The annual cane grinding event will be held at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture from 4-9 p.m. on Nov. 21. Visitors will also be treated to a traditional Native American experience with performances by The Iron Horse Singers and Dancers.

Native American Experience, Cane Grinding at Museum of Agriculture November 21

TIFTON – Visitors can enjoy Native American dancing, mule-powered cane grinding and an old-fashioned syrup cooking during the Native American Experience and Cane Grinding
event at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Nov. 21 from 4-9 p.m.

The Native American experience will feature GoNativeNow, a Native American owned and operated educational group. GoNativeNow travels the United States conducting reenactments, providing demonstrations, hosting campouts, and offering performances by The Iron Horse Singers and Dancers.

GoNativeNow is led by Little Big Mountain, a fourth generation dancer, singer and educator on Native American culture. His father, Iron Horse Big Mountain, was Comanche from Anadarko, Okla., and his mother, Wildflower Big Mountain, is Mohawk from Kahnawake, Canada. Little Big Mountain’s reservation is the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory in Canada.

Little Big Mountain has been performing since he was a child. He has been competing on the Pow-Wow Trail and educating others on Native American culture all over the United States for over 40 years. Beginning with Little Big Mountain’s great grandfather, the Big Mountain family performances started back in the mid-1800s and continue today. They perform at venues including Disney World and Universal Studios, the New Orleans Jazz Festival, Rank Leisure Dinner Shows, native festivals, history fairs, Pow-Wow’s, and at schools for children from kindergarten to college.

For many Southerners, cane grinding is a family tradition that has been passed down through many generations. The Museum’s Historic Village is one of the few places left where visitors can take a step back in time to see sugar cane grinding with a mule leading the way. The sweet juice pouring from the cane mill will then be transferred to the syrup shed where it will be cooked down in a cast iron kettle to make the uniquely flavored and delicious cane syrup.
Homemade biscuits with hot cane syrup can be sampled at the Gibbs House. Cane syrup will also be available for sale. Concessions at the Historic Village Drug Store will include homemade soup and cornbread, barbeque sandwiches, ice cream, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Food vendors will also be on hand providing hamburgers, hotdogs, funnel cakes and candy slushies.

Guests can also take a ride on the steam train pulled by the 1917 Vulcan locomotive. Costumed interpreters will be visiting with Museum guests and explaining the cane grinding process and the intricacies of producing a bottle of cane syrup.

Admission to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on Saturdays 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. Tuesday-Friday admission 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. The Museum is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, interested persons can contact the Museum staff at (229) 391-5205 or visit the Museum’s website at www.abac.edu/museum.

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