



www.sgaofatlanta.org

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706-318-2379

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404-636-2159

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Tuesday

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Wednesday

Tom Gryder 404-232-9741

Thursday

Bob Remich 404-822-1379

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 69 Issue 9

September 2025

President

Mike Nobles

mike.nobles.usma79@gmail.com

(678) 294-2363



They say you don't truly appreciate something until it's taken away, and I've felt that over the past couple of weeks while recovering from surgery. I've really missed the exercise and friendly competition of our dogfight tournaments, but what I've missed most is spending time with my golfing buddies. I'm anxiously awaiting my doctor's clearance so I can get back out on the links with all of you and enjoy the game — and the camaraderie — once again.

As we enter the final months of our 2025 season, we still have a number of exciting events ahead.

- The day after Labor Day, we start our three-week-long Annual Tournament at *Panola Mountain Golf Course* in Ellenwood, GA. With several new members this year, I'm looking forward to some strong competition for both the *Club Champion* and *Flight Champion* titles.
- In October, we head to Gulf Shores, AL for our Member-Guest Tournament, where 33 golfers (28 members and 5 guests) and 22 spouses or significant others will be joining us for a great mix of golf and fellowship.
- November brings our Volunteer Recognition Event and the Year-End Banquet, which will include officer elections and our annual raffle.
- We'll close out the season in December, but there's still plenty to look forward to, and I encourage you to take part in as many of these events as possible.

Nominations are now open for our 2026 officer and director positions. If you—or someone you know—are interested in playing a more active role in shaping the future of our organization, now is the time to step forward. **The deadline to submit nominations is September 15.** Serving in a leadership role is a great opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process and help guide the direction of our organization. The time commitment is minimal, but the impact is significant. We need dedicated members who are willing to lead. Don't miss the chance to make a difference—submit a nomination today!

Continued on page 2

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

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Continued from page 1

I want to make you aware of two changes that were approved in our August Board of Directors meeting that will go into effect in the 2026 season. The first only involves members with a handicap of less than 10 at the start of the season. Those members will be given the option to play from designated tees behind the tees that we currently play. If they choose this option, they must play from those tees for the full season. Several low handicap members had requested this option to make rounds more challenging and to allow them to use all the clubs in their bag. We want to continue to attract and retain low handicap members and this change will hopefully facilitate that.

The second change involves the Annual Tournament. Starting next year, it will be six rounds over two weeks rather than nine rounds over three weeks. Results will be based on the best three rounds out of a possible six rounds rather than the best four rounds out of a possible nine rounds like it is currently. We will capture and pay out closest-to-the-pin winners by flight just like we do in our other intown dogfight tournaments. We will not pay out birdies but will continue to pay out eagles (or better). This change was made to give us more options when choosing a site for our Annual Tournament.

We have had 31 new members join our ranks this year. According to Ted Pogue, this is the first time in several years that we have added more members through the year than we dropped off the roles at the end of the previous year. You are doing a great job of inviting your friends and their friends to join SGAA! I really appreciate your efforts and hope that you will continue to share the great story that we have to tell the senior golfers in the Atlanta area.

I am pleased to announce that George Shingler and Jim Goldsack have been appointed to the Board of Directors, effective August 18, 2025. They were approved by the Board to fill the unexpired terms of Bill Herbert and Steve Allen, who recently resigned. Please join me in congratulating George and Jim on their appointments—we look forward to their contributions and leadership in their new roles

Hit 'em straight and have fun!

In Memory

Lest we forget, this golf we play is just a game. A game we enjoy as often as we can. These members passed away this year and no longer have that opportunity let us not forget them. Let us offer this golfer's prayer...

"For all the times I have swung a club, for the many friends and the game I love, for the patience I have found in sand or rough, for the excitement of making the shots though tough; for success is not measured by holes in one; but by the times that are shared when having fun. Lord would you grant me one last request; to play You a round of the game I love best."

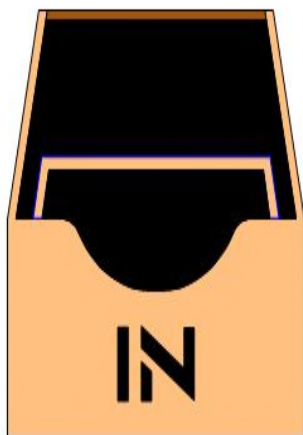
Lamar Frazier member since 1995
Lyman Thompson member since 2008
Phil Biggers member 2002 - 2018

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

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Vice President

JJ Goldsack

goldsack@bellsouth.net

(770) 513-4609



With September approaching we have two-thirds of the 2025 season behind us. The Annual Tournament will be at Panola Mountain. There will be 9 opportunities to play 4 rounds. Of course you can play all 9 days, but you must play 4 rounds to qualify for the tournament. With that, it is time to start purchasing tickets for the raffle at the end of the year banquet. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. Purchase yours early and often.

