



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

July, 2009



Leadership Meriwether Graduation!!

Chamber Officers:

President: [Bruce Maloy](#)
 President-Elect: [Allen Parham](#)
 Past-President: [Greg Schmieg](#)
 Treasurer: [Allen Parham](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

[Rock Bottom Landscape Products](#)
 821 Old Woodbury Highway
 Woodbury, GA 30293
 Mark Sanders, CFO
 706-553-9000
 email: mark@rockbottomscapes.com
www.rockbottomscapes.com

[Fox's Pizza Den](#)
 1110 Warm Springs Highway
 Manchester, GA 31816
 Newnan, GA 30264
 Contact: Mike Brening
 706-846-2300
 email: mjbrening@yahoo.com

[Aaron Mabon](#)
[Ellis & Ellis Investment, LLC](#)
 210 Broome Street
 LaGrange, GA 30240
 706-884-6470
 Email: aaron.mabon@lpl.com

[Foxy Finds](#)
 133 S. Court Square
 Greenville, GA 30222
 Contact: Sandee Peavy
 404-317-2882
 Email: foxyhollow2@yahoo.com

The Leadership Meriwether, Class of 2009, completed its final session in May. The graduating class included:

Eddie Cardin	Georgia Power
Allen Parham	F & M Bank and Trust
Melanie Ward	Amedisys Home Health
Jon Hale	Meadows Hale Insurance & Realty
Marlene White	Meriwether County Tax Commissioner
Pat Turner	Manchester Better Home Town
Lisa Thompson	Concepts-Ideas Done Right
Kye Gibson	Clerk of Court Office
Rhonda Fuller	Roosevelt Warm Springs
Sheila Lee	Warm Springs Welcome Center
Gail Coffee	Meriwether County Animal Shelter
Chuck Smith	Meriwether County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Long	Warm Springs City Council
Joey Ward	Meriwether County Tax Assessor

The class had a great year, with sessions emphasizing all aspects of government; social services; education; economic development and tourism. The group also enjoyed a special program featuring the Blue Creek Restoration Project; the Meriwether County Water Authority and the Flint River.

They also completed projects including organizing a Leadership Meriwether Alumni Program; implementing a Youth Entrepreneurship Program and developing a branding/marketing program for Leadership Meriwether. A special thank-you to all the session coordinators: **Paul Penn**, County Administrator; **Lori Quinlan**, Georgia Power; **Kip Purvis**, Meriwether County Development Authority; **Sabra McCullar**, Meriwether County Tourism; **Chris Wilson**, Meriwether County Interagency Council; **Carol Lane**, Meriwether County School System and **Faye Perdue**, State Farm.

Chamber Members Invited to Meriwether Park

Watch for your invitation to attend a Membership Meeting at Meriwether Park. The meeting will include updates from several county officials as well as leaders from some of the new businesses to be located in the park. The meeting will be held on August 13th at approximately 6:30 p.m.

This is your chance to see the new Dongwon Autopart Technology plant; hear about the Blue Creek Restoration Project and other exciting developments at Meriwether Park.

Watch for your invitation in the mail!

Remember, your Chamber is working for you—let us hear from you!

706.655.2558 or email: meriwetherchamber@windstream.net

THANK YOU
RENEWING MEMBERS

Shenandoah Electrical
Services, Inc.
Newnan

City of Manchester

Piggly-Wiggly
Manchester

The Bulloch House
Warm Springs

F & M Bank & Trust
Manchester

Big Chic
Manchester

J & G Stores, Inc.
Manchester

Geraldine Washington
Greenville

Windstream
Thomaston

Taylor-Foster
Manchester

Discount Tires & Auto
Repair
Manchester

Southern Belles Soap
Warm Springs

Terry Family Funeral
Home-Hamilton

Meriwether County
Airport Authority
Warm Springs

Big Red Oak Plantation
Gay

Good Shepherd
Therapeutic Center
Warm Springs

Cotton Pickin' Fair
Gay

Smith-Steele-Meadows
Funeral Homes
Woodbury - Manchester

Thriving in the Tough Times-Delighting Your Customers

As business owners continue to tighten their belts, minimize discretionary spending and watch as friends and family face the challenges of today's economy; it is more important than ever to focus your energies on your business strengths. One of those strengths is your ability to connect and engage your customer base.

Loyal customers are worth their weight in gold—literally. Paying attention to your customers and catering to their wants and needs contributes to the bottom line. Taking the time to ask customers how you can provide additional services, products, information or resources is the key—figure out how to capture the information and use it to your advantage. Develop a customer feedback system so that your customers can tell you what they like and where you can make improvements. Then act on the suggestions they make.

You want your customers so pleased with your service that they not only return for repeat business, but they tell their family and friends about you. You can be sure that if they receive poor service, they will tell everyone they meet. Make sure your staff is reminded about, and trained in, the basic principles of good customer service. Never take this aspect of your business for granted.

Make sure that the person answering the phone has a friendly, helpful and courteous tone of voice. Encourage your staff to go the extra mile in trying to be helpful to the customer and meeting his/her needs.

Let your customers know you appreciate them by saying thanks—not only with your words, but with follow up telephone calls or hand-written thank you notes. Providing products and services your customers wants, providing excellence in customer service during the transaction and following up with a personal touch can create a loyal customer base. *Adapted from Georgia Trend's Small Business Guide*

Did You Know?

- * The U.S. Supreme Court won't hear an appeal to the Georgia law that requires voters to show photo identification, which means that the Georgia Photo ID law is final.
- * Georgia home buyers are eligible for a one-time state tax credit of up to \$1800. This income tax credit applies to any homebuyers, not just first time homeowners.
- * There's a good chance lawmakers will be headed back to Atlanta this summer to re-balance the state's budget, which continues to be challenged by declining revenues.

* The Village Art Studio in Manchester, announces a three-day painting seminar. Artist Mike Windberg will teach the class with the main subject of seascapes. Students will learn to paint beautiful skies; water; waves and seagulls. Bring your own photos or select from Mike's photos. Call Barbara Smenner 706.846.5085 to sign up or ask for more information.

* The Georgian Inn B & B in Greenville is now under new ownership. New owners are Shari and James Triche who are relocating from New Orleans. They searched over 17 Bed & Breakfast establishments in the Southeast and chose the Georgian Inn. For more information contact Shari at 706.977.3566 or email innkeeper@TheGeorgianInnBandB.com

***Watch for more
info***

***Membership Meeting
August 13, 2009
Update from Meriwether Park***



P.O. Box 9—91 Broad Street
Warm Springs, GA 31830
706.655.2558

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<http://meriwethercountychamber.org>