stefanie Paupeck sends it to travel writers, general news outlets, everyone on email (including international offices), our board and so on. It is also posted on [www.georgia.org](http://www.georgia.org), Facebook, Peach Byte and so much more.
- [www.GaMadeGaGrownProducts.org](http://www.GaMadeGaGrownProducts.org) is in the news! A recent article ran in the Columbia County News Times. In addition, Walter Jones interviewed Gilda Watters for a Morris News story that ran in several Georgia papers.

It would be great for us to hear any positive feedback from any of our GAMade GAGrown partners who are on the site. Several media outlets have asked us if artists, farmers and so on are benefiting from being on the site. Increase in sales, requests or visitors to their location? It would be great if you would share this information with us so we can share it with writers who contact us.

Below you will find the most recent visitation numbers for the site as well.

#### May 2009

- 5,500 - unique visitors
- 177.16 - per day

#### June 2009

- 6,725 - unique visitors
- 225 - per day

- The **Explore Georgia Facebook** page now has a vanity URL. It is [www.facebook.com/ExploreGeorgia](http://www.facebook.com/ExploreGeorgia). We also have 1,738 fans. Be sure to become a fan if you haven't already (and invite your friend to become fans, too!).
- **The Peach Greet, Georgia's motor coach intercept program**, was designed to give motorcoach groups a sampling of Georgia's well-known southern hospitality. Georgia's Peach Greet is available at our 11 Visitor Information Centers located throughout the state who welcome more than 13 million visitors each year and the perfect place to stop with any group! Contact me for an information sheet on the program.
- From Katie Baasen (kbaasen@georgia.org):
  - Group Leads - Contact me if you would like a listing of all receptive operators who attended the North American Journeys East Summit in NY. I also have appointment notes from the operators GDEcD with. FYI: I have already sent to folks on my Group Leads list. Let me know if you would like to be added to this list.
  - If you are doing Family Reunion Workshops, please let Katie know
  - I've sent out Booth Sponsorship Information for both NTA & ABA...let me know if you didn't get it and would like to get it

## MISCELLANEOUS

- **Article:** Tourism & Twitter: <http://www.businesspundit.com/twitter-for-tourism/>
- **Info from Penland Advertising:**

### Take Full Advantage of Google Maps



When searching on Google, many people will also turn to the Google Maps component. In addition, many businesses use an embedded Google Map on their website as a means of providing accurate travel directions from any point of origin. This is a great idea, but you should check to insure that your Google Maps listing is both accurate and complete. Go to <http://maps.google.com/>, enter the name of your business in the search box, click on the correct result (hopefully the first or only result), click on "edit" in the balloon pointing to your marker on the map, then click on "claim your business". You will have to create a Google Account (if you do not already have one) and authenticate your ownership of the business. Once this has been done, you can correct your marker location, add a description of your business, coupons, and upload up to 10 photos of your choosing ... all terrific (and free) marketing opportunities. If you are one of Penland Advertising's website clients, feel free to send us your username and password for free assistance in preparing and uploading your photos.

## Add a Weather Module to Your Site



Yes, weather can be a double-edged sword. Fear of inclement weather (or even less than ideal temperatures or a 10% chance of rain) can scare away last-minute travel decisions that affect all types of outdoor businesses. Despite that concern, it simply enhances the usability of your site to provide visitors with your live local weather conditions and forecast. An excellent free weather module from The Weather Channel can be customized and embedded into your site. If you are a Pelland Advertising client, we will be happy to add this functionality to your site. If not, go to <http://www.weather.com/services/oap.html> and follow the instructions for the HTML code that can be copied and pasted into your site.

