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## **The Cotton Ball Tuesday, May 13, 2008**

Historic Augusta's Cotton Ball, a tradition in Augusta since 1988, will be held this year on Tuesday, May 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The casual affair will be held in the gardens surrounding the home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Falcone, located at 3106 Walton Way.

The Falcone's Greek Revival home was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for John Moore Walton, lawyer, insurance salesman, frequent contributor of travel articles to the Augusta Chronicle, board member of the Young Men's Library Association, and board member of the Augusta Art Club (known later as the Gertrude Herbert Art Institute). The fluted Doric columns on the façade of the house were salvaged from the 1828 Henry Cumming House which had burned. The house has had a number of residents since Mr. Walton including Mr. and Mrs. Pierce E. Marks and Mr. and Mrs. John Barrow, Jr. The Falcones, who have owned and preserved the property since 2002, built a preservation-sensitive addition to the rear of the home and have greatly enhanced and improved the extensive gardens. They have added several new garden "rooms."

Dinner will be provided by Outback Steakhouse. Mint juleps, a Cotton Ball favorite, in addition to a full bar will be enjoyed throughout the evening. The Carolina Rebels from Columbia, South Carolina will entertain with bluegrass music. A raffle will be held for a 3-night stay at a four bedroom mountain home in Highlands, North 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 MCGHealth, Blanchard and Calhoun, Club Car, Johnson Motor Company, Outback Steakhouse, Phoenix Commercial Printers, WBBQ 104.3 and WRDW-TV.

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