



Presidential Pathways Regional Tourism Update – January 2011

Regional Happenings

Having trouble opening some documents sent to you from me/our Atlanta office?

Try this link and download a patch to open the newest versions:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?familyid=941b3470-3ae9-4ae-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>

2011 PPTA Meeting Schedule – I am working as we speak to secure locations and speakers for our meetings this year. Please hold the fourth Thursday of each month on your calendar. Our meetings will begin at 10am for the Executive Board and at 11am for the General Membership followed by an optional lunch. We will meet February through October with the exception of August so that as many of you as possible can join us in Macon for the Governor's Conference on Tourism. We will once again hold a Holiday Social in November/December at a date yet to be determined, but no formal meeting. Stay tuned for an official schedule that will be emailed and snail mailed to you all soon!

A BIG Thank You – To everyone that attended Tourism Day at the Capitol and to those that sent items and brochures to share with our legislators! The day was a huge success because of all that you do!

www.ExploreGeorgia.org – Please make sure you are entering info about your attractions and hotels here. There is SOOO much going on. There are some updated instructions attached (Explore Georgia Partner Admin Instructions and Where to Click for What) to help you list events, special offers and more. If you post a Special Offer online, it could end up in this newsletter! You can sign up for the newsletter by going to <http://www.exploregeorgia.org/SpecialOffers> and check it out for yourself! Also, the flip book version of the 2011 Travel Guide is now available at www.zinio.com/express3?issue=416152361&o=ext&rf=ga_travel11. We'll have it posted to ExploreGeorgia.org very soon, but wanted to pass along the URL to all of you in the meantime.

Travel South USA announced the 2011 Executive Board Officers in January 2011. **Kevin Langston, Deputy Commissioner for Tourism for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, was named 2011 chairman of the board and assumes leadership of the Southern Travel Directors Council, Inc.** Travel South USA is the Official Regional Destination Marketing Organization for the Southern United States, representing the states of ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA, and WEST VIRGINIA.

Flavor of Georgia Contest - The *Flavor of Georgia* food product contest is an annual celebration of all the flavors Georgia has to offer. Market-ready prototypes or commercially available food products from across the state are judged and critiqued by a panel of food experts. **Product registrations will be accepted through Feb. 18, 2011.** Semifinalists will be announced in February. Final judging will be March 21 at the Freight Depot in Atlanta. Register online at www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu For more information, call Sharon Kane at (706) 542-9809 or e-mail spkane@uga.edu

New Sales Position - Jonathan Boisjolie joined the Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Division's sales team Monday Jan 25 as our International Accounts Manager. Jonathan, on International Accounts, will join Pam Kruseck on Domestic Accounts and Joseph Walker, the leader of the sales team. While responsibilities on the team are now broken down between domestic and international, each will aggressively work the group and consumer business segments within their respective market regions. Jonathan's experience in building both group and consumer business at the High Museum and with his tour operator firm will be a valuable addition to the team.

Please see the letter below from our new GDEcD Commissioner, Chris Cumminsky:

Yesterday marked two weeks on the job for me and I am thoroughly enjoying meeting all of you and learning about the great things going on at GDEcD. Thank you all for the warm welcome you've shown me.

I am very pleased to announce two personnel changes that will leverage the expertise of two of our most talented people here at GDEcD. Effective February 1, Pat Wilson will become Chief Operating Officer of GDEcD, and Gretchen Corbin will assume the position of Deputy Commissioner of Global Commerce.

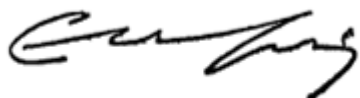
Pat's past experience in intergovernmental relations, knowledge of the state budgetary process and his experience at the department uniquely equips him to step into the role of COO. In this position, he will manage the daily operations of the agency, manage budgetary and personnel issues for all department divisions, be a principal point of contact for our partners and serve as Executive Director of the Georgia Allies. He will also continue to be involved in the department's Asia strategy and outreach to the Consular Corps.

Likewise, Gretchen's deep experience in economic development and longtime career with GDEcD will be a tremendous asset to her new position as leader of the Global Commerce division. As former Division Director of International Operations and Director of the Regional Project team, she draws from a wide breadth of industry knowledge and is intimately acquainted with the state's resources for economic development.

I also want to let you know about some GDEcD-related items in the state's proposed budget the Governor released 10 days ago. Citing economic development synchronicities in mission, Governor Deal has proposed housing the Georgia Council for the Arts, the Georgia Research Alliance and the Georgia Cancer Coalition under our agency. While full details on these moves await the legislature's action, I believe these changes would present unique growth and marketing advantages for these outstanding organizations as well as for our agency. Pat Wilson will oversee the pending integration of these agencies into our department.

I am excited about these changes and feel we have a strong team poised to bring jobs and investment to Georgia in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Chris Cumiskey
Commissioner

Dates to Remember

Georgia on my Mind Day schedule - see attached .PDF

The GACVB Winter Meeting will be held in Savannah Feb. 7-9, 2011. They are looking for silent auction items/donations to raise money for the GACVB Scholarship program. The funds raised by the Silent Auction are used for STS Marketing College Scholarships and partial registrations for the GA CVB Annual Meeting. For more

Winter Chautauqua Tourism Conference – March 6-7, 2011 – Cartersville, GA Winter Chautauqua tourism conference registration is now open! See the attached flyer for more details and visit the website at www.winterchautauqua.com. Also, find the conference on Facebook and become a fan for updates at: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tunnel-Hill-Heritage-Center-and-Historic-Railroad-Tunnel/54533647060?v=app_4949752878#!/pages/Winter-Chautauqua/128185110577260

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

Feel free to contact me with any questions at any time...

Maggie Potter

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