- **U.S. Travel Releases Industry Performance Indicators:** The Industry Performance Indicators are now available at U.S. Travel Association's online report - U.S. Travel Outlook. This is a must-read report from Dr. Suzanne Cook, U.S. Travel's senior vice president of research. It examines current industry trends and forecasts and includes the U.S. Travel Dashboard. Click here for this important research information: <http://ustravel.org/resources/Outlook/09/July.htm>
- **Staycation in Webster's:** "Staycation" has been officially added to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary.
- **New DCA Website & Address Information.** DCA has a new website and DCA staffers have new email addresses. As mentioned in previous newsletters, these changes supported Governor Perdue's plan for a common email naming standard for state agencies. DCA's new website address is [www.dca.ga.gov](http://www.dca.ga.gov). The "new" format for DCA staff email addresses is as follows: First Name.Last Name @ DCA.GA.GOV. For example, John Brown's new email address is [JOHN.BROWN@DCA.GA.GOV](mailto:JOHN.BROWN@DCA.GA.GOV). Previously, it was [jbrown@dca.state.ga.us](mailto:jbrown@dca.state.ga.us).
- **U.S. TRAVEL OUTLOOK EXAMINES CURRENT INDUSTRY TRENDS**  
While a mild economic recovery is still expected by fall, indicators show that travel remains distressed not just in the U.S., but throughout the world. Low spending, a decrease in consumer confidence since June and a rise in the savings ratio are all indicators that define the current and near future marketplace. In its July U.S. Travel Outlook, the U.S. Travel Association also notes that fuel prices, while not expected to match the rise from 2008, are troubling to both drivers and airlines. In addition, the lodging industry faces a challenging year.

### Lodging Industry

2009 will be the weakest year on record for the lodging industry, having officially entered its 19th month of decline – and 2010 is likely to be weak as well. In spite of the poor half-year data, Smith Travel Research (STR) expects to see demand begin to rebound around the middle of the summer, particularly with the leisure travel segment. STR expects corporate travel to continue to be down.

PKF Hospitality holds a slightly different view than STR, however. Its recently updated forecast calls for RevPAR to decline 17.5 percent in 2009, followed by a 3.5 percent decline in 2010. National room rates are not expected to get back to 2008 levels until 2012. To see the most current lodging indicators for North Carolina, visit [www.nccommerce.com/NR/rdonlyres/F22820A6-BC34-4556-8B30-F61576E64E65/0/May2009YTDSmithTravel.pdf](http://www.nccommerce.com/NR/rdonlyres/F22820A6-BC34-4556-8B30-F61576E64E65/0/May2009YTDSmithTravel.pdf)

### New Forecasts

The U.S. Travel Association forecast for summer remains steady with a prediction of a 2.2 percent decrease in summer domestic leisure travel and a 2.5 percent decrease this year. The association predicts business travel to be down 5.8 percent in 2009. Travel and Tourism Economics forecasts that inbound international travel to the U.S. will be down almost 9 percent. For more information from the July edition of the U.S. Travel Outlook, visit [www.ustravel.org/resources/Outlook/09/June.htm](http://www.ustravel.org/resources/Outlook/09/June.htm).

