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## Georgia History Festival; a stately celebration


The Trustees Gala will crown the Georgia History Festival, a schedule of events that mark the 278th anniversary of the founding of Georgia.

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By [Chuck Mobley](#)

The Trustees Gala will crown the Georgia History Festival, a schedule of events that mark the 278th anniversary of the founding of Georgia.

Reaching back to bestow an honor that's older than the state, the Georgia Historical Society will induct former football coach Vince Dooley and former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn as the newest

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Georgia trustees demonstrate the firing of a field mortar during the Georgia Heritage Celebration Colonial Faire and Muster at Wormsloe Historic Site Saturday. -- Scott Bryant

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The service and accomplishments of Dooley and Nunn embody "the highest ideals of the original trustees and merit inclusion in this distinguished group," said W. Todd Groce, president and CEO of the GHS.

The original trustees were appointed by King George II in 1732 to govern the colony. The title was revived in 2009 as an honorary appellation, and represents an annual opportunity to celebrate the contributions of contemporary Georgians.

Dooley and Nunn, like those earlier trustees who served the king, "exuded selflessness, leadership and honor" in their long and distinguished careers, said Groce.

For Dooley, who led UGA to the 1980 national championship and posted more than 200 victories during his coaching career, being named a trustee struck a deep chord. A longtime history buff, he donated his papers to the society in 2007, and is currently one of its curators.

The designation "humbled" him and came as "a huge surprise," said Dooley, who earned a master's degree in history from Auburn University in 1963.

Groce, however, said "no one" is more deserving of the title than Dooley, who took his football program to the top, and also "inspired and prepared for leadership and service several generations of young men who themselves have had a tremendous impact on Georgia."

Billy Payne, Frank Ros, Ray Goff, Herschel Walker and Buck Belue, "just to name a few," have gone on to distinguished careers, and form an important part of Dooley's legacy as a teacher and mentor, Groce said.

Like Dooley, Nunn is no stranger to a pressure-packed environment. A native of Perry, Nunn served four terms in the U.S. Senate.

During his 1972-1996 tenure, Nunn earned a reputation as an expert on military affairs. He also helped champion legislation concerning nuclear weapons, and his work in that cause continues today.

"His impact goes far beyond Georgia, and our nation, and is truly international in scope," Groce said. "The world is a better place because of him."

Nunn and Dooley join a distinguished list of modern trustees. The 2009 honorees were Bernie Marcus, a Home Depot co-founder and philanthropist, and the late Marguerite Neel Williams, a founding trustee of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. In 2010, the

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honorees were baseball legend Hank Aaron and business leader and philanthropist Ted Turner.

The Trustees Gala will be held at the Hyatt Regency Savannah, and is the climatic event of the Georgia History Festival, a celebration of the 278th anniversary of the founding of the colony of Georgia. The festival runs Feb. 3-19, and includes events in Savannah, Saint Simons and Darien.

## 2011 Georgia History Festival Schedule

For more info on the Georgia History Festival, call 912-651-2125 or go to [georgiahistory.com](http://georgiahistory.com).

### KICKOFF LECTURE

Gary Moulton, editor of the "Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," will discuss the events leading up to the forced removal of the Cherokee Indians from Georgia in the 1830s.

When: 7 p.m. Feb. 3

Where: Trinity United Methodist Church, 225 W. President St.

Admission: Free

Pictured at left, Sequoyah, a Cherokee leader, will be honored during the Georgia History Festival.

### Colonial Faire and Muster

Witness the colonial experience in Georgia through re-enactments, cannon firings, demonstrations of cooking and craft techniques, and music and dance. When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Feb. 5-6 Where: Wormsloe State Historic Site, 7601 Skidaway Road Admission: Free

### Super Museum Sunday

Visit museums, cultural institutions and other points of interest in Savannah and coastal Georgia for free.

When: Noon-4 p.m. Feb. 6

Where: Go to [georgiahistory.com](http://georgiahistory.com) for the list of participating institutions, or contact individual sites.

Pictured is the Roundhouse Railroad Museum.

### Georgia Day Parade

A charming and unique Savannah institution, this colorful procession features hundreds of school children dressed in colonial costumes marching from the north end of Forsyth Park to City Hall.

When: 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11

Admission: Free

### Shuman Cup Cricket Tournament

A newcomer to the festival lineup, this event is open to all Savannah-Chatham County public schools.

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When: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Feb. 10  
Where: Shuman Elementary School, 415 Goebel Ave.  
Admission: Free

275th Anniversary of Fort Frederica Living History Encampment  
A schedule of events and hands-on activities will explain the history and importance of this colonial stronghold.  
When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 19-20  
Where: Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island  
Admission: Free  
More info: Call 912-638-3639 or go to [nps.gov/fofr](http://nps.gov/fofr)

Scottish Highland Dinner  
An annual event that's held in the barracks at Fork King Georgia Historic Site in Darien.  
When: 7 p.m. Feb. 19  
Cost: There will be a fee; reservations required.  
Information: 912-437-4770

#### If You Go

-- What: Trustees Gala  
-- When: 7 p.m. Feb. 12  
-- Where: The Hyatt Regency Savannah  
\* Details: With a theme of "Georgia Blues," this black-tie event will feature the music of Grammy Award-winner John Lee Hooker Jr. and will include the induction of the 2011 Georgia Trustees, Vince Dooley and Sam Nunn.  
\* Admission: For Georgia Historical Society members, \$250 a person; for non-members, \$285 a person; reserved tables for 10 start at \$2,750. Reservations are required.  
-- More info: Call 912-651-2125, ext. 20, or go to [georgiahistory.com](http://georgiahistory.com).

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