



**Plantation Trace Regional Representative Update  
August 2010**

**News from the State:**

- **Katie Bassen has resigned from her position as Senior Sales Manager.** Her departure from the department is effective immediately. When I have more information on projects she was working with I will let you know. The South West Georgia Travel Association will cancel the scheduled mini seminar on September 28, 2010 Katie was the scheduled speaker.
- **Tourism Product Development Grant:**  
The New Applications are now available on [marketgeorgia.org](http://marketgeorgia.org)  
Deadline for submission: Sept. 30, 2010  
Grants recipients announcements are scheduled for October  
Project completion by April 2011  
Remember there is an emphasis on job creation.
- Georgia Travel Guide Advertising rates reduced for the 2011 publication! I would like to encourage our partners to post "special offers" on the [exploregeorgia.org](http://exploregeorgia.org) website, as the Tourism Division will be heavily marketing these special offers. For more information on rates please contact Jill Teter at [jill-teter@comcast.net](mailto:jill-teter@comcast.net)
- If you have an event that you would like published in the Southern Distinction calendar of events please email your event information to [calendar@SouthernDistinction.com](mailto:calendar@SouthernDistinction.com)
- The **Governor's Conference on Tourism** will take place in Athens from August 30-September 1, 2010. The **Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus** and the **Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia** have once again joined forces to present one unified tourism industry conference. The Georgia Tourism Conference is recognized as a must attend event for the tourism industry. Join professionals from DMOs, hotels, attractions, tour & travel and supplier companies as we '**Band Together**'. For more info visit: [www.georgiagtc.com](http://www.georgiagtc.com)
- The Georgia Tourism division will be hosting a **Techno-Tourism Workshop** on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>- in advance of the 2010 Governor's Conference on Tourism. The workshop will be jam packed with tips, trends and information to help your organization stay ahead of the competition. Visit [www.georgiagtc.com](http://www.georgiagtc.com) to learn more about this workshop and to register for the **2010 Georgia Governor's Conference** in Athens.
- **Explore Georgia Updates:** Please post new or update your current "Special Offers" on [exploregeorgia.org](http://exploregeorgia.org). If you have any immediate coupons or events, please send to Stefanie Paupeck, [spaupeck@georgia.org](mailto: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](http://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 the 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.

## Plantation Trace News

**Albany:** On Thursday, August 26, the Albany Civil Rights Institute will hold its seventh Monthly Community Night with historian Racquel Henry speaking on the history of the civil rights movement in Albany and the importance of preserving that history for future generations. Her presentation will outline her work at Albany State University to record, present and celebrate the prominent role students at the University played in the Albany Movement. The ACRI Monthly Community Nights take place on the Thursday evening of the last full week of the month. The September 23 Monthly Community Night will feature a talk by Dr. Hasan Jeffries, associate professor of history at The Ohio State University and author of *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*. For more information, contact ACRI Executive Director Lee W. Formwalt at (229) 432-1698 or [lee@acrmm.org](mailto:lee@acrmm.org).

**Bainbridge:** Bainbridge will be hosting a festival in conjunction with Bassmaster Weekend Series Tournament and a BBQ Competition on Saturday, October 16. If you are interested in participating in the battle of the bands, having a concessions booth, vendor booth (non-profits are free and would be great for schools, Boy Scout troops, churches, etc), fishing and hunting exhibits, or if you know of anyone that might want to enter the BBQ competition please contact Adrienne Harrison at [abharrison1@bellsouth.net](mailto:abharrison1@bellsouth.net). The BBQ Competition has been named the Georgia State BBQ Championship! This means that the winners will go on to the Kansas City Royal Championship.

**Nashville:** Berrien County Harvest Festival is set for Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Arts, crafts, games, food and entertainment in Downtown Nashville from 9 am to 4 pm followed by an open air concert at Horse Creek Winery featuring the *Swinging Medallions* at 8:30 pm. There are a very limited number of reserved tickets available, call 686 5123 to reserve your table today.

**Tifton:** Brian Marlowe executive director of the Grady County Development Authority has officially been hired as the president and CEO of the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce and executive director of the Tifton-Tift County Development Authority.

**Thomasville:** Thomasville has entered a contest to win a \$100,000 grant from Coca-Cola to support the **Lapham-Patterson House**, which is a unit of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites! The park with the most votes wins...and you can vote as many times as you like before August 31st. There is still time to vote. Visit <http://www.livepositively.com/#/americasparks/vote> to cast your votes. It takes less than 30 min you can cast 100 votes.

**Valdosta:** Wild Adventures Theme Park presents *Red, White, and You!*, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, September 4 – 6, to pay tribute to working men and women in the community, particularly those who serve and protect. As part of the event, guests can donate a canned food item and receive a FREE general admission with the purchase of a regular general admission to help support Second Harvest of South Georgia. Other weekend events include displays and demonstrations from local agencies Saturday, September 4.

### Save the Date

**Aug 30-Sept 1, 2010: Georgia Governor's Conference on Tourism in Athens.** Registration for the conference is already available on line at <http://www.georgiagtc.com/registration.html>

**September 14 and 15, 2010:** The 2010 Agribusiness Conference, "Building Agribusiness Alliances," at Athens Technical College in Athens, Ga. [www.ereg.caes.uga.edu](http://www.ereg.caes.uga.edu)

**October 19-21, 2010: Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie:** We will be sending out sign up sheets for volunteers September 1, 2010.

**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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