

## **2009 Award Winners for Chamber**

**Awards Citizen of the year goes to one of Savannah's favorite couples: Charles Carman and his wife Cathy Scott-Carman,** who can often be seen walking hand in hand on Main Street during their lunch hour. Charles came to Savannah in September, 2002 as our new Postmaster. Cathy joined him three months later. Cathy was hired by the Savannah Bank NA where she started in the loan department and now is the Operations Manager's Assistant for the bank. Savannah folks quickly appreciated Charles smiling face and happy disposition in the Post Office. After settling into their jobs, they volunteered their expertise in many different organizations. They served as directors for the Chamber of Commerce, introducing the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in the park, helping with the Community Day, the Potato Fest, and the Montezuma Wildlife event. During their service as directors, Charles served as Vice-President and Cathy was the Secretary for the Chamber. For relaxation, they could be seen riding their ATV's and were instrumental in the County Wide ATV Club. Now they turn to riding their motorcycle for fun. Since Charles had served in the Army, he soon became involved in the American Legion where he is now serving as Commander for the post and Cathy is the secretary. Both Charles and Cathy have done much behind the scenes like the Angel Tree which was held in the Post Office for several years before passing it along to the Crusoe Island Café who now oversees that project. This is just a small list of the many organizations and people who have been touched by their generous hearts and service.

**The Young Professional Award will be given to Jennifer Gillette** who is currently a first year student with sophomore status because of her accelerated courses at Clyde-Savannah Central. Jennifer graduated as salutatorian of her class in 2008, and was an Officer of the National Honor Society and the Interact Club. She won several art Awards including the Silver Key Winner of the National Scholastic Writing and Art Award of 2008. Jennifer also

received many awards as a Girl Scout including the highly prestigious Gold Award. Over the summer she worked on the Mural Mania project for Savannah and the promotional material for the Savannah Tram. Jennifer was also the creator of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce Logo. Her many talents and leadership skills have kept her very busy at RIT as she serves as a Member of the Women in Technology at RIT, The Institution of the Organization of Packaging Professionals and the Society of Women Engineers and just recently found herself as the Scorekeeper for the Regional Science Bowl Competition during which she was specially selected to be the scorekeeper for the final winning round because of excellent skills. You can see that Jennifer is truly an outstanding young person who has and will leave a wonderful mark on this world and we are proud to claim her as a Savannah Youth.

**The Chamber of Commerce is recognizing Jackson Farms ,Inc. as the Business of the Year.** For many years all of Savannah have watched as Jackson Farms have tilled, planted, tended and harvested potatoes on the huge muck lands south of Savannah and many more have enjoyed the fruits of their labor. Otis and John K. Jackson started farming in 1928 and the farm continued to grow under the leadership of Dale Jackson. In 1960, the farm was incorporated and had all three generations working the farm. Just like Dale succeeding his father John K. Jackson, Trevor is now the Leader of Jackson Farms. Although Trevor is very committed to the farm he has supported many projects in Savannah, with his support to the Potato Fest being extremely valuable to the festival and to the Chamber. Jackson Farms potatoes have been shared with State Fair goers for many years as well. The Chamber believes that farms like Jackson Farms have been the backbone to Savannah for many years and very worthy of this special award.

*Join us for the Award Event on Sunday, March 8 from 2-4 PM at the Montezuma Audubon Center.*