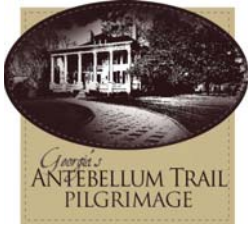


THE CHAMBER CORNER

Volume 11, Issue 4

April 2011



The Chamber and Georgia's Antebellum Trail present the third annual Antebellum Trail Pilgrimage on April 27 through May 1. The 100-mile heritage trail spans seven historically significant communities including Athens, Watkinsville, Madison, Eatonton, Milledgeville, Old Clinton and Macon.

Pilgrimage Passes are \$25 and provided unlimited access along the trail.

The Pilgrimage in Eatonton will feature three homes: Thomas-Clark-Dennis-Harrison House, Ezell-Tatum House and Jenkins Hall. **Gone with the Wind** will be shown at The Plaza Arts Center on Sunday, May 1 at 3 p.m. The film is free for Pilgrimage pass holders and open to the public (non-pass holders) for \$5 admission.

Visit www.atpilgrimage.com for full details.

FOLLOW US:



Annual Awards Banquet

Your Company is Cordially Invited to Celebrate the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce's 32nd Anniversary Celebration at our

Annual Awards Banquet
Monday, May 2, 2011

at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center Dining Hall
RSVP by April 27, 2011 to:
(706) 485-7701 or Bonnie@eatonton.com

6:30 p.m. Cocktails (Cash Bar)

7:15 p.m. Awards Ceremony

8:00 p.m. Dinner

\$35.00 per person
(Cash, Check, Visa or MasterCard -
Payable Upon Ordering)

Business Casual

The Annual Awards Banquet is sponsored by Georgia Power Company, The Peoples Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, R&R Insurance Group and Central Georgia Technical College.

Sponsor a Table Centerpiece!

A favorite tradition at the Annual Dinner is the table centerpieces that are sponsored and created by our Chamber members. These fun arrangements, that represent the uniqueness of each business, are given away as door prizes throughout the evening. If your business is interested in sponsoring a table centerpiece, please e-mail bonnie@eatonton.com. Remember, get creative with your centerpiece by making it a reflection on your business! For example, a bank could create a money tree or a dentist office could use toothbrushes to create a unique arrangement. Your only costs are the materials you use to create the centerpiece. *Thank you to our Table Sponsors who have already signed up: Trophy Quest and Pinnacle Credit Union! Sign-up early, there are limited tables available!*



MURDER solved...and a success!

The Chamber's MURDER in Margaritaland was a big success on both Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12! Over 150 attendees dressed the part while helping to solve the crime during the interactive murder mystery dinner. The Chamber would like to thank our sponsors who made the evenings possible: Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank and R&R Insurance Group.



Leadership Putnam Graduates!

On Thursday, March 17, the Chamber held a graduation ceremony for the Leadership Putnam Class of 2011 at The Plaza Arts Center. Wes Lewis was elected by his classmates as the Most Outstanding Leader! Family, friends and alumni gathered to celebrate the completion of the program while enjoying a retrospective slide show and viewing the projects that were on display. Thank you to the corporate sponsors of the Leadership Putnam Program: The Peoples Bank, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Georgia Power Company, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, R&R Insurance Group and Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Welcome!

New Chamber Members!

Eatonton Elks Lodge #2549

Dave Malm
P.O. Box 4306, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 485-8606
Non-Profit Organization

Lake Oconee Urgent & Specialty Care Center

Dr. Eddie Richardson / Martha Curry
105 Harmony Crossing, Suite 3, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 484-0884
Urgent Care Center

Louie Herron Auto Sales

Louie Herron / Antonio Robbins
980 Lake Oconee Parkway, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 991-1900
www.louieherrontoyota.com
Automotive Retail / Used Cars

Maggie Lane

Buddy Nolan
103 South Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 484-0406
www.maggielane.net
Clothing / Accessories

Rooms of Hope

Linda Griner
3008 Heritage Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 457-6029
www.rooms of hope.com
Renovation of Critically Ill Children's Bedrooms

The Write Word

Judy Maxwell
144 Napier Mill Road, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 816-0942
Writing Services for Businesses

Tips on Design

Tippi McMichael
115 South Jefferson Ave., Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 484-0880
Complete Design Service

Trophy Quest

Whitney Todd
942 Greensboro Road, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 484-0640
www.tqmultimedia.com
Multimedia / Archery / Hunting & Fishing Adventures

ViziTech USA

Stewart Rodeheaver
136 Cold Branch Road, Eatonton, GA 31024
(404) 725-5704
www.vizitechusa.com
3-D Imaging / Educational Solutions for Government, Schools & Businesses

RSVP For Events!



