

Mississippi Development Authority
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39305

Contact: Sherry Vance, Director of Communications, 601.359.3041

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23rd ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI IN CENTRAL PARK SET FOR JUNE 8

NEW YORK, NY – Great food, fun and fellowship complete with Mississippi hospitality are planned for the 23rd Annual Mississippi in Central Park, Saturday, June 8, 2002. The picnic will occur from noon until 6 p.m. in the park's East Meadow, 5th Avenue at 97th Street.

“Mississippi...Feels Like Coming Home,” the Mississippi Development Authority’s new tourism tagline, is the theme for the event celebrating its 23rd year and offering contests, great music and a delicious fare of fried catfish, hushpuppies and coleslaw. Sponsored by the Mississippi Development Authority and the New York Society for the Preservation of Mississippi Heritage, the picnic brings together Mississippians and New Yorkers with ties to the Magnolia State for a Southern-style picnic in the heart of Central Park.

“The picnic is a great opportunity to share information about Mississippi’s tourism activities, retirement communities and economic development programs,” said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

The Mississippi picnic began in 1979 when a group of Mississippians in New York City, wishing to strengthen ties with their native state, formed The New York Society for the Preservation of Mississippi Heritage. The event continues to grow in popularity each year.

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