

Georgia glimpses

• **Sales tax savings!** Conserve energy and water—and save money—with Georgia’s Energy Star and WaterSense sales tax holiday, set for Oct. 4-6. Many appliances and products featuring the Energy Star or WaterSense labels are included. For details, visit etax.dor.ga.gov, energystar.gov or epa.gov/watersense.

• **Dalai Lama returns.** His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, is scheduled to visit Atlanta’s Emory University Oct. 8-10 for a series of events, including programs on responsible citizenship, ethics and education. A public talk and a panel session will be held Oct. 8 at the Arena at Gwinnett Center in Duluth. For more, visit www.dalailama.emory.edu.

• **Celebrating LaGrange’s music.** The Smithsonian traveling tour of New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music heads to LaGrange Oct. 12-Dec. 1. Hosted at The Legacy Museum on Main, concerts and other events highlighting the region’s musical traditions are also scheduled. For info, call (706) 884-1828 or visit www.legacymuseumonmain.org/newharmonies.php.

★ **Farmer of the Year.** Will Harris, of White Oak Pastures in Bluffton, was recently named the 2013 Georgia Farmer of the Year and a finalist for the 2013 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year. Harris joins nine other state winners from the Southeast as finalists for the award. The overall winner will be announced Oct. 15 at the Sunbelt Ag Expo farm show in Moultrie. Learn more at sunbeltexpo.com.



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• **Honoring the trail.** Throughout October, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) will be showcasing the film “Appalachian Impressions” in 15 cities nationwide, including Atlanta, as part of their 2013 membership drive.

Celebrating a lifetime of gardening

Georgians may recognize the Pike name and its affiliation with gardening in the Southeast. In 1958, a young Pete Pike opened his own plant nursery in Marietta with just three employees. Over the years, his original enterprise expanded to a family-run business with multiple locations in the metro Atlanta area and one in Charlotte, N.C.

Pike sold his business in 2008, but his love of plants and working with customers was passed down to daughter Dana Pike-Van Vlake, who in turn, started her own Snellville-based Family Tree Garden Center in 2010. This month, Pike-Van Vlake is celebrating her father’s more than 50-year gardening legacy with the opening of the Pete Pike Museum on Oct. 19.

Through photos and historical artifacts, the museum chronicles the life of Pete Pike from his childhood on a farm, service in the Navy and



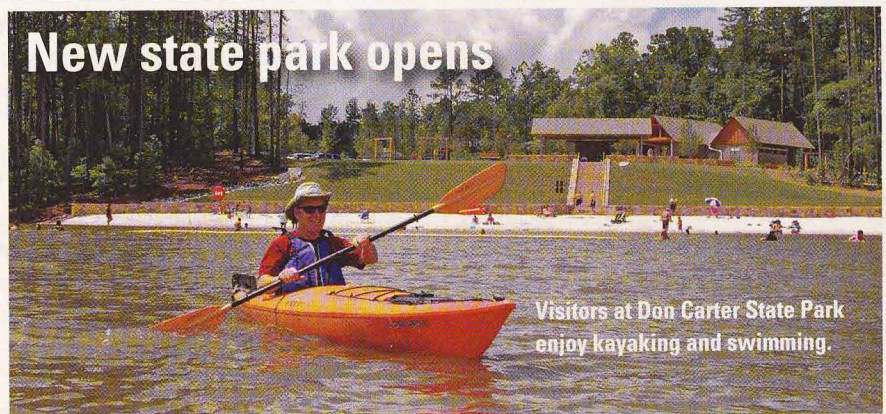
Above: The new Pete Pike Museum will open at the Family Tree Garden Center in Snellville this month. **Left:** Longtime gardener and museum honoree

Pete Pike and daughter Dana Pike-Van Vlake take a break among the plants at the garden center.

running Pike Family Nursery through the years. The museum’s grand opening events will include a ribbon cutting, gardening and cooking demonstrations, music, food, a raffle to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association and more.

For details, call (770) 972-2470 or visit familytreegardening.com.

New state park opens



Visitors at Don Carter State Park enjoy kayaking and swimming.

Georgians now have a new place to play, with the recent opening of Don Carter State Park in Hall County. The 1,316-acre site off northeastern Lake Lanier features 46 tent, trailer and RV campsites, 12 walk-in tent sites, six picnic shelters, eight two-bedroom cottages, a visitors center, playgrounds, two boat ramps

and more.

The park is named in honor of Gainesville real estate executive Don Carter, a longtime board member with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Visit gastateparks.org/doncarter or call (678) 450-7726 for more information.