



**Plantation Trace Regional Representative Update
October/November 2010
News from the State:**

- Moultrie Sunbelt Expo: Another successful Year for the 3 regions participating in the event. We distributed all brochures and flyers sent for the booth and we distributed 2000 State Travel Guides and 2000 Georgia Highway Maps. I would like to offer my THANKS for all of the volunteers that help make this event a success. I look forward to EXPO 2011.
- Please start updating your ExploreGeorgia.org Calendar of Events listing for 2011 and if you have any events that will take place in Jan, Feb, and March of 2012 please list those dates as well. For instructions on listing attractions as well as events go to this link for our partner instructions pdf.
<http://www.georgia.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Industries/Tourism/Explore%20Georgia/ExploreGeorgia%20Partner%20Admin%20Instructions%20-Sept%2009.pdf>
- The Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office, a division of GDEcD, launched the state's **Camera Ready Community Program** on October 7 as a part of the state's ongoing efforts to bolster Georgia's growing film and television industry. The first 16 Georgia counties were designated Camera Ready at a special ceremony at one of Georgia's newest production facilities, EUE/Screen Gems Studio in Atlanta. Camera Ready is a designation put in place by the state to offer film and television production companies easier, faster and better access to local resources and information. A Camera Ready Community must designate a liaison to assist film and television production companies on a local level. For more info go to www.georgia.org/cameraready. Congratulations Dougherty and Lowndes counties for receiving this designation (more communities will be designated in the coming months!
- **29th Annual Travel South Showcase in Atlanta-** Feb.22-24, 2011. Showcase is the only regional tourism marketplace for the southern USA. Hundreds of tourism partners have begun planning to host over 600 tour operators, journalists and southern suppliers. For more info email Brittney Gray bgray@georgia.org
- **This Weekend in Georgia** – Is a weekly email blast that goes out to about 9,900 people that have requested to receive these updates- These weekend events/festivals are pulled from the exploregeorgia.org website- please remember to always fill out all the information on the website (contact info, locations, dates, fees, etc. and most of all don't forget to post your logo and photos)
- Bid Forms have been sent out for **the 2011 Travel Media Marketplace** event. This is an annual event where the GDEcD brings in 30-40 travel writers to the state of Georgia. The department partners with a community(s) to host these writers in an effort to share story ideas from around the state. There are post fam tours that are conducted after the marketplace event that allows the writers to see first-hand the wonderful places we have in Georgia. Deadline for submitting bids to host this event is December 15, 2010 at 5pm. Please contact Stefanie Paupeck if you have any questions – spaueck@georgia.org
- A new **“Special Offers/Packages newsletter”** has just been unveiled so please make sure all of your special offers and packages are posted on www.ExploreGeorgia.org so that your attractions/events/accommodations can be included in a future newsletter.

- The **Georgia Civil War website** (www.gacivilwar.org) has been launched. If you have an attraction/ event that you would like included - please enter the information as you do all other listings on exploregeorgia.org Remember to add the keyword "civilwarlandingpage" (no spaces) so that the info will be posted on the new Civil War website as well as exploregeorgia.org
- **Group Tour Bootcamp HAS BEEN CANCELLED** for December 2-3, 2010 at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in Macon..
- AAA Great Vacations Expo - Columbus, OH - January 21 - 23, 2011 - Georgia will participate in the popular Expo that as attended by 12,900 travelers in 2010. Did you know that Ohioans spend more than \$1.5 billion on vacation travel and accommodations annually? GDEcD is offering partners an opportunity to co-op for this event. Please contact Pam Kruseck at pkruseck@georgia.org for co-op information
- **Explore Georgia Updates:** Please post new or update your current "Special Offers" on onexploregeorgia.org. If you have any immediate coupons or events, please send to Stefanie Paupeck, spaupeck@georgia.org, for our Twitter page. GDEcD has launched Explore Georgia's Ultimate Georgia Vacation Contest. We are giving away several 7-day Georgia vacation packages-see details at: www.exploregeorgia.org/georgia-vacation. To enter to win people need to sign up to use Explore Georgia's free Trip Planner and create their dream Georgia vacation. Once they save their trip idea they will be entered to win our contest. This is just one example of how we are increasing unique visits to the website. We will be doing these sweepstakes every quarter so please let me know if you wish to be involved in the future. We are driving traffic to this landing page through massive online advertising.
- The Lake Park Visitor Center is having a Christmas ornament drive to help decorate the VIC tree this year. If you have an ornament that you would like to contribute to the Visitor Center Tree to show off your attractions or events please send them to Cathy Sasnett at 5584 Mill Store Road, Lake Park, Georgia 31636

