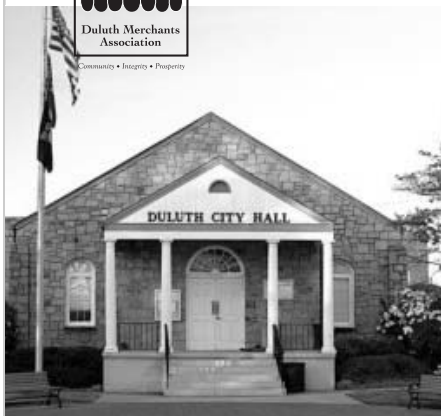




Duluth Merchants Association



THE GAB-RRR

NOVEMBER 2008

NOV . MEETING: Nov 11
Houston & Co.

Houston
& Company, PC
certified public accountants

Houston & Company, PC, CPAs, is pleased to welcome Duluth Merchants Association members and guests to our office for the November meeting! Houston & Company, PC, CPAs has served Metro Atlanta for more than 31 years. Founded by Managing Partner, **J. Donnie Houston**, the firm focuses on helping small to mid-size businesses grow and reach their full potential. With a knowledgeable staff and a diverse service offering, our firm will be your financial partner as you build your business and set your personal financial goals. We provide a full range of accounting, tax, and advisory services. In addition, we assist individuals with financial planning and tax preparation services. We invite you to come meet our staff and learn more about what we can offer to you and your company.

Please join us on November 11th...and be sure to invite a guest!

Please note that we have moved!

Directions from I- 85: Exit at Sugarloaf Parkway and travel West. Continue through the light for Meadow Church Road. After crossing Meadow Church Road, turn left into **The Business Park At Sugarloaf**. Turn left into the first office complex. Our office is located in the building on the left, Suite 800, facing Sugarloaf Parkway.

NOV. MEETING
Houston & Co
Tuesday, Nov 11
6pm

Daidra Annis
Marketing Director
6650 Sugarloaf Parkway
Suite 800
(770) 813-1033

DULUTH MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

www.duluthmerchants.com



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President

Harold Stamey
Vice President

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Treasurer

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Secretary

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from the

President

Dr. Marion Maloof DMA President 2008

Dear Happy Merchant People,

As the year draws to a close, I look back at all of the great things we accomplished, but most importantly I look with fondness at all of the members of the DMA, who are truly the heart and soul of this community.

Whenever there's a job to do, you can always count on the business people of Duluth to pitch in and get it done. The Spring Benefit is just one example where over \$15,000 was raised to help out the poor in our midst.

As we get ready to pass the gavel to our next DMA President, **Harold Stamey**, I hope that all of you will be thinking of ways that we can make the DMA even better. I'll be staying on as membership director, and will be looking forward to doing what I can do to increase membership.

I hope to see all of you at the **Christmas Party**, Tuesday, December 9th, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. At the Duluth Festival Center.

Remember, this is to support the Foster Childrens' Foundation. Bring All of your friends!

It has been a very rewarding experience serving as your President, one I'll always remember with gratitude.

IS YOUR COMPANY MAKING NEWS?

If it is, we want to spotlight you in the DMA Gab-RRR. If you have any significant news about your business: awards, big wins, new expansions, relocating, please e-mail them to **Terry Palmer** at gabrrr@duluthmerchants.com

HOST A MEETING!

We want to showcase our DMA members in our meetings. If you would like to host a meeting please call **call Marion Maloof 770.923.1111**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please contact **Norman Klugman** at nklugman@accentmail.com or **678.473.4643**

THE NETWORK TABLE IS AVAILABLE!

Yes, we want to invite all of you to bring your literature (in small quantities) about your products and services to our DMA meetings so fellow members can learn more about you. BUT, FAIR WARNING: at the end of the evening, you must take your literature with you, or it will be thrown away.



Gwinnett Place New Signage



A first-of-its-kind signage and wayfinding system is now taking shape throughout greater Gwinnett Place. The Gwinnett Place CID – in partnership with Gwinnett County and the Gwinnett Department of Transportation – is installing illuminated street name signs, directional signs and gateway monuments throughout the District.

Workers with Jones Signs crews are currently in the Gwinnett Place area, installing the new signs for the benefit of area drivers. Crews will be present for days to come throughout Gwinnett Place along some of the area's busiest roadways. Please feel free to visit one of the worksites for photo opportunities.

*The mission of the **Gwinnett Place CID** is to enhance the economic vitality of Gwinnett's central business district by strengthening the area's role as the center of commercial activity.*







Frasier Fir Christmas Trees & Wreaths

American Legion Post 251
2760 Duluth Hwy 120

**Open Thanksgiving to
Christmas Eve**

Mon-Fri: Noon-9pm
Sat/Sun: 9am-9pm



*Proceeds go to our veterans,
children and youth programs*



Southeastern Railway Museum
Georgia's Official Transportation History Museum

November Events to Celebrate **National Model Railroad Month.**

November 6-9

The museum will be a stop on the **Piedmont Pilgrimage**, the Piedmont Division of the NMRA's 6th Annual public tour of Atlanta's Great Model Railroads. For more information on the tour visit

www.piedmont-div.org/pilgrimage

Nov 8-9 Model Railroad Days

- Featuring model railroads of various scales from clubs across metro Atlanta
 - North Atlanta O-Scalers*
 - North Georgia Lego Train Club*
- Hands on experiences on some of the models
- Ideas for Christmas presents

The museum will be open **Thursday - Saturday 10am-5pm** and **Sunday, November 9 from noon -5pm** during this event.

