

# our family newsletter



for volunteers & staff



[SOUTHERNTENNIS.COM](http://SOUTHERNTENNIS.COM) | [USTA.COM/SOUTHERN](http://USTA.COM/SOUTHERN) | [CONTACT RON CIOFFI](#) WITH STORY IDEAS

AUGUST 2020

## MESSAGES

### GET OUT AND PLAY

With a national campaign designed to attract beginning and returning players – called [GET OUT AND PLAY](#) – USTA Southern and state have begun rescheduling tournaments.

The good news is that there are too many tournaments to list here. Tournaments in these lists are being played unless there is a note about cancellations or postponements.

[JUNIORS LEVEL 1-3](#)

[ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS](#)

### SOUTHERN CARES TO WRAP UP IN SEPTEMBER

After establishment by the [USTA SOUTHERN BOARD OF DIRECTORS](#) in May, the \$2 million Southern Cares initiative has been moving full speed ahead. The three segments are in different areas of their timelines.

Here is where the programs stand:

**Teaching pros:** All pros receiving funds have been selected and checks have been mailed.

**Facilities:** Most facilities have been notified and checks are in the process of being processed and mailed.

**Others in tennis industry** (tournament directors, CTAs, officials, NJTLs, local league coordinators, wheelchair and adaptive programs, media, etc.): Applications are being reviewed. Selections will be made and checks mailed in August or early September.

[BACKGROUND INFO](#)

### NOMINATE FOR YOUR STATES' AWARDS

2020 continues to be a challenging year. That includes our annual awards.

All states are currently planning on selecting awards for 2020, though some are considering handing them out virtually.

All Southern volunteers are encouraged to make nominations by submitting them to your state and not directly to Southern. Please check your state website for more details.

If you wish, [CLICK HERE](#) for the Southern portal to submit your state nomination.

USTA Southern currently plans on selecting 2020 awards.

[HERE](#) is a recently built .pdf archive of all Southern award winners.

## NEWS

### WTA: HELLO, LEXINGTON!

Octagon and the Women's Tennis Association announced the return to professional women's tennis in the U.S., with the staging of a new tournament, the [Top Seed Open, presented by Bluegrass Orthopaedics](#). The inaugural tournament has joined the WTA Tour and will be held at the [Top Seed Tennis Club](#), Aug. 10-17, outside of Lexington, KY. The club is located in Nicholasville.

**Tickets Auctioned for Charity:** Top Seed Open is auctioning 10 tickets for center court. Proceeds go to the Young Kinds Scholarship Fund, the Special Olympics and various WTA charities. [CLICK HERE](#) for the auction and more info.

**Tournament Director Jon Sanders** was featured in an extensive interview on Talking Tennis Southern Style. The most recent podcast episode also featured former NBA and University of Kentucky star [Kyle Macy](#), who is now a tennis coach and top-level senior player. [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#). Southern's podcast, spearheaded by the Public Relations Committee, has had 1,100+ downloads.



Committed to play in Lexington: Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Sloane Stephens, Victoria Azarenka, Coco Gauff, Aryna Sabalenka and Amanda Anisimova.

## KENTUCKY DERBY TICKET AUCTION

The Southern Tennis Foundation has [four Kentucky Derby](#) tickets up for auction. Bidding began last week and will run through Wednesday, August 19 at noon EDT. The race is now scheduled for Saturday Sept. 5. Auction proceeds will go to STF and USTA Kentucky's Raise a Racquet Foundation. [CLICK HERE](#) to bid.



## VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Every two years, there is a call for USTA members to apply for USTA Southern committee positions. Applications for terms starting on Jan. 1, 2021, are required, even if you serve on a current committee. **Deadline is Sept. 22.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply. [MORE INFO.](#)

## IN THE MEDIA

### TENNIS.COM

#### SOLDAN, STROUD HIGHLIGHTED IN VIDEO, STORY

Two of Southern's best wheelchair tennis player – [Mackenzie Soldan](#) and [Conner Stroud](#) – were featured in a video and story centered around training at the USTA National Campus. Soldan was an NCAA champion while playing for the University of Alabama. Stroud, of Rutherfordton, NC, was ranked No. 2 in the ITF wheelchair juniors and a member of the U.S. Word Cup team that won three world junior titles. [MORE](#)



Clockwise from left: Conner Stroud, Mackenzie Soldan, Oscar Gamble, Beck family.



### ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

#### BECK ACADEMY LOOKING FOR NEW FACILITY

[Michael & Debra Beck](#) and family were named the 2018 USTA Southern Mickey McNulty Family of the Year. Now, after years of working out of the Jennings Mill Country Club, the Beck Academy is looking for a new tennis home. Currently, the Becks are using a number of private courts but are looking for something more permanent. They have worked with more than 700 juniors including feeding state champion North Oconee (GA) High School teams. [MORE](#)

### WKYCOMMUNITYLIVING.COM

#### JANE & OSCAR TAKE A GAMBLE ON SHARING

Long-time USTA Southern volunteer and Paducah (KY) Tennis Association President [Jane Gamble and her husband, Oscar](#), used their home to help share used racquets. The Gambles encouraged those with used racquets to drop them off at their house. Then, the racquets were taken to a local tennis shop for distribution to high school students who needed them. Also, any passer-bys were encouraged to take a racquet to try out the sport. [MORE](#)

### BLUERIDGENOW.COM

#### HENDERSONVILLE, NC, GETS LEVEL 3 EVENT

[Scott Handback](#) of the Hendersonville Racquet Club was happy to host the Asheville Mountain Junior Classic during the first weekend of August. "When the opportunity from USTA Southern became available, we decided to transition to the new format. This meant we had to gain access to more courts and agree to the specific date," Handback said. The event drew 218 competitors in 10 singles events. [MORE](#)

### STATE PORT (SC) PILOT

#### BRUNSWICK COUNTY HOLDS CAMPS

The [Southport Academics and Tennis Camp](#) offered time for tennis and learning at Lowe-White Memorial Park in Southport, NC. The program is a joint effort by Southport Parks and Recreation, the Brunswick County Tennis Association (BCTA) and LC Outreach Project, Inc. According to the story, the campers are taking pre- and post-reading and math assessments on computers to determine where they stand academically. [MORE](#)

## MESSAGES

### USTA.COM LINKS IN OFN

As [USTA.COM](https://www.usta.com) makes improvements to navigation, design and content, many stories in this Our Family Newsletter link to the story on the national website

instead of the Southern website. Last year, Southerners visited USTA.com 42% more often than the USTA Southern website. States are also posting pages on USTA.com with Georgia building three pages of extensive content in July.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### 5 QUESTIONS WITH ... JAMES McKISSICK

**WHO GOT YOU INTO TENNIS?** My mother and father both loved the game of tennis and introduced me at a young age! My grandmother was particularly fond of the sport so she too encouraged all her grandchildren to play.

**WHAT'S THE MOST EXCITING TENNIS MATCH YOU'VE PLAYED OR SEEN?** I saw the Bryan brothers at the US Open one year and their sportsmanship will always stick with me. Their opponents hit a ball that was called out but Mike & Bob thought it was in so they challenged the call on behalf of their competitors! The call was overturned and they lost the point but forever won my respect. The Federer/Nadal 2008 Wimbledon is my favorite of all time, although I wasn't there.

**IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE TENNIS PRO'S SHOT, WHOSE WOULD IT BE?** Well, my backhand needs help so I would love to have Stan Wawrinka's backhand as he too plays a one-hander.

**WHAT'S YOUR SECOND MOST FAVORITE SPORT?** There are other sports? College football dominates my TV when tennis tournaments aren't being played!

**WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU EVER RECEIVED?** My father used to say there are plenty of nice people in the world. Strive to be like them and spend time with those who have good character. Integrity is the backbone of character.



## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Holly Tree Adult Fast4 Championships; Simpsonville, SC; 8/15; [REGISTER](#)

USTA Southern Clay Court Level 1A Championships; juniors; various cities and dates; 9/5; [SEE LINKS](#)

Southern Adult Clay Open East; Jekyll Island, GA; 9/10-13 (rescheduled from April); [REGISTER](#)

USTA Southern Level 1A Championships; juniors; various cities and dates; 9/18 (rescheduled from the spring); [SEE LINKS](#)

Southern High Stakes Shootout; adults; North Little Rock, AR; 9/25-27; [REGISTER](#)

## JUNE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

	JR TOTAL *	JR % OF SECTION/ NATION	ADULT TOTAL	ADULT % OF SECTION/ NATION	UN-KNOWN TOTAL	10&U FREE	TOTAL **	TOTAL % OF SECTION/ NATION
AL	2,198	6.667%	7,985	7.424%	1	92	10,092	7.289%
AR	1,428	4.331%	4,872	4.530%	11	58	6,253	4.516%
GA	8,584	26.037%	25,909	24.088%	22	360	34,155	24.668%
KY	1,298	3.937%	4,677	4.348%	4	82	5,897	4.259%
LA	1,758	5.332%	9,240	8.591%	7	71	10,934	7.897%
MS	2,537	7.695%	6,544	6.084%	3	410	8,674	6.265%
NC	7,747	23.498%	24,356	22.644%	17	308	31,812	22.976%
SC	3,346	10.149%	16,079	14.949%	11	170	19,266	13.915%
TN	4,073	12.354%	7,897	7.342%	9	606	11,373	8.214%
STA	32,969	23.599%	107,559	25.846%	85	2,157	138,456	25.088%
USTA	139,704		416,154		1,185	5,166	551,877	

SOUTHERN RETURNS TO MORE THAN 25% OF NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP!



\* Includes 10&U free membership \*\* Excludes 10&U free membership