Cosponsored by

Allgood Pest Solutions and Burns Gore Realty

Thursday, April 14, 5 to 7 p.m.

See flyer for full details!

Modernizing Your Business PC

Wednesday, April 20
Lunch Served at 11:45 a.m. / Program Begins at Noon
\$15, Includes Lunch
Presented by Techknow Gurus
Located at The Lodge on Lake Oconee

See flyer for full details!

Lunch-N-Learn is sponsored by: The Peoples Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank, R&R Insurance Group, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Central Georgia Technical College and Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina.



Tuesday, April 26, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Enjoy Light Refreshments and Coffee
Located at The Plaza Arts Center

Need to talk, have an idea or a suggestion, need business advice? Coffee Connections is your opportunity to meet with representatives from the Chamber staff and board of directors as well as special guests.

This month meet with:

Staff: Becky Needham, Membership Manager
Board Member: Gene Thurston, Neighborhood Cleaners
Guest: To be announced!

Coffee Connections is sponsored by: Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank, Central Georgia Technical College, Farmers & Merchants Bank, R&R Insurance Group, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi and Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee.

**Networking
@Noon**

Sponsored by



Wednesday, May 18

Lunch Served at 11:45 a.m. / Program Begins at Noon
\$10, Includes Lunch
Located at Lake Point Community Church

Network over lunch with leading partners in the business community! Agenda includes lunch, Chamber updates, sponsor presentation, table introductions, commercials and general networking.



Magnolia Gardens Restaurant & Bar celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, March 3. Magnolia Gardens offers casual fine dining as well as a lively gathering place for entertainment. The menu has something for everyone, ranging from hamburgers to lobster. The restaurant has two sections, a bar dining section called LO Bar and a more eloquent dining room area perfect for date nights. Magnolia Gardens Restaurant & Bar is located at 1130 Lake Oconee Parkway, Eatonton, GA 31024. For more information, call (706) 485-2700 or visit www.maggardens.com.



A New Member Reception was held on Tuesday, March 8, welcoming Stronghold Christian Church, Bizzy Bee Exterminators, Oconee Nutrition Consultants, Jimmy Britt Chevrolet Buick, Trophy Quest, Eatonton Elks Lodge and Houseman Pest Control. *The New Member Reception is sponsored by Farmers & Merchants Bank, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, Central Georgia Technical College, The Peoples Bank, R&R Insurance Group and Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi.*



Networking @ Noon was sponsored by **Putnam General Hospital** at The Plaza Arts Center on Wednesday, March 16. Dr. Pridden gave the sponsor presentation on behalf of the Hospital. Dr. Pridden will be opening an office behind the Hospital on March 23 as a branch of Middle Georgia Women's Health out of Macon. He will work out of his office once or twice a month until the practice builds. Members enjoyed lunch catered by the Hospital. Jeremy Webb of Bizzy Bee Exterminators, Nathan Collins of Georgia Watersports and Kim Cullens of Piedmont Financial Partners won the sponsor door prizes. Tim Pierson of Peoples Investment Company won the Business Card Door Prize. Pictured: Toni Furino of Dock 103.9, Whitney Todd of Trophy Quest and Dr. Eric Vroom of Smith Family Chiropractic meet each other during the general networking segment of Networking @ Noon.



Putnam General Hospital held a **Chamber Open House** on Thursday, March 24. Members of the Chamber and the community toured the extensive renovations in Radiology, Laboratory, Medical / Surgical and Sleep Center Departments. For more information, call (706) 485-2711 or visit www.putnamgeneral.com.

Coffee Connections

kicked-off on Tuesday, March 29. Seven Chamber members met around the board room to talk with Membership Manager Becky Needham, Board Member Jon Butler



(The Peoples Bank) and guest Lisa Perry with the Small Business Development Center. Pictured, Lisa Perry speaks with Nathan Collins of Georgia Watersports. *Coffee Connections is sponsored by Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank, R&R Insurance Group, Central Georgia Technical College and Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi.*



It's official! The Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce has received our designation as a Regional Visitor Information Center! The Chamber has long served as the welcome center of our community offering complete information on Eatonton-Putnam County and surrounding communities. With the state designation, the Chamber is able to take full advantage of listings on the state's tourism Web site and inclusion in the Georgia travel guide.



The Chamber's Becky Needham and Bonnie Simmons spent March 23 through 25 in Marietta for the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Staff Clinic. The conference offered quality sessions and energized us to create Raving Fans! At the conference, Becky was nominated to chair the GACCE Membership Council.



www.facebook.com/epchamber



**Annual Awards
Banquet is
Monday, May 2**

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Contact Us:

305 N. Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 4088, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 485-7701
(706) 485-3277 (F)
epchamber@eatonton.com
Visit www.EatontonChamber.com!