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to start thinking about officers and other volunteers for 2026. Three members will be cycling off the Board of Directors as well as elections for President, Vice President and Treasurer. Please consider stepping up and running for one of these positions. You don't have to run to be a volunteer. There are several tables that are not fully staffed as well as various committee positions that are open. We also have a goal to have a backup for all the positions. If you cannot run for office, please consider volunteering. SGAA is completely run by volunteers, please participate and help the organization grow and develop.

Finally, let's talk about pace of play. There are actually some courses we no longer play because they have told us that SGAA plays too slow. The goal at most courses now is to play in 4 hours and 20 minutes. We should be able to accomplish this. If your next shot is for a double bogey, pick up. The new rule is spending only 3 minutes looking for your ball. Play ready golf. All this will allow us to complete the round in a reasonable time and keep the courses happy.



"Our company is giving you 10,000 free golf balls with our company's info on them. Since you'll lose everyone of them, it'll be good advertising for us."

**EVENTS FOR
SEPTEMBER 2025**

**All tee times
are 8:30 a/m**

September 2
TUES: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 3
WED: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 4
THUR: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 8
MON: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 9
TUES: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 10
WED: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 16
TUES: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 17
WED: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 18
THUR: 8:30 a/m
[AT] Panola Mountain \$32

September 22
MON: 8:30 a/m
Southland \$41

September 23
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Providence \$37

September 24
WED: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett \$45

September 29
MON: 8:30 a/m
Ashton Hills \$40

September 20
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Bear Creek \$42

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**Secretary
Ted Pogue
tandgpogue@att.net
(404) 281-6158**



We begin September 2025 with 225 active members. We've added 3 new members since last month. For the first time in several years, we have added more members than we lost last year.

Please continue to ask your friends and neighbors to join our group. Make sure the application is complete and readable. I cannot process the application for a new member if the application is missing needed information. Keep up the good work.

If you have any suggestions that will help the Board, make changes that will make playing more enjoyable, send them to me or another Board member. We may not agree, or the suggestion may not happen; but it will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Two Members passed away in 2025, Lamar Frazier in February, Lyman Thompson in June. One former member, Phil Biggers passed away earlier this year.

MEMBERS, IF ANY OF YOUR INFORMATION CHANGES

(ADDRESS, PHONE #, OR EMAIL)

PLEASE LET ME KNOW AT tandgpogue@att.net.

**WE CANNOT KEEP YOU INFORMED IF WE DON'T HAVE THE CORRECT
INFORMATION.**





Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

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Volume 69 Issue 9

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Editor

Steve Puster

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(678) 262-7541

The opinions expressed on this page are purely the Editor's and may or may not coincide with those of the Board of Directors.



Rambling from Tee to Green

Not all holes or moments in golf history involve sensational shots or championships. Ben Hogan stamped his name in First Coast golf history by making an 8-over-par 11 on a par 3 at Hyde Park in the 1947 Jacksonville Open.

Hogan was three shots off the lead in the third round, and tugged his tee shot into the pond on the left — which was larger than it is now. The ball was barely visible above the water and Hogan thought he could splash it onto the green.

He tried four times and finally took an unplayable lie. He hit his seventh shot to the top of the bank, and the ball rolled back down in the water.

After his penalty shot, he hit his ninth onto the green and two-putted for the 11. Hogan shot 79 in the round and came back the next day with a 68.

Points to Ponder

Do you struggle with par 3's like I do? For some reason I'm either terrible or terrific on these holes — the balance seems to lean toward the terrible side of the scale. I've told myself it's just an approach shot to the green. I don't usually have a lot of trouble with my final shot to the green so why does a par 3 approach shot (tee) psych me out?

Have you found the putting green isn't a true representation of how the greens roll on the course in many cases?

Why drives on the driving range are long and straight, but on the course they're short and lost? Why do putts that are straight and true stop one revolution short of the hole; but putts slightly off-line roll ten feet past the hole?

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In the
Spotlight



Johnny Gilbert

Member since 2025

Johnny Gilbert was a popular sports star as well as a 1989 graduate of Monroe Comprehensive High School in Albany, Georgia; a 1996 graduate of Albany State College (University) and a 2002 graduate of Cambridge College in Massachusetts.

Johnny was an All-Star SIAC quarterback who led the Albany State College Rams to three conference championships.

