



NEWS FROM THE ATLANTA OFFICE:

New Commissioner – On November 29, Governor Nathan Deal named **Chris Cummiskey** as his choice for commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Read his full bio at this link:

<http://georgia.org/About/Bios/Pages/default.aspx>

Sales Staff Addition - Jonathan Boisjolie joined the Tourism Division's sales team on Jan 25th as International Accounts Manager. Jonathan comes to us with a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst and 10 years of experience in the Travel/Tour industry - most recently as the Senior Manager of Group Sales and Special Events at the High Museum of Art – Atlanta and before that having his own tour operator firm in Orlando.

2011 Georgia Travel Guide Unveiled – The 2011 Georgia Travel Guide was unveiled during Tourism Day at the Capitol. Paula Deen and sons grace the cover.

View online at www.zinio.com/express3?issue=416152361&o=ext&rf=ga_travel11

Tourism Day at the Capitol – view photos at www.gdecphotos.smugmug.com Click on Events, the scroll to the bottom for 2011 Tourism Day photos.

ExploreGeorgia.org / GaCivilWar.org – Stefanie Paupeck, Communication's Specialist and tourism media contact for GDEcD, is receiving numerous requests for info about events relating to the Civil War 150th. As far out as you know the dates, enter your events to the website. Stefanie refers media there for a full listing of events. Need help? Contact Janet Cochran, Tourism Rep.

Special Offers Newsletter - Web users can sign up to receive the Special Offers Newsletter here:

<http://www.exploregeorgia.org/SpecialOffers>

NW GA HISTORIC HIGH COUNTRY REGIONAL NEWS

Calling for extras in Dallas - The comedy film *Joyful Noise* starring Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah will be filming in Dallas on Feb. 15th! Anyone interested in being an extra should email dallastheater@gmail.com with your full name and phone number.

NEW – Cherokee County History Museum and Welcome Center – The museum and visitors center opened Feb. 5th, and is housed on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse in downtown Canton. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wed – Fri, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free to the public.

Barnsley Gardens Resort has been named to Condé Nast Traveler's 2011 Gold List, which highlights the best places to stay in the world. Barnsley Gardens Resort is one of five Georgia properties to be included in this prestigious ranking. This is the second year in a row that the resort has been chosen as part of the Gold List.

Travel Media Marketplace – May 12-14, 2011 – Blue Ridge and Ellijay were awarded the bid to host. Stay tuned for details as they unfold.

Etowah Canoe Trail Closer to Reality - When completed, the trail will be 160-miles stretching from Dawson to Rome. The CRBI project aims to double the number of public access points on the Etowah during the next three years. There are millions of Georgians that live within an hour's drive of the river, and the Etowah Trail will help meet the

recreational needs of people that want to get out on the river. CRBI, several other local watershed groups, counties, and cities have worked together to secure funding, as well as applying for more funds to build boat launches to increase the access along the 160 mile stretch. Stay tuned for more updates on the Etowah Canoe Trail. To read the full report click here: <http://www.coosa.org/who-we-are/annual-reports/winter2011.pdf>

The City of Cedartown was awarded a \$15,000 SFY 2011 Georgia Heritage Grant to produce a preservation plan for its historic and still-functioning 1892 waterworks building.

MEDIA, PUBLIC RELATIONS, TRAVEL SHOWS, MARKETING

Cemetery Tourism - If you or someone in your community is thinking about putting together a cemetery tour, here's a good resource for researching renowned people who may be buried in your county. Some are more known than others, but the descriptions can help you tell the story.

www.findagrave.com/php/famous.php?page=state&FSstateid=12

Flavor of GA Food Product Contest - Entries are now being accepted for the 2011 Flavor of Georgia contest, conducted by the University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development (CAED). The winners will be announced during Georgia Ag Day March 22, 2011. **Online registration will run through Feb. 18, 2011** at www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu. For more information, call 706-542-9809 or e-mail spkane@uga.edu. Judges look for market-ready foods, either commercially available or prototypes, from across the state.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND OTHER INFO

Winter Chautauqua Tourism Conference – March 6-7, 2010, Cartersville www.winterchautauqua.com
Registration is now open! One of the most affordable tourism educational opportunities in GA!

RVIC Workshop – March 23-25, 2011 in Albany.

Good News in Tough Times – New report on preservation's impact on Georgia's economy prepared for HPD is now available online at HPD's website or click the link [HERE](#).

Grants:

- The Division of Public Programs at the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities funds humanities projects that are intended for broad public audiences at museums, libraries, historic sites and other historical and cultural organizations. New application guidelines are now posted on the NEH website for its **America's Historical and Cultural Organizations grant** competition. **Next two deadlines are January 12 and August 17.** Other grant information is also available at the website. Grants support interpretive exhibitions, reading or film discussion series, historic site interpretation, lecture series and symposia, and digital projects. NEH encourages projects that offer multiple formats and make creative use of new technology to deliver humanities content. Program officers in the Division of Public Programs are available to discuss project ideas or to read a draft of a proposal. Call the NEH Division of Public Programs at 202-606-8269 for more information.

Preserve America Stewards – **March 1, 2011 is the next quarterly deadline (Mar, Jun, Sep 1st are 2011 deadlines)** for submitting applications to the Preserve America Stewards program, which recognizes organizations and agencies that successfully use volunteers to help care for historic properties. Twenty-one Preserve America Stewards have been officially designated and recognized for their exemplary volunteer efforts to care for historic resources around the country. So far, Georgia is not represented in this program. Learn more [online](#) or contact [Druscilla Null](#) at 202-606-8532.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Save the Date!

- Feb. 21-23 – Southeast Festivals and Events Conference – Stone Mountain – www.southeastfestivals.org
- Feb. 22 – 24 – Travel South Showcase, Atlanta www.travelsouthusa.org
- Feb 25-26 – Weekend for Rivers, Roswell www.garivers.org
- Mar. 6-7 – Winter Chautauqua Tourism Conference – Cartersville www.winterchautauqua.com
- Mar. 23-25 – RVIC Workshop – Albany
- Mar 31 – Apr 1 – Statewide Preservation Conference, Macon
- May 12-14 – Travel Media Marketplace – Blue Ridge/Ellijay
- May 27 – GA On My Mind Day, Tallapoosa VIC
- Jun 24 – GA On My Mind Day, Ringgold VIC

Industry Calendar – for a listing of tourism industry events such as conferences, trade shows, etc, visit the Industry Calendar at <http://www.georgia.org/GeorgiaIndustries/Tourism/Pages/IndustryCalendar.aspx>.