

# 2017 GACAA Tours

## **TOUR 1**

### **Bill Lowery Farm - Beef Cattle**

4<sup>th</sup> Generation cattlemen, Bill Lowery, has been in agriculture his entire life, even as he was the Rural Mail Carrier for the US Postal Service for over 25 years. His cattle farm, located in Pittsview, Alabama, at one time was part of a self-sufficient plantation. After moving and settling the community of Pittsview in 1895, his great-grandfather continued operate the farm land for cattle and forage production. Currently the operation consists of 120 Brood cows that calve in December, January or February. He grows all of his own hay (Bermuda and Bahia) and plants rye and small grass for winter. The cabin on the farm is a Cherokee cabin from 1830 moved from another area of the property and added to using recycled materials. Bill is an outfitter for deer hunting and hosts customers from Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

## **TOUR 2**

### **Oxbow Meadows - Horticulture**

At the southern end of the Columbus RiverWalk, the Center offers a view of the ecoregion of West Central Georgia and the Chattahoochee Valley and provides access to samples of the area's rich communities of plants and animals. Opened in 1995 as a collaboration among Columbus Water Works, Columbus State University, and the City of Columbus, the Center provides exhibits, displays and nature trails. The Center includes the Natural History Discovery Center, indoor and outdoor exhibits of living reptiles and fish, a stream habitat supporting various plants and animals, a pollinator garden, bee hives, and environmental art.

## **TOUR 3**

### **National Infantry Museum - American History**

Since opening in 2009, the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center has proven itself to be Columbus's premier venue for events. In addition to preserving the priceless legacy of the U.S. Army Infantryman, this world-class facility provides unique recreational opportunities for guests to enjoy. See a military documentary on the Giant Screen Theater or take a shot at the Combat Simulators. With thousands of artifacts, monuments, interactive exhibits and video presentations on display, the National Infantry Museum is one of the nation's leading military history destinations. There is no charge for this tour, but donations are welcomed.

## **TOUR 4**

### **Pecan Point Farm - Solar Power/Added Value**

Pecan Point is a 160 acre farm located in Hurtsboro, Alabama. It includes a pecan orchard, large lake managed for prime fishing, grass-fed and finished beef herd, Grade A Jersey micro dairy, free-range laying hens with their two large furry Great Pyrenees guards, and small apiary. Also open for the tour will be the dairy barn, the Grade A federally inspected creamery where they produce our world class yogurt, a commercial kitchen where they bake their granola as well as other pecan goodies and a solar powered irrigation system for the pecan orchard. During the tour you will hear about the interdependency between the pecans, clover, honeybees, cows and chickens. You will also begin to understand the special care they give the cows, micro-organisms and native pollinators, and recognize the importance of healthy grasses and forbs on the farm.

## **TOUR 5**

### **Turntime Farms - Sustainable Agriculture**

Turntime Farms is a farm right outside of Columbus, GA in Ellerslie. They raise grass fed beef, pork, poultry, and turkey. They use nature as their guide for everything they do at Turntime Farms. They trust that the Creator knew what he was doing when He created these animals- therefore; the animal's lifestyle and diet reflect this. This means that cows graze fresh pasture every day so they don't need to eat grain. This means chickens are able to forage and scratch sanitizing the pastures behind the cows. It means that pigs live in wooded areas where they can go about their rooting and grazing. It also means the animals that need grain will never be fed anything that has been genetically modified (GMOs). They respect this design and it is healing for many things: the land, the animals, and the people.

## **TOUR 6**

### **Historic Downtown/RiverWalk - Economic Development**

Downtown Columbus has seen an incredible revitalization over the last 20 years, but it did not occur by accident. Many of the historic downtown buildings and residences were preserved through the efforts of a few forward thinking individuals to create an area has now become one of the most vibrant places in our community. Columbus has found its success in finding what makes it unique and authentic and developed ways to capitalize on those assets. This tour will provide details on some of the key projects and investments that changed the trajectory of Columbus. Downtown Columbus is home to internationally recognized corporate headquarters, strong educational partners like Columbus State University, and many civic amenities such as the River Walk, River Center, and whitewater course to name a few.