

**PRESS RELEASE:**

October 8, 2008

**For immediate release:**

Through October 18, 2008

**For more information:**

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

**2008 PIONEER DAYS AT CLINTON NATURE PRESERVE --  
Annual Fall Festival at Douglas County's Most Historic Farm**

*Douglasville, Georgia* – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to present Pioneer Days at Clinton Nature Preserve on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., with a Cowboy Campfire on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, from 6 until 9 p.m. Celebrating the early history of Douglas County, this fall family festival is co-sponsored by the Douglas County Department of Parks and Recreation. This year on Saturday afternoon from 1 until 4 p.m., the Arts Council will partner again with the Southeastern Blue Grass Association to present its Annual Bluegrass Concert featuring music by J. MAX MCKEE (Shelby, NC), EAST DIXIE BOYS (Dallas, GA) and BARBED WIRE (Senoia, GA). The Douglas County Cowboy Poets offer a free festival preview with cow camp cooking and cowboy poetry at Clinton Nature Preserve for festival participants and the public on Friday evening.

On Saturday, activities include local artisans who will demonstrate traditional methods of quilting, quilling, pottery-making, and woodturning. Throughout the day, there will be a free hayride for children of all ages through the beautiful pastoral landscape of Clinton Nature Preserve with special stops at the newly restored small lake. Festival goers are also encouraged to visit the Carnes Cabin, one of the oldest structures in the greater metropolitan area. In the morning the festival stage will present performances by local musicians and dancers including Country Pride Dancers, the Douglasville School of Dance students, and the Christian Community Orchestra as well as Douglas County school choruses and bands. Reptile Man will present educational demonstrations with turtles and snakes including Peaches, his albino python. The Douglas County Department of Parks and Recreation will coordinate pioneer games including sack races, horseshoes and hay bale rolling contests along with other children's activities. The Buckner's will sell boiled peanuts and funnel cakes, and other vendors will offer a variety of crafts and sale items. There will be plenty of barbecue lunches too for blue grass lovers and festival participants on Saturday. Admission to the 2008 Pioneer Days is free with a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. Parking fees will be waived for all musicians carrying their instruments.

On Saturday afternoon, the 2008 Bluegrass Concert begins at 1 p.m. with the J. MAX MCKEE FAMILY BAND. Widely known for his hard-driving banjo picking, J. Max McKee entertains audiences with a high energy show and a wide variety of traditional music including arrangements by Earl Scruggs, Ralph Stanley, Don Reno and Raymond Fairchild. Accompanying Max in the band is his wife Teena McKee who plays rhythm guitar and sings lead vocals. The most recent addition is Dean Marsh on bass. J. Max and Teena live in Shelby, North Carolina, where Earl Scruggs and Snuffy Jenkins were raised. At 2 p.m. CAC and the Southeastern Bluegrass Association showcase the talents of a new bluegrass group, the EAST DIXIE BOYS who have become a crowd-pleasing favorite in less than a year of performing together -- and regulars at Atlanta's Red Light Café. With a combined experience of more than 80 years of musicianship, the East Dixie Boys offer another form of "hard driving sound" recalling the original Grand Ole Opry with many classic tunes, performed by Terry Butterworth (guitar), Matt Southern (dobro), Billy Butterworth (mandolin), Jack Ball (banjo), and Jimbo Wright (bass). BARBED WIRE BLUEGRASS, two fathers and two sons from Senoia and Cumming, Georgia, performs at 3 p.m. Ricky Ponder is featured on guitar, Ben Ponder plays bass, Gary Looper plays mandolin, and Casey Looper is a banjo picker.

Located off Ephesus Church Road in Winston, Georgia, the Clinton Nature Preserve is operated and maintained by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. The farm property was given to Douglas County by Miss Annie Clinton in her will to establish a Nature Preserve in memory of her family for the use of the people of Douglas County. The Clinton Nature Preserve includes more than 200 acres of pasture and woodlands, streams and a small lake, riding and walking trails, picnic areas, and other amenities including the playground developed by the Douglas County Junior League. Clinton Nature Preserve is the home of the oldest known building in the county (and one of the oldest dwellings in the entire metro Atlanta area); Carnes Cabin was erected before the Civil War by Miss Clinton's ancestors and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Directions to the Clinton Nature Preserve & Pioneer Days** -- Take Interstate 20 to Post Road (exit 30) about 30 miles west of Atlanta. Turn left on Post Road about 1 mile to the first road on right; turn right on Ephesus Church Road about 1 mile to Ephesus Baptist Church. Clinton Nature Preserve will be on the right. For more information, contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770-949-2787.

***THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY***

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**CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS**

**TITLES:** Cowboy Campfire & Pioneer Days

**PLACE:** Clinton Nature Preserve  
Ephesus Church Road  
Winston, Georgia 30187

**DATES:** Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 9 P.M.  
COWBOY CAMPFIRE

Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.  
PIONEER DAYS

**PIONEER DAYS BLUE GRASS CONCERT SCHEDULE**

1 p.m.	Jay Max McKee Family Band
2 p.m.	East Dixie Boys
3 p.m.	Barbed Wire

**COST:** \$5 parking fee per vehicle

**CONTACT:** Laura C. Lieberman, 770-949-2787