- New Survey Shows Rise in Travel Intentions by Americans** -- The travel intentions of U.S. adults appear to be on the rise, according to the latest travelhorizons survey, which is co-authored quarterly by Ypartnership and the U.S. Travel Association. Almost two-thirds (63 percent) of U.S. adults expect to take at least one trip for leisure purposes between August 2009 and January 2010, up from 61 percent who expressed the same intention in July 2008. According to the national survey of 2,362 respondents conducted between July 21 and 28, 2009, the average number of overnight trips that U.S. adults intend to take during the next six months increased to 2.8 from 2.6 in July 2008. While travelers remain concerned about having sufficient money for travel, the majority of adults who are planning to take a trip expect to accommodate this concern by spending less on travel services this year compared to last. They also intend to comparison shop for deals, especially online. To find out more, visit [www.travelpulse.com/Resources/Editorial.aspx?n=59267](http://www.travelpulse.com/Resources/Editorial.aspx?n=59267) or [www.tia.org/pressmedia/pressrec.asp?Item=989](http://www.tia.org/pressmedia/pressrec.asp?Item=989).
- Travel Rebound Expected Next Year** – The recent and often quoted bad news: business travel will be down 15 percent this year. But the latest good news is that it will recover next year, according to HIS Global Insight. They predicted a 1.2 percent annual growth rate in the five years through 2013 in a study with the National Business Travel Association sponsored by Egencia. At the same time, there were signs that the overall travel market may be on the mend. NBTA and IHS Global Insight expect most sectors by next year to start rebuilding business travel spending levels, at an average growth rate of 4.2 percent over 2009. To find out more, visit [www.travelmole.com/stories/1137838.php?mpnlog=1&m\\_id=s~T\\_s~~A\\_rs~](http://www.travelmole.com/stories/1137838.php?mpnlog=1&m_id=s~T_s~~A_rs~)
- Bed & Breakfast Industry Thrives Despite Economy** -- The biannual Industry Study of Innkeeping Operations and Finance released last month by the Professional Association of Innkeepers International (PAII) shows that occupancy rates, room prices and revenue continue a steady climb for the nation's bed and breakfast businesses. The study shows that the median occupancy for B&Bs held steady at 44 percent in 2008, after results of 44 percent in 2007, 38 percent in 2006 and 35 percent in 2005. Overall, this four-year increase (2005 through 2008) represents a net gain for the industry of about 26 percent. B&Bs make up for the comparatively low occupancy rates by charging higher rates and providing more personalized services than do the chain lodging properties in general. The typical B&B provides a long list of amenities that are inclusive of the room rate. The report shows that 93 percent of B&Bs offer free high speed Internet access in the common areas and rooms, and that a majority of B&Bs provide luxury bedding and linens, bath robes, premium toiletries, jetted tubs and televisions. Most B&Bs still report hosting afternoon events for their guests, such as teas, wine tastings, etc. To find out more, visit [http://www.traveltrade.com/news\\_article.htm?id=7901&p=index.htm](http://www.traveltrade.com/news_article.htm?id=7901&p=index.htm).
- Study: CVBs Using Twitter to Promote Destinations, Attract Visitors** -- More than 300 convention and visitors bureaus currently have Twitter accounts that they're using to market their destinations to potential visitors and community partners, according to a new report from New York-based destination marketing firm Development Counsellors International (DCI). The report, "The Tweet Elite: How the Nation's Top Travel Marketers Are Using Twitter," examines how destination marketing organizations are using Twitter – the popular microblogging and social networking tool – to successfully stimulate tourism. Among the CVBs, DCI found that the most common -- but not necessarily most effective – types of tweets are announcements about upcoming local events/news (54 percent), social tweets (28 percent, replies to followers (20 percent) and deals (17 percent). To find out more, visit [www.mimegasite.com/mimegasite/search/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1003998174](http://www.mimegasite.com/mimegasite/search/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003998174)
- Tourists Pay Price as States Jack Up Taxes to Balance Budgets** -- Taxes on travel are soaring as states and cities target the wallets of tourists and business travelers for new revenue. Hotel taxes, car rental fees and other charges were jacked up in many states in an effort to balance budgets by last week, when the fiscal year started in 46 states. Popular tourist destinations were hit especially hard at areas including Hawaii, New York City, Nevada and Massachusetts. To find out more, visit [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/2009-07-05-traveltax\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/2009-07-05-traveltax_N.htm).
- Twitter Oomes to the Rescue** – As hotels, airlines and other travel companies line up on Twitter to promote their brands, customers who voice their grievances in the form of tweets are getting surprisingly fast responses for everything from bad airplane seats to poor room service. While many travel companies have yet to embrace Twitter, others are using it in creative ways to connect with customers. To find out more, visit [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/05/travel/05prac.html?\\_r=2&em](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/05/travel/05prac.html?_r=2&em).
- Study:** Go to [www.aboutdci.com/The-Tweet-Elite.aspx](http://www.aboutdci.com/The-Tweet-Elite.aspx) to view **Study: CVBs Using Twitter to Promote Destinations, Attract Visitors**
- Restaurants Tempt Diners With Cheaper Meals** – Many restaurants – from small local operations to big national chains and from frugal sandwich shops to high-end chop houses – are coping with the lingering recession by offering deals to crank up volume. Portions and quality are the same as they have been, but the prices are lower, from a few pennies off some items to more than \$1 off some entrees. Restaurants are finding a

variety of options to attract customers yet save money. To find out more, visit

[http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2009/07/06/smallb1.html?b=1246852800%5e1853920&ana=e\\_bjtt](http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2009/07/06/smallb1.html?b=1246852800%5e1853920&ana=e_bjtt).