Advertise in this newsletter:

Reach over 600 contacts with a newsletter insert for only \$50. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Supply 300 copies and an electronic file.

Chamber Staff

Roddie Anne Blackwell, President
Becky Needham, Membership Manager
Bonnie Simmons, Tourism Manager

Chairman:

Mike Rowland, Putnam County Board of Education

Vice Chair:

Laura Gailey, The Gailey Law Firm, LLC

Treasurer:

Jon Butler, The Peoples Bank

Terri Camp, Rock Eagle 4-H Center

Bernard Holston, Bernard's Family Funeral Care

Joe Hudson, Farmers & Merchants Bank

Wes Lewis, Georgia Power Company Land Department

Marty Phillips, Techknow Gurus

Gene Thurston, Neighborhood Cleaners

Cynthia Wallace, Sycamore Oconee Real Estate

Lowell White, III, Calvert & White Custom Homes

Tom Wooten, Georgia Forestry Commission

*Thank You
To our 2011 Chamber Champions:*





Member Events & News

April

4-8 Camp EcoAdventure at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Attend all week, or pick and choose your days. Ages six to 11. Each day includes two snacks, a craft and much more (pack a lunch or buy one from Rock Eagle). Students attending the whole week receive a t-shirt! Register by March 18. For a schedule of each days theme or to register visit <http://www.rockeagle4h.org/ee/community/EcoAdventure.html>. For more information, call (706) 484-2836.

4-9 Fine Art Spring Break Classes at Creative Canvas. Young artists ages 5+ will have a chance to work with a variety of art mediums and genres. \$100 per three day session (family discounts available). For a schedule of classes visit www.creativecanvasstudio.com or call (706) 485-0191.

7 The GA Work Ready assessment will be given at the Putnam Campus of Central Georgia Technical College at 8:30 am. To schedule a test, call (706) 923-5000.

9 Easter Egg Launch & Lunch at Crooked Pines Farm, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Launch an egg into our pasture with a huge sling shot! Top three longest launches win a prize. Cold Ham Plates - with potato salad, fruit, bread and dessert \$6. Hayrides, "Farm Friends" (our petting farm), and kid's crafts. Continual Easter egg hunt for the little kids not able to launch an egg. For more information, call (706) 347-0247 or visit www.crookedpinesfarm.com.

9 CGTC CHALLENGE 5K ROAD RACE presented by the Central Georgia Technical College Foundation at the Milledgeville Campus, 11 a.m. The event will be open to the public and all proceeds will benefit student scholarships at CGTC. Everyone who pre-registers before April 1 will receive a t-shirt. For more information, (478) 445-2302 or jharrington@centralgatech.edu.

16 Putnam General Hospital Health Fair, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (706) 485-2711.

16 Spring Card Making Class presented by The Plaza Arts Center, 10 a.m. to noon. Create a homemade spring card using paper cutting techniques, watercolor, scissors, ribbon & buttons, and glue to make a one-of-kind card. Enjoy a morning of crafting with step-by-step instruction. Instructor: Linda Elkins. Children (ages 8

and up) \$8, Adults \$10, Couples \$15. Register online at www.theplazaartscenter.com or call (706) 923-1655

16 Heads Up! Art workshop presented by The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art. Learn how to draw hat ladies and gentlemen using the Mona Brooks method guaranteed to cure the "I can't draw" phobia. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for children. STMA members receive a \$2 discount. Those in financial need may attend free of charge. Reservations are required. Please call 706-342-7557.

16 Junior Miss Pageant held at The Plaza Arts Center. For more information, please contact Eatonton Service League, call (706) 485-7367.

16-23 Flamingo Daze in Downtown Eatonton. A squadron of Plastic Pink Flamingos are to visit downtown Eatonton. In conjunction, Edward Rice Memorial Cancer Awareness Day will be held April 18, April 20 Pink Day merchants are offering sales on all pink items, April 21 Ladies Night Out and other sales and festivities all week long. For more information call (706) 342-6525.

27 - May 1 Georgia's Antebellum Trail Pilgrimage. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Daily. Comprised of seven communities, this self-guided Pilgrimage will transport visitors back in time as they experience historic homes, observe impressive architecture, and tour magnificent museums. Passes may be purchased at any Trail Welcome Center. For more information, visit www.atpilgrimage.com or call (706) 485-7701.

29 2011 Relay For Life of Putnam County at Putnam County Primary School. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/putnamga.

29 Dentistry from the Heart sponsored by Lake Oconee Dentistry, 8 a.m. If you or someone you know is in need of a filling, a dental cleaning, or an extraction, join the doctors and volunteers at Lake Oconee Dentistry for another day of free dentistry. Beginning at 8 a.m. the team of doctors and volunteers will treat the first 100 patients. Visit LakeOconeeDental.com or call (706) 453-1333.