In 1996 he began his coaching career as the Quarterback Coach at Monroe Comprehensive High School where he assisted in building a winning program. During Gilbert's tenure, the Monroe Comprehensive HS Tornadoes played in the state play-offs and enhanced their record from 8-3 to 12-2. After two years at MCHS, Johnny moved to Atlanta, and became the Offensive Coordinator at McNair High School. The following year (1999), Gilbert assumed the role of Head Football Coach and led the Mustangs to the pinnacle of success by claiming the Region Championship in 2002. His overall team record was 39-7.

In 2007, Gilbert made the move to Christian education and was employed by Strong Rock Christian School (Locust Grove, GA), where he served as a Health and Physical Education teacher. He also coached basketball and track.

In 2011, Coach Gilbert joined the staff of Creekside Christian Academy (McDonough, GA) as a Health and Physical Education teacher, as well as the Quarterback and Defensive Coordinator for the varsity football team, and coach for the varsity and middle school golf teams. In 2013 and 2014, Gilbert's varsity golf team was named the GICAA State Champions. In 2013, Gilbert was named Head Varsity Football Coach and he served in that role until 2017. Additionally, in 2016, Gilbert was named Creekside Christian Academy Athletic Director and served in that position for three years.

In April 2019, Gilbert was named Head Varsity Football Coach at Dougherty Comprehensive High School, in Albany, Georgia.

Coach Gilbert is married to his college sweetheart, Shaneeka Gilbert, and they have two children, Johnny and Skyla.



Calling for Nominees

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

To nominate some deserving volunteer for "Volunteer of the Year" contact

Ron Wade : 706-318-2379 ron3392@aol.com

OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

BOARD of DIRECTORS*

To nominate someone (or yourself) for one of the offices listed above, contact that person to secure their permission, and then submit your nominee to anyone on the Nominating Committee — contact information listed below

Ron Wade: 706-318-2379 ron3392@aol.com

Ward Humphreys: 404-444-1786 ward.humphreys@gmail.com

Kerry Phillips: 770-468-6708 coachkphillips@aol.com

Ted Pogue: 404-281-6158 tandgpogue@att.net

Deadline for Nominations -- SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

2025 SGAA Annual Tournament

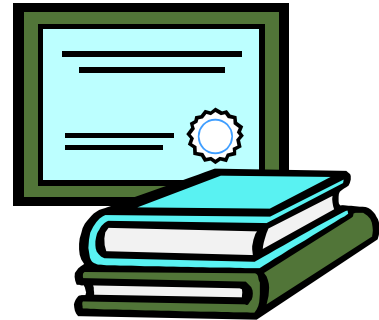
ANNUAL TOURNAMENT: This is a DOGFIGHT event and has 9 dates scheduled in September at the Panola Mountain Club Golf Course. It is stroke play based on gross score and limited to double bogey. Balls must be holed out on the putting green up to one stroke less than double bogey. To determine net score, the player's dogfight handicap shall be deducted from his gross score.



YOU MUST HAVE AN SGAA ESTABLISHED HANDICAP to be eligible to play in this event and you must play a minimum of 4 rounds. You may play all 9 rounds as available on the schedule; but your best 4 rounds of the rounds played will determine your tournament score. Unlike other tournaments you pay a one time \$10.00 table fee on your first day of play and only pay green fees thereafter. If you opt to not participate in the Annual Tournament but want to join your friends to play golf, just notify the Table upon registration that you are not competing, and you will not pay

the \$10.00 table fee.

AN AWARD, DESIGNATED AS THE SGAA CLUB CHAMPION, with the Winner's name and the year of winning, engraved thereon, will be awarded to the player with the lowest gross score. This individual will be the 2025 SGAA Club Champion.



THERE WILL ALSO BE FOUR FLIGHT WINNERS (Flights A, B, C and D) and points will be awarded for each flight to the lowest net winner. The number of additional winners in each flight will be determined by the Tournament Committee and will be limited to the total prize funds collected for the tournament. In the event of ties, winners will be determined by the player having the lowest gross score

for the four rounds. If still tied, the one having the lowest gross round shall win. If still tied, their cards for the first round played of the four best rounds shall be compared as for match play and the one winning the first hole, under the rules governing match play, shall be the winner.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Our Annual Tournament begins on Tuesday, September 2nd at Panola Mountain Golf Course. Tee time is 8:30 AM for all rounds of the tournament. There is a special one-time table fee of \$10.00 to be paid at the start of your tournament play. Green fees (\$32.00) are to be paid to the course before each round. There are 9 rounds scheduled for this tournament. You may play as many rounds during the tournament schedule as you like, but you MUST PLAY a minimum of 4 rounds to be considered as competing in the Annual Tournament. No matter how many rounds you complete during the Annual Tournament, your 4 best rounds will be used to determine your tournament standing.

