

# Footprints & Paddledrips

The newsletter of the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association

Vol. 2 No. 5

July 2000

## Tootsy Tours To Host July 18 Meeting in Savannah

Beth Nunley, Karen Arms and the staff of Tootsy Tours cordially invite you to attend the July meeting of the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association at Wingate Inn, Savannah, Georgia, on Tuesday, July 18, 2000. Come early for fellowship and refreshments from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. The business meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. followed by a focus session on "The Business of Nature-Based Tourism: Networks, Partnerships, and Packages" presented by Chip and Joy Campbell, the incoming Suwannee Canal Recreation Area concessioners at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. For lunch, several excellent restaurants are convenient to the Wingate Inn, and afternoon walking tours of historic Savannah are available for interested meeting attendees.

**Directions:** The Savannah Wingate Inn is located at 11 E Gateway Boulevard. Going south on Interstate 95, take Exit 94 and turn left. At the stoplight, turn left and the Wingate Inn is straight in front of you. Coming north, turn right and then left at the stoplight. For more information, call 912-925-2525.

Bring your mug! Don't forget to bring your coffee mug to association meetings to enjoy our early morning coffee and talk time!

Bring your business cards and brochures to meetings to introduce yourself to fellow business owners, visitor center reps, chambers of commerce, and others. Use this opportunity to network with others who can help send business your way!

We are collecting media coverage, photos, and other news and event information for an association scrapbook that will be available for viewing at the general meeting. Send items of interest to the post office box or bring them to a meeting.

## June Meeting Notes

The Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association held its June meeting in St. Marys, where Jackie Livingston of Cumberland Island Inn & Suites served as the host. She and Janet Brinko (St. Marys Tourism Bureau) gave the attendees a warm welcome to their famous coastal city and provided everyone with gift bags from local merchants. Morning speakers were Loretta Connor, St. Marys Building and Planning Director, and Andy Ferguson, Cumberland Island National Seashore Management Assistant. Ms. Connor provided updates on the Coastal Greenway Project, which seeks to develop and connect various hiking, biking and water trails in the area, and also on the waterfront park being developed in downtown St. Marys, which will include special areas for watching wildlife. Mr. Ferguson provided current information on various National Park Service project, such as the Plum Orchard mansion restoration, the creation of a new museum on the mainland, and the wildlife management plans dealing with the habitat destruction caused by feral hogs

and horses. Thanks to Cumberland Island Inn and Suites general manager Roger Knotts, association members and guests enjoyed a wonderful catered lunch. They then carpooled to Crooked River State Park where naturalist Alecia Hessling led the group down a short hiking trail that wound through the woods and by the salt marsh. She provided tidbits of information about local animals and plants and finished by giving away copies of a nature guide to the park.

## Member News

### Changing hats and switching states!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge's Suwannee Canal Recreation Area concession contract to GNTA members Chip and Joy Campbell of North Carolina-based Rock Rest Adventures. The Campbells will assume responsibility for the concession operation on September 1, 2000 and are busily making arrangements to relocate to the Folkston area. Meanwhile, the current Suwannee Canal concessionaires, GNTA members Carl and Kay Glenn, are establishing a new home and business in western North Carolina and converting their Folkston home into the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association's newest bed and breakfast: The Okefenokee Inn.

We wish the Campbells and the Glenns the best of luck in their new ventures!

## Send Us Your Events

If you have any events that would be of interest to association members, send them to the P.O. Box for publication in

upcoming newsletters and on the web site. The newsletter deadline for items of interest is no later than 3 weeks prior to the next meeting date. Please include your phone number and e-mail address.

## Welcome New Members!

Sarah Craven  
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Decatur, GA 30033  
678-937-9101  
lasierra@mindspring.com

## President's Message

By Sheila Willis

July is the month in which many Americans give honor to those who aided in the struggle to create a new nation. So, too, we of the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association might take a moment to thank those who have helped in our "campaign" to form a union of nature-based tourism/environmental protection promoters by providing us with multiple "bases of operations". I am referring to those individuals who have graciously invited us to their hometowns for the monthly meetings. Your behind-the-scenes preparations have led to a series of marvelous gatherings, all of which have provided continuity for the association. Each one of you has enthusiastically showcased your unique corner of the state and given your fellow members the opportunity to connect with a variety of individuals with whom they might form either a friendship or a partnership. So take a bow, kind hosts. You deserve a round of applause!

# GEORGIA NATURE-BASED TOURISM ASSOCIATION HURRICANE HELPLINE

During Hurricane Floyd, several of our members had to evacuate. Some were able to find shelter easily while some were not. The members of the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association have decided to adopt a Hurricane Helpline for its members.

If you are willing to consider offering shelter in the event of another hurricane, please fill out this form and return it to the association secretary. This information will be distributed to all members.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Other phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

How many guests can be accommodated? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you accommodate children? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you accommodate pets?  
Cats? \_\_\_\_\_ Dogs? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
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