



Tifton Tourism News



Service of the Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association & Tift Area Hospitality Association

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TIFTON TOURISM NEWS – September 27, 2013 – (09)

MUSEUM READY FOR A BUSY FALL - From interactive animal exhibits to military encampments, the October Fall Frolics events at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture are sure to offer something for everyone in the family. There are events scheduled for every Saturday in October.

The Fall Frolics festivities begin with “History Comes Alive,” on October 5. This will feature Civil War encampments, living history demonstrations and weapons firing exercises. Visitors will be transported back in time to witness what life might have been like for soldiers during the Civil War. They will also be able to participate in a variety of hands-on activities that might have taken place during the late 1800s.

On October 12, children of all ages can spend a day at the Museum with animal friends on “Critter Saturday.” Children will interact with animals from the Chehaw Wild Animal Park and visit the Museum’s Langdale Nature Center where they can touch and hold various animal skeletons, skulls and pelts. A highlight of the day will be a free goldfish for small children. The Nature Trail will be open and you don’t want to miss the mule plowing demonstrations at the Gibbs Farm or testing your skills and stamina in the Chicken Chase.

The Museum’s “Harvest Celebration” takes place on October 19. Corn shelling, garden tours, traditional children’s games, and face painting are just a few of the activities planned at the Museum on that day. Guests can also watch preservation demonstrations taking place in the Historic Village. Children will enjoy free candy apples while they tour the site and learn about life without electricity or cell phones.

“Trick or Treat in the Village” takes place on October 26. The Museum invites all little ones to don their favorite costume and participate in the costume contest. Each historic building in the Village will have candy for the children as they trick or treat their way around the site. Hay rides and a monster spider web will be offered. The Museum Crone will be sharing spooky stories for all the guests to enjoy.

The Second Annual A-Maze-ing Zombie Run will also take place on October 26 at 9:30 am. Runners attempt to dodge zombies as they navigate a one-mile family friendly course through the Historic Village and Corn Maze. There is a \$15 fee to register before October 2 and \$20 on race day. Registration begins at 8:30 am.

Visitors can pick out a pumpkin at the Museum’s Pumpkin Patch or try to navigate their way through the Corn Maze every Saturday in October from 9 am until 4:30 pm. The Pumpkin Patch is located at the Country Store near the main entrance. The Corn Maze is in the Historic Village and is included in the price of admission to the Museum. All visitors can also enjoy a ride on the 1917 steam train.

On every October Saturday from 9 am until noon, the community can also take advantage of the Museum’s Wiregrass Farmers Market offering local produce, jellies and jams, homemade soap, and more.

Admission to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture on Tuesday-Friday is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors (age 55 and over), \$4 for children 5-16 years of age, and free for children four and under. Saturday admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (age 55 and over), \$5 for children 5-16 years of age, and free for children four and under.

BIKE TO FARM TOUR – It’s a new spin on agritourism! On Sunday, October 6, bicyclists from the Tifton area and across South Georgia can tour several local farming sites ... by bike. This 18-mile charity bike ride will visit four stops to showcase a wide variety of farm projects, including small-scale vegetable production, goats, backyard chickens, and banana production. Proceeds will support the Wiregrass Farmers Market and TAGA (Tift Area Greenways Association). Registration will open at 12:30 pm at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Country Store parking lot and the ride begins at 1:30 pm (and must be completed in 3 hours). Fees are \$15 per person or \$30 for a family of three. For more information, visit the market's Facebook page or e-mail wiregrassmarket@gmail.com.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS ACTIVITIES – Multiple events are planned all around town to honor, celebrate and raise awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Here are some details:

- October 3: Pink Rain @ Northside Baptist Church, 6:30 pm: Northside Women's Ministries will host an evening to honor breast cancer survivors and fighters. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at To The Moon, Northside Church Office, Never The Same Boutique, Tift Regional Women's Imaging, and on line @ www.nbctifton.org/special events. Evening includes dinner and a gift for survivors and fighters. Bring a friend or relative who is a survivor/fighter and help us honor her fight. For more information call Jan @ 382-6855.
- October 5: Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation Survivors Brunch, Masonic Lodge on Kennedy Road, 10 am until Noon: Join us for a free brunch. All breast cancer survivors are the honored guests. Survivors are welcome to bring a guest. For more information, call 382-3322.
- October 24: Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation Auction: Elks Lodge on Victory Drive: A silent auction will begin at 6 pm and a live auction will begin at 7 pm. Everyone is invited!

VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES PLANNED – A full day of activities is being planned to celebrate Veteran's Day on Saturday, November 9. The day will kick off with a Veteran's Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the Exchange Club of Tifton. The first annual Veteran's Day Parade will kick off at 11 am in Downtown Tifton, ending with a brief patriotic program at Veteran's Park. If you, your company or organization is interested in being a part of the Veteran's Day Parade, contact Angela at spearmanagency@friendlycity.net.

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture will also be having some special activities. They will open at 11 am on that Saturday and have some special activities by the National Guard. The evening will conclude with a movie, patriotic concert and a fantastic fireworks show at 8 pm. Stay tuned for additional details in the coming weeks.

MUSEUM CHOSEN TO HOST STATE EXHIBIT - Governor Nathan Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal have announced that the Georgia Museum of Agriculture will be one of nine Georgia organizations selected for a stop on the statewide tour of Georgia's State Art Collection.

"The traveling exhibit is an opportunity to use the state art collection as a springboard for additional arts and culture activities that serve to celebrate and increase awareness for the local cultural community and to increase tourism," Governor Deal said. "Sandra and I hope that this collection will inspire visitors and local citizens to learn more about Georgia's artistic heritage."

Sponsored by the Georgia Council for the Arts in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Division and the Georgia Humanities Council, the exhibit is an extensive, vibrant chronicle of work created by Georgia artists from the 1970s to the 1990s. Each piece in the collection was juried by a panel of experts. The 28-piece exhibit will be stationed in the Gallery at the Museum from September 12 through October 28, 2014.

"The Collection is a state asset that serves as an educational tool, preserves the state's artistic heritage and disseminates knowledge about the art and artists of Georgia," Polly Huff, Museum Curator said. "Paintings, photographs, pottery, fiber, sculpture, jewelry, and folk art are all a part of this state treasure."

The exhibit will open in 2014 with a community-wide reception featuring local food and local music hosted by the Wiregrass Farmers Market. Supporting events will include a preview and reception for downtown businesses and guests hosted by the Tifton Downtown Development Authority which is partnering with the Museum of Agriculture on this project as well as master classes for ABAC art students and guided tours for local art teachers and their students.

ABAC FIRST TUESDAYS ARE BACK – ABAC's First Tuesday Performance Series kicks off its 12th season on October 1. The series features regional professional artists on the first Tuesdays of five selected months.

First Tuesday concerts are held in the Chapel of All Faiths on the ABAC campus at 7 pm. Susan Roe, First Tuesdays Director, said the performances are open to the public at no cost with grateful appreciation to the ABAC School of Liberal Arts and Dr. Bobbie Robinson, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts.

The series begins on October 1 with A Night of Jazz Music featuring The Kenyon Carter Connection. This Atlanta-based group of professional musicians performs jazz in virtually all its forms, from light background music to groovin' soulful jazz and from R&B to hard rocking jazz worthy of the best jazz clubs.

A Night of Music of Strings and Brass with "Jurs and Friends" featuring Dr. Doug Jurs, Assistant Professor of Piano and Music Theory, will take place on November 5. An ABAC Music Faculty Concert featuring soprano Claire

Jurs takes center stage for the First Tuesday event on February 4, 2014. Jurs will be joined by classical guitarist Michael McCallie and Dr. Chris Walker on clarinet.

A bonus concert on February 11, 2014 focuses on A Night of Choral Music with the Sine Nomine Singers and their conductor, Dr. David Johnson. A Night of Classical Guitar featuring Dr. Francois Fowler will take place on March 4, 2014.