Plantation Trace News

Many of the communities around Plantation Trace are gearing up for the Holiday Season to find out more on upcoming events please visit www.exploregeorgia.org.

Albany: Albany Welcome Center hosted a sell out book signing for the Civil War Guide, "Cross Roads of Conflict" one of the authors Barry Brown was on site for signings. There is another signing scheduled for December 9th at the Albany Visitors Center starting at 5:30pm.

Bainbridge: Swine Time Festival, Climax, Georgia all activities are geared to family entertainment. Three stage locations, entertainment throughout the day, 5K, food, and more. For more information, PO Box 131, 620 New Street, Climax, GA, 39834.

Colquitt: The Global Mural Conference was held Oct. 26-29. Many of the attendees were international visitors as well as visitors from around the United States. They also unveiled there newest mural that was painted on the silos. It is amazing you should take time to visit and see the new mural, you cannot miss it!

Mitchell County: Paige Shiver is the new, Executive Director of the Mitchell County Development Authority. Please welcome her to her new position. Her email is apshiver@mitchellcountyga.net.

Mitchell-Baker-Calhoun and Clay Counties: The Southwest Georgia High Cotton 65 Mile Yard Sale on Georgia Hwy 37 and runs through Mitchell, Baker, and Calhoun & Clay Counties was held Saturday November 13. This continues to be a successful event and all of the flyers were snapped up quickly at the Expo in Moultrie

Nashville: Nashville Better Hometown will host its annual Tour of Homes on Saturday, November 27th beginning at 2pm. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the Better Hometown office in the old courthouse and the Perfect Pear. You may also call 686-9290 for details.

Quitman: The Quitman-Brooks Co. Museum & Cultural Center unveiled a life-size statue of Betty Sheffield, the "First Lady of Camellias", on November 6th The ceremony was held in the new Betty Sheffield Memorial Garden adjacent to the Museum.

Tifton: For events in Tifton visit www.tiftontourism.com

Thomasville: The 15th Annual Plantation Wildlife Arts Festival was held November 21st & 22nd at the Thomasville Cultural Center. This and many more events are being held in Thomasville for the holidays for more info. Visit www.thomasvillega.com

Valdosta: The Theatre Guild Valdosta received information from group of Paranormal Investigators who spent the night in the Dosta Theatre. The Groups name is V.A.P.I.R and you find out more about them and their discoveries on www.vapirparanormal.com. According to their reports there were more than a dozen spirits residing in the main theatre and the adjoining buildings.

Save the Date

Tourism Day 2011 has been scheduled! Save the date for January 25, 2011at the Capitol in Atlanta.

Save the Date! - Winter Chautauqua Tourism Conference – March 6-7, 2011 – Cartersville, GA

Travel South Showcase – Feb. 22 – 24, 2011 in Atlanta. This trade show targets tour operators for group travel (motorcoach). Opportunities abound for delegates, volunteers and sponsors. For more information, visit www.TravelSouthUSA.org/showcase11

2011 Military Travel Shows: Ft. Rucker March 9, Albany MCLB March 16, Robbins AFB March 17 and Moody AFB March 18

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