



# “Tourism Buzz!”

(From The Clay County Tourism Bug)

(Sponsored by Ash Tisdelle VW)



**By: Eve Szymanski: Director of Tourism & Film Development Division  
Clay County Chamber of Commerce**

## Tourism Buzz : March 06

**The Scots arrived on February 24<sup>th</sup>!** What a sight! It was sunny and warm at the Kilted Golf Tournament at the Ravines. By the time of the High Tea and the Whiskey Tasting at the Hilltop Club, both events were welcome! The Club then filled with beautiful tartans for the Sponsors Reception, including the guest of honor, the head of Clan Keith and his wife. On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the official beginning was heralded with over 200 pipes and drums from bands near and far! It was a Bonny Day in Clay County with more than 5000 visitors, and we can't wait for next year, but we'll take just a wee break in between!



Opening Ceremonies at N FL Scottish Games & Festival



More than seven pipers piping!

**The Southeast Model A Roundup** was hosted by the Quality Inn & Conference Center on February 17 – 19. If you went by, you would have seen some beauties in the parking lot! We love to see them come to town. Although many of them came from the SE Region of the US, many of you have seen some of them in our local parades and at many events. One of those events is **Carrie Clarke Day on March 18**. If you wondered about the fabulous park and old house, it's all open to see with people in character including the Clarkes! They'll be home on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Stop by and bring the kids! They are pristine and give us a real sense of the past. You can call 904-291-5365 if you are interested in having some of them at your next event.



SE Model A Roundup at QICC



Model A's as far as you could see!



Do a little laundry the old-fashioned way at Carrie Clarke Day, March 18.



This year's **Clay County Fair** will be packed with great events! The discount ride schedule is posted on the website at [www.claycountyfair.org](http://www.claycountyfair.org). There are specials on several nights to save money and catch all the thrills! The entertainment looks great with Monty Rabon, Chris Cagle and Tracy Byrd bringing down the house (rafters) on Sat, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The full entertainment schedule is on the website too.



**The Great Clay County Bug Out February Winner!**

Pat Collier of Macclenny was our winner of a \$100 Savings Bond on February 21. She spotted the Bug while here for the SE Model A Roundup! Me Casa, the new Mexican Restaurant in the Quality Inn & Conference Center hosted us this month. The Savings Bond is sponsored by **Bug Out Service, Inc**, just one of our Tourism Partners. The “Bug” is sponsored by Ash Tisdelle VW. Spot the Tourism Bug “out” and you too could win! Fax 904-264-0070 or email [eszymanski@claychamber.com](mailto:eszymanski@claychamber.com) with the date, place and time and your contact info.



**Snowed in at the Golf Show!** Some of you may have noted the snow storm in Philadelphia in February. On Friday and Saturday, Feb 10 & 11, we had a great turnout and went through more than 2400 pieces of literature. Then those giant flakes started coming down in earnest and Sunday was practically a “white out”! We were a part of the PLA FLA golf booth and spent 2 full days talking about Florida golf and attractions. You can imagine how many of those Philadelphia golfers wished they were here! We expect them to “come on down soon!”



Talking up a “storm” in Philadelphia.  
I guess it worked!

**Funding Info For All Clay County Event Planners.** If you are interested in receiving promotional funding for your annual event from the Clay County Tourist Development Council, there is a new deadline for applications. **For events that will occur from now until Oct. 1, your application has to be in by Aug 15. For all events occurring from Oct 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007, all applications must be in by July 1, 2006.** The Clay County TDC will be working on an annual basis starting Oct 1, 2006. And did you know we have a special packet of information just for Clay County Event Planners? It includes the funding application, which is also on line, a street banner application, temporary signage application, YTD calendar of events, visitor’s guide and more. Request one on line at [www.claytourism.com](http://www.claytourism.com), email [eszymanski@claychamber.com](mailto:eszymanski@claychamber.com) or call 904-394-7401.

**Upcoming Calendar of Events:**

Thumbelina	3/18/2006	Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts	2:30 PM	\$7, \$6, \$5	Using 9 feet tall puppets, the Bits "N Pieces Puppet Theatre brings the Hans Christian Anderson play to life. <b>904-276-6750 or www.thcenter.org</b>
Capt. J.P. Cruise Line	3/18/06	Reynolds Park Yacht Center / Green Cove Springs	10:30 AM & 7:30 PM	\$49.95 AM \$45.00 PM Child \$10.00	Come join us for a beautiful buffet luncheon cruise or a Saturday Night Dinner Dance with a Prime Rib Buffet! Enjoy the St. Johns River for sightseeing, weddings, a corporate party or a convention outing. <b>1-800-396-3305</b>
Carrie Clarke Day	3/18/06	Clarke Park in Orange Park	10AM to 4 PM	Free Admission	Tours of Historic Clarke House and the grounds. Guides in period attire and Model A cars on display. Free parking available at 1st Baptist Church across the street. Food, music and hayrides! <b>Call 904-291-5365</b>
CC Fair Horse Show	3/25/2006	Clay County Fairgrounds	9am.	TBA/ \$5 per class and \$20 max.	For more information contact Savannah Pipkins <b>(904) 269-6355</b>

