

GEORGIA LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH: MAY

**Georgia State Representative Matt Ramsey and
The Georgia Lyme Disease Association invite you to
the 2011 Lyme and Tick-borne Disease Awareness Program,
Thursday, May 5, 2011 from 1 pm - 3:30 p.m. at the
Georgia State Capitol in the Rotunda, 240 State Capitol,
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

LYME & TICK-BORNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

A Proclamation issued by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal declaring
May "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" will be presented.

The long-term cost of Lyme disease to families, school systems, the health care system, & the economy is astounding. According to a study published in 1993 in *Contingencies*, the cost to society for LD was about one billion dollars per year. Average costs related to treatment and diagnosis and lost wages due to LD was \$61,688 per year per patient. Cases have more than doubled since then, so today's costs are estimated at \$2 billion or more annually. —national Lyme Disease Association

2011

Lyme disease is the most prevalent vector-borne disease in the country and is seriously underreported. Some estimates are as high as 220,000 new cases annually. 25% of all victims are children. A person may test negative yet still be infected. Many people never see a tick or get a rash and symptoms may not occur for months to years following a tick bite. This serious bacterial infection can invade any organ system of the body. With symptoms sometimes similar to Fibromyalgia & Chronic Fatigue, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose and can mimic ALS, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Lupus, and even Alzheimer's disease. There are currently over a dozen tick-borne pathogens recognized in the southeastern United States and many may be life-threatening. Recognition and early, adequate treatment of Lyme and tick-borne diseases are crucial in order to avoid possible ongoing problems and permanent damage.

Contact: 770-716-6011 Liz Schmitz Marilyn Sherlock Jackie & Norman Morgan

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Special guest speaker:

**Lyme and Tick-borne
disease researcher**

Kerry Clark, MPH, Ph.D.

Please join members of the Georgia Lyme Disease Association, Georgia patients, their family members, and friends as we gather to raise awareness about Lyme and tick-borne diseases across Georgia.