- **New Report on Conservation's Economic Benefits:** A recent economic study found that conservation in New Jersey yields ten dollars in local investment for every one dollar spent on conservation. Yet all too often, we still hear the argument that creating parks and conserving land is too expensive, especially in hard economic times. Now a new TPL white paper pulls together research and examples showing that conservation is an investment and not a cost. The most recent of TPL's many reports and white papers on park benefits—including several on the economic benefits of parks—is intended to help agency personnel and community conservationists make the case for conservation.  
Read or download the white paper: [www.tpl.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?content\\_item\\_id=23056&folder\\_id=188](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=23056&folder_id=188)  
Read the press release on the New Jersey study: [www.tpl.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?content\\_item\\_id=23029&folder\\_id=629](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=23029&folder_id=629)  
More on Park Benefits from TPL's website: [www.tpl.org/tier2\\_cl.cfm?folder\\_id=725](http://www.tpl.org/tier2_cl.cfm?folder_id=725)
- **Vendor Relationships Keep Hotels Running On Lean Budgets** -- Where a guest sees a mint on a pillow, hotel management sees a series of contracts and relationships with vendors that enable smooth hotel service in rough economic times. Baked goods, lawn services, cleaning, elevator maintenance and pest control are just a few of the services hotels will contract out. As travelers' budgets have shrunk and occupancy rates have decreased in the last year, relationships with vendors have changed. Often, the relationships have improved. Both parties have learned to be flexible. To find out more, visit [http://tampabay.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2009/07/06/focus1.html?b=1246852800%5e1854968&ana=e\\_v\\_ert](http://tampabay.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2009/07/06/focus1.html?b=1246852800%5e1854968&ana=e_v_ert).
- **Free Tool to Find Energy Savings for Your Business:** Trimming energy costs while helping the environment is something many business owners would like to do. A new website by Aclara Software, Inc., in partnership with the federal Energy Star program, provides an easy way to identify possible improvements. [www.Energyguide.com](http://www.Energyguide.com) offers energy audits and recommendations for many types of businesses, including restaurants, retail, auto repair, hair salon and dry cleaners. The intake page asks for a zip code and a choice of business type. That brings you to a section tailored to your business. Questions include square footage and operating hours and type of energy used for lighting, heating, cooling, operating equipment, etc. Initial recommendations for a restaurant, for example, listed projects that could save about \$1,000 per year. A more extensive analysis uses detailed information to create personalized recommendations. The menu includes building shell, systems, office, and appliances. For more green business resources, visit **Georgia Green Loans** ([www.georgiagreenloans.org](http://www.georgiagreenloans.org)).
- **Note from Sierra Club...share with your visitors or do it yourself:** "We heard the governor of South Carolina had some trouble finding the Appalachian Trail last week. We don't want that to happen to anyone else, so now's a perfect time to let you know about our **new online community: Sierra Club Trails**. Members of the community are adding trails from around the country, sharing spectacular photos, and discussing topics such as whether guns should be allowed in our national parks. But so far only two sections of the Appalachian Trail have been added by our members. No wonder the governor got lost! If you've hiked the Appalachian Trail, join the Sierra Club Trails community and add a stretch or two. Share your photos of the trail, too! If you haven't hiked that trail but have other favorites, we'd love you to share them on Trails as well. Just click the "join" link at the top of the Trails homepage and you'll be on your way! Thanks for all that you do to protect the environment." Greg Haegele, Deputy Executive Director, Sierra Club
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation is seeking nominations for the 2010 edition of their annual Dozen Distinctive Destinations list. Started in the year 2000, the program recognizes unique cities and towns that are working to preserve their historic character, promote heritage tourism, enhance their community and encourage others to enjoy all they have to offer. This year the public will be invited to pick a "fan favorite" from among the 12 selected destinations. More information and nomination materials are available at [www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/travel/dozen-distinctive-destinations/](http://www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/travel/dozen-distinctive-destinations/). The deadline is **September 1st**.
- The USFS has finally bitten the social media bullet and started posting updates about the forest on Twitter. You can follow them at <http://twitter.com/ChattoconeeNF>. [Karen has hit on the pretty cool line of updates that inform people about the benefits of a healthy forests such as an upcoming tweet that says, "More than 8 million people visit the National Forests in Georgia each year. Healthy forests equal healthy tourism". I thought you might like that one.](#)

