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**In Tough Economic Times, Planning Becomes Essential for Atlanta's Small Businesses**  
*Glen-Ella Springs Inn and Meeting Place Offers a Cost-Effective Solution for Off-Site Meetings*

**CLARKESVILLE, Ga. – Date** – During an economic downturn, the effective use of training conferences, strategic planning sessions and sales meetings can help Atlanta businesses stay closer to their employees and customers, and may help them emerge from the recession faster and stronger. But how can small businesses, which are the backbone of the economy in Atlanta, make meetings time and cost effective?

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 85 percent of all employer firms in the Atlanta MSA (metropolitan statistical area) consist of 20 employees or less, and approximately 60 percent of the total Atlanta workforce works for employer firms consisting of 500 or fewer employees. These companies don't dream of boarding planes and jetting off to some far away destination for a strategic planning session – particularly when faced with the added challenges of a global recession.

Fortunately, with [Glen-Ella Springs Inn and Meeting Place](#), Atlanta businesses have an option. Situated just 90 minutes from Atlanta in Clarkesville, Georgia, Glen-Ella Springs is an award-winning 16-room historic inn that provides the ideal setting for a small corporate retreat, especially for companies that are concerned about the bottom line.

"As a small business owner, we understand the financial pressures that smaller firms are feeling, so we absolutely understand the importance of making an off-site meeting cost effective and productive," said Ed Kivett, owner of Glen-Ella Springs Inn and Meeting Place. "Every expenditure made by companies today must show a return on investment, which for an off-site meeting includes the performance of the facility, attendee satisfaction and adhering to approved budgets. A successful meeting should not be measured by how much is spent, but by how much is accomplished."

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To help companies accomplish more and show a positive return on their investment, Glen-Ella Springs Inn and Meeting Place offers the following advantages:

- Glen-Ella Springs schedules only one meeting at a time, so their staff is completely focused on satisfying client needs to ensure the success of a meeting or event.
- As one of only 15 inns in Georgia admitted to the Select Registry of Distinguished Inns and one of only 150 properties in the U.S. to make the *National Geographic Traveler* Stay List, meeting planners can be confident knowing that attendees will be satisfied with the quality and casual elegance of the accommodations offered by Glen-Ella Springs Inn and Meeting Place.
- Attendees can stay on-site and enjoy a fine dining experience in the restaurant, which is a perennial winner of the Silver Spoon Award from *Georgia Trend* magazine.
- Glen-Ella Springs' offers all-inclusive pricing, which includes accommodations, facility and equipment rental, full breakfast, lunch, gourmet dinner, homemade snacks and beverages, which means there are no surprises to the budget.

Kivett and his staff have more than 40 years of marketing, sales and customer service experience, providing them with the business background to help ensure that all details have been thought through and taken care of. Kivett will also help recommend and coordinate facilitators for training or development sessions, and has created a partnership with Teambuilding, Inc., one of the premier team building companies in the United States.

“On average, the typical decision maker will look at six locations before selecting a site, and we’re here to make it easier for them to plan a meeting by thinking through and taking care of all of the details,” said Kivett. “We want them to know that they can plan and meet with confidence at Glen-Ella Springs, which will make their time here with us more productive and enjoyable.”

Glen-Ella Springs Inn and Meeting Place is located at 1789 Bear Gap Road in Clarkesville, Georgia. Please click here for a [history](#) of the inn.

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