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## **The Cotton Ball Tuesday, April 21, 2009**

Historic Augusta's Cotton Ball, a tradition in Augusta since 1988, will be held this year on Tuesday, April 21 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The casual affair will be held in the gardens surrounding the home of Dr. and Mrs. Logan Nalley, Jr., located at 2229 Pickens Road.

Notable previous owners of the Nalleys' house include Barna McKinne and his wife Ann Galphin McKinne, poet Richard Henry Wilde, and James Paul Verdery and his wife Jane Cumming Verdery. The McKinnes built the Sand Hills Cottage around 1810 facing Milledge Road at the corner of what is now known as Pickens Road. Wilde added the wings to the house around 1830 which allowed for a dining room on the east and bedrooms on the west. From 1892 until 1896, the Verderys moved the house in three stages to its present location facing Pickens Road.

Dinner will be provided by Outback Steakhouse. Dessert will be provided by La Maison on Telfair. Mint juleps, a Cotton Ball favorite, in addition to a full bar will be enjoyed throughout the evening. Rob Foster and Pulsar will entertain with jazz music. A raffle will be held for a 3-night stay at a five bedroom beach home in Spring Island, South Carolina.

Admission to the Cotton Ball is by current, new or renewing membership in Historic Augusta, Inc., which is open to all who are interested in preserving our city's historic places. Memberships start at just \$50 for individuals and \$75 for couples. Advanced reservations are encouraged.

The Cotton Ball is sponsored in part by La Maison on Telfair, Outback Steakhouse, Phoenix Printing, Wachovia, WBBQ 104.3 and News 12 WRDW-TV.

For more information, call Historic Augusta at (706) 724-0436 or visit [www.historicaugusta.org](http://www.historicaugusta.org).