The First Tuesday series culminates with A Night of Broadway Music on April 1, 2014, showcasing the talents of ABAC voice students as well as guest vocalists including bass-baritone Blaine Jacobs, tenor Scott Spivey, and pianists Gina Lawhon and Susan Spivey.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH – October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Tifton's domestic violence shelter, Ruth's Cottage, is hosting several events to raise awareness. Here are some details:

- October 15: Annual Candlelight Vigil at the Tift County Courthouse, 5:30 pm – a time to honor those fighting and remember those lost.
- October 24: Walk A Mile in Her Shoes, Tifton Harley Davidson, 5:30 pm – This has become an annual event to raise money and awareness of domestic violence, even right here in our own community. The MEN put on some high heels to walk a mile!
- October 24: High Heels High Times, Hilton Garden Inn, 7:30 pm – Following Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

CELEBRATING RURAL GEORGIA BACK IN TIFTON - Celebrating Rural Georgia will again be held in Tifton this year on Wednesday, October 30th at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center from 9 am until 3 pm. This year's *Celebrating Rural Georgia* event, sponsored by the Georgia Rural Development Council, will feature a keynote address by Governor Nathan Deal, remarks by new DCA Commissioner Gretchen Corbin, and expert panels on three Georgia Rural Development Council policy initiatives – Rural Broadband, Agritourism and Rural Access to Healthcare. In addition, Dr. Jeff Humphreys (Selig Center, UGA) will present a commissioned study, "Evaluating Retiree Based Economic Development in Georgia", as our luncheon speaker. Registration is open, and the \$20 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and an outstanding "Georgia Grown" lunch. Use this link to register, and scroll down to October 30th: <http://www.ugatiftonconference.org/calendar.html>

ABAC PRESENTS! KICKS OFF - The third season of the *ABAC Presents!* Performing Arts Series features five performances ranging from the classic sounds of a symphony orchestra to a phenomenal jazz saxophonist.

The series kicks off at 3 pm on September 29 at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center with the performance of "East Meets West" by the Albany Symphony Orchestra featuring internationally-renowned guzheng artist Su Chang. The guzheng is a Chinese-plucked zither with 18 or more strings and movable bridges.

Chang will be featured in "The Identity Concerto," a striking piece that combines the orchestra with a 3,800 year-old Chinese folk instrument. Music Director Claire Fox Hillard is the conductor for the orchestra.

The Albany Symphony Orchestra will also perform Paul Hindemith's 20th century masterpiece, "Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber." The second movement of this piece features themes from Weber's music for Schiller's Chinese-based tale, *Turandot*. Rounding out the concert will be Weber's Overture from Oberon and "Symphonic Poem on 3 notes: La-Si-Do," by Oscar Award-winning composer Tan Dun (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon).

Other performances in the series include "It's A Wonderful Life Live from WVU Radio Theatre" on December 5 at 7 pm in ABAC's Howard Auditorium, the Azalea Quartet on February 18, 2014 at 7 pm in Howard Auditorium, the Fisk Jubilee Singers on March 29, 2014 at 7 pm at First Baptist Church of Tifton, and jazz saxophonist Roger Pemberton on April 17, 2014 at 7 pm in Howard Auditorium.

While available tickets will be sold at the door for each show, Series Director Wayne Jones encourages advance purchase of tickets to ensure seating for patrons. Tickets for the entire series are \$50 for adults, \$20 for students under 18 years of age, and \$125 for a Family Pass that includes two adults and two or more student passes. Tickets can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895. Individual tickets for each event are \$15 each for adults and \$10 each for students under 18 years of age.

SAVE THE DATES: The Fall and Holiday season are upon us! And it's going to be busy. Here are just a FEW dates to mark on your calendar. More details will be coming soon.

- November 16 & 23 – Cane Grinding at the Museum of Agriculture
- December 7 – Hometown Holidays and Christmas Parade
- December 19 & 20 – North Pole Express at the Museum