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Georgia Museum of Agriculture Hosts Folklife Festival April 9

TIFTON—Visitors can enjoy a celebration of the rich, rural heritage of South Georgia during the annual Folklife Festival on April 9 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Showcasing South Georgia’s history, art and culture, the event runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. with activities for both children and adults.

One of the can’t miss moments of the Folklife Festival will be the ceremonial firing of the Turpentine Still at 11 a.m. for the Historic Village’s annual turpentine distillation. Museum guests will see up close and personal this age old process that is central to South Georgia’s history and culture.

A fiber exhibit, “Second Life: The Fiber Art of Susan Lenz,” will also open on April 9 as part of the festival in the Museum Gallery. Lenz will be available for a question and answer session in the Gallery from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Museum Curator and Assistant Director Polly Huff said that Lenz uses a needle and thread for self-expression to create art that reflects her interest in the concept of time. Memory,
universal mortality, and personal legacy are central themes. She combines vintage and recycled materials into her meticulous handwork.

The Folklife Festival is all about hands-on activities including tree debarking and hewing, sheep shearing, wool spinning, weaving and washing, butter-making and candle-making demonstrations. Guests can also visit the antique and model tractors that will be on display during the event. The Blacksmith Shop will be giving demonstrations throughout the day, and glass blowers will be located on the porch outside of the Gallery.

Saw blades will be humming as the steam powered Sawmill makes short work of sawing pine and cypress logs throughout the day. Special guest Steve Cross from Cross Sawmill in Iron City will demonstrate the hands-on art and skill of sawing lumber on an 1892, 25 horse power steam powered mill. Cross, a well-known artist and craftsmen, operates one of the largest thin kerf band saws in the world. He is the fifth generation of the Cross family that has been in the powered sawmill business for more than 100 years.

Everyone at the Museum site can hitch a ride on the 1917 Vulcan steam train, and children will love the face painting booth. Visitors will also be treated to entertainment from the Poultry Palace and its talented show chickens. A special treat will be the quilting and flower shows going on during the Folklife event.

Guests can visit with the Little River Wood Turners as they ply their trade at the Variety Works building. Joining the Fiddlers Jamboree for a little pickin’ and grinnin’ on the Opry Shelter Stage is always a fun part of the day.
To satisfy every hearty appetite, the Historic Village’s Drug Store will offer delicious lunch options from barbeque and hot dogs to hand-dipped ice cream. Food vendors will also be selling sweet treats and selections to tempt your taste buds at the Opry Shelter. Guests can pop into the Country Store and pick up food items including jams, jellies, grits, or corn meal.

The Festival coincides with the seasonal opening of the Wiregrass Farmers Market. Local growers and producers will be offering fresh picked produce from 9 a.m. until noon as well as hand-made goods for sale at the Market located under the pole barn behind the Country Store.

Admission to the Folklife Festival is $10 for adults, $8 for senior citizens, $5 for children 5 – 16 years of age, and free for children under five. For more information, interested persons can contact the Country Store at (229) 391-5205.

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