30 Louise Pitre: An Evening in Paris-A Night in New York, presented by the OPAS, 8:00 p.m. at Festival Hall in Greensboro, GA. Tickets are \$75, \$45, & \$35. For tickets call the OPAS Box Office at (706) 999-1518.

May

1 Gone with the Wind to be shown at The Plaza Arts Center at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5, Antebellum Trail Pilgrimage Pass holders may get in free. For more information contact the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce at (706) 485-7701.

7 Eatonton Street Painting Festival. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Come watch artists from all over as they transform the downtown courthouse square into an open-air, walk-through museum. Eatonton's Street Painting Festival is host to a silent auction, an antique car show by the Georgia Classic Cruisers, artists, crafters and vendors selling their wares. There is live music and truly something for the entire family! For more information, call (706) 818-0648.

12 The GA Work Ready assessment will be given at the Putnam Campus of Central Georgia Technical College at 8:30 am. To schedule a test, call (706) 923-5000.

13-14 The second-annual Lake Oconee Food & Wine Festival will be held at the Landing at Reynolds Plantation. The event will once again feature fine foods from regional chefs, an extensive wine selection and rousing auctions. New this year is a Vintners Dinner on Friday night to kick off the weekend's festivities. Visit www.oconeefoodandwine.com for upcoming information.

26 Celebrate Patriotism, a pre-memorial day celebration, presented by Eatonton Kiwanis Club and the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce at the Plaza Arts Center. Bring the whole family for an evening honoring those who served our country. Enjoy free hot dogs and ice cream; a pictorial tribute; and a concert by the 434 Signal Corps Band. For more information, call (706) 485-7701.

News

TenderCare's Family Dental offers digital x-rays, ultrasonic cleanings, root canals, extractions, full and partial dentures, cosmetic dentistry, teeth whitening, and precision crafted crowns and bridges. Care Credit cards are accepted as well as most insurance plans. TenderCare dental fees are 50 percent lower because medical, pharmacy and dental are located in one convenient location. (706) 454.5114.

Kusillo Gallery Sale: 10 to 20 percent off all artwork purchased in the Gallery and 30 percent off all linens. For more information, call (706) 999-1714.



BUSINESS

After Hours



Co-Sponsored by

**Allgood Pest
Solutions**

**Burns Gore
Realty**

Thursday, April 14, From 5 to 7 p.m.

BE SURE TO BRING PLENTY OF
BUSINESS CARDS TO PASS OUT TO
CONTACTS THAT YOU MEET!

Come enjoy food, drink
and the opportunity to practice your
networking skills.

Remember, this is your chance
to meet other contacts in the
business community.

Networking Activities

Cash Raffle

People do business with those that they know,
like and trust! Business After Hours creates
relationships that will last a lifetime!

Business After Hours will
be held at neighboring
businesses

**Allgood Pest Solutions
and Burns Gore Realty.**

1001 North Milledgeville Rd.

(Hwy. 441)

Eatonton, GA 31024

**Please RSVP by April 12
to Becky@eatonton.com
or (706) 485-7701.**

Lunch-N-Learn: Modernizing Your Business PC



Presented by:



At The Lodge on Lake Oconee
Wednesday, April 20
Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m.
Program begins at Noon
\$15 Includes Lunch / Please RSVP
(706) 485-7701 or Becky@eatonton.com

How old is your PC, three years... or older? Are you still using Windows XP or an older operating system? Windows XP was launched in 2001! Think about how much technology has changed and adapted over the past ten years!

Modern business PCs running the latest software help your employees get more done. Improved productivity helps you save time and money—and that's good for business. New, easy-to-use software helps to maximize productivity and is ready for today's mobile business world.

Join the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce as we learn how modernizing your business PC can ensure your company's productivity is maximized! At this event you'll also get a first-hand look at Microsoft® Office 2010 and Windows® 7.

All attendees will receive an Online Software Training Offer that will allow them to register for complimentary online software training when they purchase Office 2010 and/or Windows 7. Bring your business card to be entered in the door prize!

ABOUT the Speaker: Marty Phillips

The Lunch-N-Learn will be presented by local business owner Marty Phillips. Phillips grew up in Macon, GA, obtained an MIS degree from the University of Georgia and has worked at several companies including SunTrust Banks, Anderson Area Medical Center, Anderson School District 5 and Savannah College of Art & Design. He taught computer classes at Gatewood Schools for six years before deciding to open his own consulting company. Phillips now owns Techknow Gurus located on Lake Oconee Parkway.

Lunch-N-Learn series is SPONSORED By:



Central Georgia Technical College, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank, R&R Insurance Group, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee and Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi.

The Lodge on Lake Oconee is located at 930 Lake Oconee Parkway.