About the museum:

The Southeastern Railway Museum has been in operation since 1970 and is "Georgia's Official Transportation History Museum". The museum has over 80 other pieces of retired railway rolling stock including vintage steam and diesel locomotives, passenger coaches, private business cars, a World War II army troop kitchen, wooden freight cars, railway post office car and maintenance of way equipment. Transit history is represented with a cross section of busses and trolleys from the early 1900's through the mid 1980's. The museum is also home to MARTA's historic bus fleet which includes busses from many of the predecessor systems to MARTA. Many other items from Georgia's transportation history are also presented on the museum's 35-acre site. Located at 3595 Buford Hwy in Duluth.

Experience Alaska Adventure Tours with Albert Marquez, DMA B.O.D. member and DMA webmaster.

Just over an hour's flight from Anchorage we lift into the morning's low hung scattered clouds, picturesque valleys and out across Cook Inlet.

Dodging our way through snow capped mountains sitting high over lush green alders dotted with purple splashes of arctic Lupine growing vivid against the greenery. As our float plane dips left, our bush pilot positions for a smooth landing into Brooks Lake. The lake is still, almost like it is resting in the diffused light, as the sun burns off the remaining cast of sky, presenting a day before me unlike any other day I had ever visited.

This is Katmai National Park.

Here, I present an adventure to clients ranging from photographers, trekkers to retired folks traveling the world. After a mandatory bear safety orientation, our

National Park guide is eager to take us into bear country. It is important to understand the choices that you make in life, for only you can be responsible for the consequence. It has been a long time dream of mine to be at one with nature. I trusted that my vision to approach nature on its terms had to be possible. That with respect, common sense and caution entering bear country would be a choice that on some level would change the rest of my life.

On a rocky beach not too far from the safety of Brooks Lodge, all at once as if from nowhere, I am in bear habitat. Here, we learn of an ecosystem that sustains these bears. No different a brown than the Kodiak or Grizzly. In fact no different a species than a Polar Bear, just a bear that has taken a different path and developed a behavior to set it aside from other bears to become known as a Coastal Brown Bear.

Not far from where we stand, it seems that a courtship of bears has gone awry, and that the female has nestled herself amongst a bush surrounded by daisies out on a cliff far from the reach of a pursuant male. My clients and I set up our tripods and wait to photograph moments of graceful beauty as the brown bear lifts its head to check the breeze for troubled scent

"...entering bear country would be a choice that on some level would change the rest of my life."



but gazing upward occasionally as if he was waiting for his female to have a change of heart. We photograph the male brown bear and he grants us permission to come in close. For the first time in my life, I am standing in the presence of a great predator. The ambient light filters through his powerful profile, highlighting the prominence with which he carries himself. The tell tale hump that forms at the shoulders made of muscle from years of flipping rocks and digging clams. His massive head weaving in the sedge grass as he forages for the protein that will carry him through winter. And last, his cautious gaze as he affirms our position relative to his plan for moving on, and it was over. In a bears environment you must give into the fact that only by the decisions that you make can you help to create a safe bear encounter. A bear's life thrives on instinct, gestures and intent. Along with his enhanced senses of smell and hearing, a bear is constantly making decisions that are best for him. Your choices have to be best for the bear also.

Katmai National Park holds the highest concentration of brown bears anywhere in the world. As beautiful as this sounds it is equally as sad to know that this sanctuary is one of the last untouched frontiers for the bears. Even in this protected habitat poaching still occurs. It is a known fact that bears have a low reproduction rate, and that the survival rate of even 3-year-old bears (which is the age that mothers send their offspring out on their own) is very low. Coupled with occurrences in nature, such as last years warm rainy winter, you can see the need to take on roles toward conservation. Conservation does not necessarily have to be in the form of money, nor does it have to overtake your daily life with hours invested in fighting causes. Conservation can come by adopting true insights towards nature, and help to dispel horrifying myths that have been tagged to animals such as Wolves and Bears. Simply, conservation can spread word of mouth from old to young. A walk amongst the bears has changed my life.

For more information about our Alaska adventure tours, vacations or wilderness cruises call Albert at (770) 932-8739 or visit our website at www.discoverak.com. Planet Earth Adventures is a member of the Alaska Travel Industry Association



Albert with Alaska Governor Sarah Palin.

By the time this is printed, we'll all know if Albert is actually standing beside our Country's new VP!












"For the first time in my life, I am standing in the presence of a great predator."

2008 DMA Meetings

Most Meetings begin at 6:00pm on the first Tuesday of each month (although this can vary). Locations vary monthly. Dates subject to change. For directions to locations visit www.duluthmerchants.com



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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JANUARY  Heavenly Touch Wellness Center www.htouch.com | FEBRUARY Duluth Cooperative Ministry www.duluthco-op.org | MARCH  GWINNETT COMMUNITY BANK www.gwinnettcommunitybank.com |
| APRIL Accent Mail  ACCENT MAIL & PRINT <small>1000 Peachtree Lake Drive, Suite 200 Duluth, Georgia 30096</small> www.Accentmail.com | MAY  Duluth Wine & Spirits www.duluthpackage.com | JUNE  Southeastern Railway Museum www.sirmduluth.org |
| JULY  Printing Trade Company www.printingtradeco.com | AUGUST  Duluth FESTIVAL www.Duluthfestival.com | SEPTEMBER Bunten Road Park Kathy Marelle (770) 81-4-6981 |
| OCTOBER  Atlanta FLOORING Design Centers www.atlantaflooringdesign.com | NOVEMBER  Houston & Company, PC <small>certified public accountants</small> www.houstoncpacompanycpa.com | DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY! |

Duluth Merchants Association
 P.O. Box 559
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