For more info contact Mitch Cohen, Interpretive Program and Web Manager (Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests), 1755 Cleveland Highway, Gainesville, GA 30501 Phone: 770-297-3095

- **Survey: Large Decline in Travel-Rewards Program Participation** -- Travel industry loyalty marketing and rewards programs have seen a 31.2 percent decline in active participation since 2007, according to COLLOQUY survey research on U.S. consumer attitudes and perceptions in the recession economy. Translated, the decline means the general population actively participated in 1.5 Travel-related loyalty programs in 2009 compared to 2.18 programs in 2007, when COLLOQUY last completed similar cross-demographic research on loyalty marketing perceptions in the Travel, Financial Services and Retail industries. Overall, consumer participation in rewards programs in the U.S. market has jumped 19 percent since 2007, COLLOQUY's research shows. To find out more, visit [www.hotelnewsnow.com/Articles.aspx?ArticleId=1612](http://www.hotelnewsnow.com/Articles.aspx?ArticleId=1612) & [http://colloquy.com/files/colloquy\\_meltdown\\_travel\\_report.pdf](http://colloquy.com/files/colloquy_meltdown_travel_report.pdf).
- **States Warm to ATVs to Drive Tourism** -- Local officials across the country are trying to develop all-terrain vehicle (ATV) tourism in an effort to boost their economies. The vehicles, long regarded by conservationists as loud, dangerous and destructive to the natural landscape, now seem like a promising new source of revenue. Some public officials see ATV tourism's economic potential as akin to that of snowmobiling, which has, by some estimates, generated billions in annual vehicle sales and tourism revenue. A study of one of the biggest ATV trail networks, West Virginia's Hatfield-McCoy system, found that consumers spent \$7.7 million for lodging, permits, meals, machine repairs and fuel while visiting in 2005. A spokesman for the trail network estimated that figure is now about \$10 million a year. To find out more, visit <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124831007584074147.html>.
- **Museums' Funding Sources Going Bone Dry** – Though visiting museums can be a low-cost way to escape the stresses of a suffering economy, museums are having trouble escaping it themselves. Plummeting endowments and decreases in donations and public financing are forcing museums to make large cutbacks, and some are even closing. Some museums are reaching out to the local community to raise money and recruit enough volunteers to stay open. To find out more, visit [www.usatoday.com/news/education/2009-07-22-museumclosing\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2009-07-22-museumclosing_N.htm).
- **MEDIA REQUESTS:**
  - The Times' annual Harvest fall leisure guide is scheduled to be published in the Aug. 30 editions. It will include stories on fall attractions in Northeast Georgia, plus a complete calendar of events and activities. Organizations wishing to submit information may send them by e-mail to [kalbertson@gainesvilletimes.com](mailto:kalbertson@gainesvilletimes.com). If possible, please include "Harvest" in the subject line. The deadline for information to be included is Aug. 3. As always, we look forward to your ideas and input to help improve this year's magazine for our readers and advertisers.
  - **Do You Have An Idea For Georgia's Hidden Treasures? WSBTV.com**  
ATLANTA -- Channel 2 Action News is working on another installment of the popular Georgia's Hidden Treasures series – and we would like to hear from you! Channel 2's John Pruitt has revealed breathtaking natural wonders right here in Georgia! "Reporting on Georgia's natural wonders is my idea of the perfect assignment," said Pruitt. "It's a joy to travel to these scenic areas not only to capture their beauty for our viewers, but also to share the rich history that surrounds Georgia's hidden treasures." Georgia's Hidden Treasures has visited Cloudland Canyon State Park, shown you one of the longest tree top tours in the world at Banning Mills, and shown you the "tree" experience at Panola Mountain -- just to name a few. Now, we are looking for other "hidden treasures" right here in Georgia! If you know of a Georgia natural wonder that you think should be featured on Georgia's Hidden Treasures – please send your idea to [dorthey.daniels@wsbtv.com](mailto:dorthey.daniels@wsbtv.com). Please include the name of the place and where it is located, along with your contact information in case we have any further questions. Copyright 2009 by WSBTV.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. [www.wsbtv.com/news/20143911/detail.html](http://www.wsbtv.com/news/20143911/detail.html)
  - **Cool, Fun and Unusual Factory Tours** -- Freelance writer Jane Levere is writing a round-up of the coolest/most fun/most unusual factory tours as an affordable vacation activity for Travel+Leisure magazine. Part of her pitch to T+L is that most of these tours are free or low-cost, which make them doubly desirable in this economy. The idea for this story stems from a San Francisco press release touting self-guided and escorted factory tours filled with excitement and creativity in and around the city. Send leads to Levere at [jlevere@nyc.rr.com](mailto:jlevere@nyc.rr.com). Do not send attachments or links; information must be contained in the body of your e-mail. Include both your work and cell phone numbers for follow-up questions. Deadline: **Aug. 14.**
  - **Beaches Beyond the Sea** – Small Market Meetings is seeking information about meeting venues that offer "sand without the salt" for an upcoming story based on a Beaches Beyond the Sea theme. Small Market Meetings is a national, monthly newspaper that covers meeting venues and options in second-tier

