



**Plantation Trace Regional Representative Update
January-February 2011
News from the State:**

- **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&f=ga_travel11. I would like to thank all that helped with our booth and donated time and products to be given out for the day at the Capitol.
- **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.
- **Travel Media Marketplace Dates Announced.** The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is pleased to announce that Blue Ridge and Ellijay-Gilmer County will host the state's 2011 Georgia Travel Media Marketplace event May 12-14. Up to 40 travel writers from the United States and Canada will meet with representatives from around the state during the marketplace to get story ideas about Georgia's tourism destinations, attractions and events. I have provided you with the template for your community profile sheets. These are used in our Georgia Tourism Press Kits and they are a great resource for our staff. Please submit to jstubbs@georgia.org, on or before **March 25**, for approval before submitting to Stefanie. Deadline for inclusion in the Travel Media Marketplace Welcome Kit is Monday, **April 4**. Please submit to spaueck@georgia.org
- The statewide Spring Historic Preservation Commission Training dates and location have been set! The training will be **Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12, 2011 in Carrollton**. This training is offered in partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division, the Georgia Alliance for Preservation Commissions, the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and the UGA Center for Community Design and Preservation. Please mark your calendars and feel free to visit and save the link <http://www.cviog.uga.edu/training/local/preservation.php>
- **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
- **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>
- **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

- 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
- **Explore Georgia Updates:** Please post new or update your current "Special Offers" on exploregeorgia.org. If you have any immediate coupons or events, please send to Stefanie Paupeck, spaueck@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.

Plantation Trace News

Albany: The Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau is the winner of the GPP (Georgia Production Partnership) Photo Location Contest. Liz Gray's photo of Rosedale Avenue in Albany was the winning photo!

Dawson/Terrell County is in the planning stages for a Monument to Otis Redding who was born in the County and lived there until he was a young child. The Redding Family is very supportive of the monument and is working with the Chamber President, Gina Webb.

Bainbridge, Thomasville, Tifton and Valdosta have Great what's happening news emails that are sent out weekly and monthly, please contact their representatives and sign up to get this great information.

Adrienne Harrision – Bainbridge Adrienne@bainbridgecity.com
 Megan Young – Thomasville megany@thomasville.org
 Tyron Spearman – Tifton info@spearmanagency.com
 Tyra Howard – Valdosta tyra@valdostatourism.com

Sylvester: Brittney Evans is the new Main Street Director for Sylvester. Her contact information is bevans@cityofsylvester.com and phone is 229-430-7735

Georgia on My Mind Day at Lake Park VIC is April 1, 2011. Please Call Cathy at 229-559-5828 to let her know if you are planning on attending.

**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 (motor coach). 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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