

US 84 ...

The Wiregrass Georgia Parkway



First conceptualized in 1988 by a group of Valdostans, highway US 84 across South Georgia was theme named the ‘Wiregrass Georgia Parkway’ in 1995. Rich in historical significance, US 84 and almost all the towns on it exist where they are because of the railroad from Savannah which closely parallels it.

The term Wiregrass Georgia is especially appropriate as it celebrates the folk heritage of South Georgia and promotes knowledge and restoration of the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem which is often referred to as *The Fire Forest*. A composite group is working with VSU to declare the Blazers “the flame in Wiregrass Georgia” as a part of the university’s centennial.

Stories along the highway include the composer of *Jingle Bells* James Lord Pierpont living in Savannah, Valdosta, and Quitman; Valdosta being the second place in the world to bottle Coca-Cola and peanuts being so important to the south Georgia economy.

So it may be said, **“If you drive US 84 singing *Jingle Bells*, while munching on peanuts and sipping Coca-Cola, you are doing something very appropriate to the ‘Wiregrass Georgia Parkway’”**