and smaller cities. Send a brief description and contact information to Editor Vickie Mitchell at [vmitchell@smallmarketmeetings.com](mailto:vmitchell@smallmarketmeetings.com). Deadline: **Aug. 20**.

- **GRANTS & AWARDS**

- **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](http://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](http://www.sos.ga.gov/archives/who_are_we/ghrab/grant_programs)

[/historical\\_records\\_digitization\\_services.htm](http://www.sos.ga.gov/archives/who_are_we/ghrab/historical_records_digitization_services.htm) or contact Elizabeth Barr at 678-364-3718 or [ebarr@sos.state.ga.us](mailto: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](http://www.fitchfoundation.org). The application deadline is **September 16**.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Go to [www.marketgeorgia.org](http://www.marketgeorgia.org) and click on **Travel Industry Events**. Contact me if you would like to submit a tourism industry event (meeting, conference, etc.)

**Aug 31–Sept 2**     **Georgia Governor's Conference on Tourism**, Lake Lanier Islands Resort ~ Go to [www.MarketGeorgia.org](http://www.MarketGeorgia.org) to get information and register.

**October 9**     **STS Top 20 Events Nomination Deadline for April, May & June 2010**. For nomination forms and more info, go to [http://southeasttourism.org/top\\_20\\_events.html](http://southeasttourism.org/top_20_events.html).

**January 8, '10**     **STS Top 20 Events Nomination Deadline for July, August, & September 2010**. For nomination forms and more info, go to [http://southeasttourism.org/top\\_20\\_events.html](http://southeasttourism.org/top_20_events.html).

**April 9, '10**     **STS Top 20 Events Nomination Deadline for October, November, & December**. For nomination forms and more info, go to [http://southeasttourism.org/top\\_20\\_events.html](http://southeasttourism.org/top_20_events.html).

**July 16, '10**     **STS Top 20 Events Nomination Deadline for January, February & March 2011**. For nomination forms and more info, go to [http://southeasttourism.org/top\\_20\\_events.html](http://southeasttourism.org/top_20_events.html).