

GAEFCS State Conference Highlights & General Information August 10 – 12, 2011

The GAEFCS State Conference Planning Committee cordially invites you to an exciting professional development opportunity...the 2011 State Professional Improvement and Annual Conference. This event will take place at the Villas by the Sea Resort & Conference Center on Jekyll Island, Georgia.

Beginning early Wednesday afternoon, Laurie Cantrell will conduct business and new leaders will be trained. That afternoon, join us for a special tour of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center where we will have a chance to visit with the sea turtles that are there for rehabilitation. Afterwards, we will meet at the hotel conference center for a Meet and Greet networking opportunity that will give you a chance to catch up and share best practices with your fellow FACS Agents, Specialists, & Administration. A buffet dinner will be served and there will be shopping opportunities that will benefit the association. The afternoon's events will begin at 4:00 pm at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center.

Thursday, we will enjoy gaining new knowledge that can be used in county programming. After the welcome, we will start off with a fun presentation about dealing with stress through humor. Then, you will have the opportunity to learn more about new curriculum and publications on green and healthy homes. During lunch, we will have the presentation of some special awards. Afterwards, the UGA Marine Extension Service will talk to us about just how important our conservation efforts really are. During the afternoon excursions on Thursday, we hope you will take the time to see more of Jekyll Island which boasts a beautiful historic district with a museum and many wonderful shops that sell everything from clothing and accessories to candy and Christmas ornaments. The island also has the following activities available at additional cost: Dolphin Boat Tours, Summer Waves water park, horseback riding, miniature golf, bicycle rentals, golf, kayak or paddle boat rentals from the Tideland Nature Center, and more; or, if you just feel like relaxing, you can take a swim in the ocean or visit Driftwood Beach which is just a few short steps away and is considered one of the most romantic beaches in the world. Thursday evening will end with dinner and the presentation of our professional awards.

The annual business meeting will take place on Friday morning, followed by a presentation on disaster preparedness. Then, Dr. Linda Fox, our new Dean of the College of Family & Consumer Sciences, will speak to us about the future of UGA Cooperative Extension FACS. We will conclude with the installation of our new officers and the announcement of our 2012 meeting location.

Please join us on Jekyll Island and gain knowledge that will benefit you personally and professionally. The registration form has all of the information needed to confirm your plans to attend the 2011 State GAEFCS State Conference – *Living Green*. **Complete the registration form; enclose a check and mail postmarked by July 1 for early-bird registration.** Prepayment is required to be registered. *All guests and spouses must be registered if attending any event or meals.*

To guarantee conference rates, hotel reservations must be made by **July 10th** by calling the Villas by the Sea Resort at: **1-800-841-6262**. Please mention our group code: **GAEFCS**. Guest rates are as follows (plus tax): \$99 for Mini & Studio Villas; \$109 for One Bedroom Villas; and \$179 for Two Bedroom Villas. For more information on amenities and the layout of each type of villa, visit the hotel's website at: <http://www.jekyllislandga.com/>. (Note: 7% sales tax, 5% hotel occupancy tax and 5% resort fee are due in addition to room rate – **two nights minimum is required for group rates**. This rate is also available for people needing to check in early on Tuesday (8/9/11) and for those wishing to extend their stay Friday & Saturday (8/12 & 8/13/11). An individual Villa Deposit is due at the time of booking (when reservations are made, your credit card will be charged for the 1st night room rate & tax). Once confirmed with a deposit, any reservation that is cancelled will be charged a \$35.00 cancellation fee – reservations cancelled less than 7 days prior to arrival will forfeit the whole deposit). Check in time 4:00 p.m.; check out time 11:00 a.m.

General Directions: Take I-95 South to Exit 29. Take U.S. 17 N for approximately 5 miles. Turn right onto the Downing Musgrove Causeway (GA 520). Cross onto Jekyll and stop at the Collection Station to purchase **a required \$5.00 Daily Parking Pass**. Turn left onto N. Beachview Drive & travel for 3.5 miles – the entrance to Villas by the Sea Resort is on your right. The destination address is 1175 N. Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527.

Refund Policy: No refund for registration fees will be made after July 1. A request for refund prior to July 1 should be directed to GAEFCS Vice President for Professional Development, Susan L. Moore.

AAFCS Professional Development Units have been applied for and such credentials will be available at the close of the conference.