Award Winning Clay County Agricultural Fair	3/30-4/8/06	CC Fairgrounds	Visit website for times	Nightly specials check the website or call.	This year's entertainment includes Tracy Byrd and Marty Rabon! Check the website for daily schedules. The rest is fun, food, rides & animals. Call <b>904-284-1615</b> or go to the website at <a href="http://www.claycountyfair.org">www.claycountyfair.org</a> or <a href="http://www.claytourism.com">www.claytourism.com</a>
Middleburg Auto Show	4/1/2006	Middleburg Civic Association 2120 Palmetto St.	8am - 3 pm	Free Admission	\$10.00 registration fee or swap space ( yard sale and part swap will also be held on grounds during this time. Door prizes, entertainment and much more. Email: <a href="mailto:dawn3060@netzero.com">dawn3060@netzero.com</a> or go to <a href="http://www.claytourism.com">www.claytourism.com</a> or call <b>904-282-3150</b> for updated information.
FI Master Naturalist Training Program	4/3/2006	Clay County Extension Office	6 to 10 pm	\$200 course fee	Master Naturalist training is an educational program on Florida's ecosystems. This wetlands program includes instruction in wildlife and plant types, habitats, and conservations issues. Includes boat tour of DeLeon Springs. <a href="http://www.masternaturalist.org">www.masternaturalist.org</a> or call <b>904-269-6355</b>
Thoroughly Modern Millie	4/3/2006	Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts	7:30 PM	\$45, \$38, \$27	TMM tells the story of a young woman, who has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. It's New York full of intrigue & jazz. <b>904-276-6750</b> or <a href="http://www.thcenter.org">www.thcenter.org</a>
Middleburg EGGSTRAVAGANZA	4/15/2006	Middleburg Civic Association 2120 Palmetto St.	Noon to 2 pm	Free Admission	Egg hunt from 10am-12pm, adult horseshoe tournament 12pm-2pm. Easter Bunny will also be present for pictures with the children. Free to the public. food and drinks will be offered for a small price with the profits going to the 4th of July fireworks. Email: <a href="mailto:dawn3060@netzero.com">dawn3060@netzero.com</a> or go to <a href="http://www.claytourism.com">www.claytourism.com</a> or call <b>904-282-3150</b> for updated information.
Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory	4/21/2006	Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts	7:30 PM	\$15, \$12, \$10	This fun-filled, musical invites audiences on an adventure of the imagination. <b>904-276-6750</b> or <a href="http://www.thcenter.org">www.thcenter.org</a>
4H Area Series B Horse Show	4/21-4/22/06	Clay County Fairgrounds	Call or Vist Web Page	Call or Visit Web Page	<b>Call (904) 529/278-3617 or Visit <a href="http://www.claycountygov.com">www.claycountygov.com</a></b>
Cycling for Success	4/22/2006	Clay County	Registration at 7:30 am. Ride begins at 9 am	Registration \$40. (Fundraising minimum \$100).	Gather support from family, friends or co-workers. Ride as a team or solo. Dollars will be matched by the State of FL. Ride includes breakfast & lunch, rest stops, SAG wagons and support teams. <a href="http://www.takestockinchildren.com">www.takestockinchildren.com</a> or <b>1-888-322-HOPE (4673)</b>
Earth Day Celebration	4/22/2006	Gold Head State Park/ Keystone Heights	All Day	Free with park admission of \$4 per vehicle	Earth-wise activities are planed for the whole family. Spend the day and enjoy a special concert by nationally renowned Violinist, charlie Gear. Call <b>352-473-4701</b> or visit The Real Florida on line at <a href="http://www.floridastateparks.org">www.floridastateparks.org</a>
Art in the Park	04/29/06	Green Cove Springs Spring Park	9 AM- 6:30 PM	Outdoor Events Free Admission	Juried Art show for the Visual Arts. Performing Arts section will showcase music, dance and storytellers. Contact CC Tourism or call <b>904-284-2994</b> or visit the website <a href="http://www.qcsmerchants.org">www.qcsmerchants.org</a>
Historic Hibernia Arts Festival (St. Margaret's Tour & Tea)	4/29/2006	Green Cove Springs	10 AM - 4 PM	Free Admission	Historic Tour of St. Margaret's Church including arts & crafts. Enter from Pine Avenue. Contact CC Tourism or call <b>904-284-3030</b> or watch the website at <a href="http://www.stmargaretsfl.org">www.stmargaretsfl.org</a> for more info.

## Clay County Visitor's Guide available March 24!

Keep those events coming by entering them on the our website at [www.claychamber.com](http://www.claychamber.com) and clicking on Community Events on the left. Then submit an Event in the upper right hand corner!