The standard pre-registration applies to the tournament. You do not have to enter the tournament to play. You may also just show up, notify the table of your intentions, get a hole assignment, and pay your green fee.

The following SGAA rules are provided as a refresher as we begin tournament play. Additional information may be provided by the Table Captains, or on the SGAA website, as the tournament progresses.

1. Rules of Play—USGA, PGA and local course rules shall govern play except as listed below. While SGAA Rules may seem to be very tolerant it is for the benefit of members of the Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta and to promote speedier play. Any member or members wishing to abide strictly by USGA and PGA rules are welcome to do so.

2. A PLAYER--May pick up to identify, clean or exchange a ball that comes to rest anywhere within the boundaries of the golf course and replace the ball one club length, or within one club length, no closer to the hole without penalty except on the green (see rule #3), or in a sand trap (see rule #4). The ball must be placed in the same general environment (1st cut, 2nd cut, rough, etc.) as it originally came to rest. If a ball cannot be played within one club length and still considered unplayable it can be moved any distance on a line of entry back towards the last point the ball was struck with a one stroke penalty.

3. ON THE GREEN—A player may mark the ball's location and pick up to identify, clean or exchange his ball. Ball must be replaced at the mark where it was picked up.

4. SAND TRAP PLAY—If your ball is in a fairway bunker or greenside sand trap and lies in a foot print (human or otherwise), any untended sand marks from previous a player, or maintenance equipment, you can pick up your ball, rake the area of untended marks and replace your ball in the same spot without penalty. Also, any ball resting in water or mud can be pulled out and placed one club length no closer to the hole but still in the trap or bunker, without a penalty.

5. BALL OUT OF BOUNDS, UNPLAYABLE or LOST—When a ball is hit out of bounds, declared unplayable (see rule #2) or lost, after searching for a maximum of three (3) minutes, the player may place his ball any distance along the flight of the ball where the ball went out of bounds, is presumed lost or determined unplayable. A one (1)-stroke penalty shall be counted.

6. 14 CLUB RULE—Each player shall have no more than 14 clubs in his bag or face disqualification from that round.



SGAA 2025 Year End Luncheon

November 13, 2025

11:00 a/m — 2:00 p/m



Honey Creek Golf and Country Club

635 Clubhouse Drive SE
Conyers, Georgia 30094

\$25.00 PER PERSON
(includes tip and tax)

The menu details are being finalized* as we go to print. Rest assured you will have a good meal along with some mighty fine fellowship

**Contact Harry Matthews [404-273-2584] with any suggestions for the menu*

Reservations can be made by sending your check — made out to **SGAA** — for **\$25.00** annotated as "Tee Off Banquet" to:

Tom Vardase
3502 Johns Road
Tucker, GA 30084

Reservations MUST be received no later than **November 6, 2025**

This is not so much "going to lunch" this the **ELECTION of OFFICERS**; presentation of awards; announcement of raffle winners; and more all around good fellowship with friends we made the loop with this season

I look forward to seeing you on November 13th.

Harry Matthews

No, the check wasn't lost in the mail!



And it's easy to make sure your check isn't lost either

2025 "Award Points" checks, minus \$25 for 2026 dues, will go out a few days after the end of our last 2025 tournament (DEC 10th) and should arrive before the end of the year.

If you have moved

— please send me an email with your new address **ASAP** to: mvp-bestt@att.net

. . . Tom Vardase, Treasurer

***Not going to make the Member-Guest this year??
You can still play golf and make a difference at the same time!***



Assistance League
8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Helping Children and Adults in Need



Assistance League of Atlanta is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization helping children and adults in need rebuild their lives and become more self-sufficient. We assist a network of 250 community partners to provide weekend food, new clothing, household goods, hygiene kits, comfort items and educational aid to those affected by homelessness, abuse and poverty.

Monday, October 6, 2025
Bear's Best Atlanta
5342 Aldeburgh Drive, Suwanee, GA 30024

**Includes: Championship Golf plus
breakfast, snacks, and buffet lunch**

Silent Auction and 50/50 drawing

Prizes for:

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Teams, Closest to the Pin, Long Drive, & Contests

Free Acura from Ed Voyles for Hole-in-One

To register online to be a sponsor or a player, you will need to pay by credit card.

Click this link: <https://www.assistanceleague.org/atlanta/golf-registration-form>

To register with a check, email golf@assistanceleagueatl.org for instructions

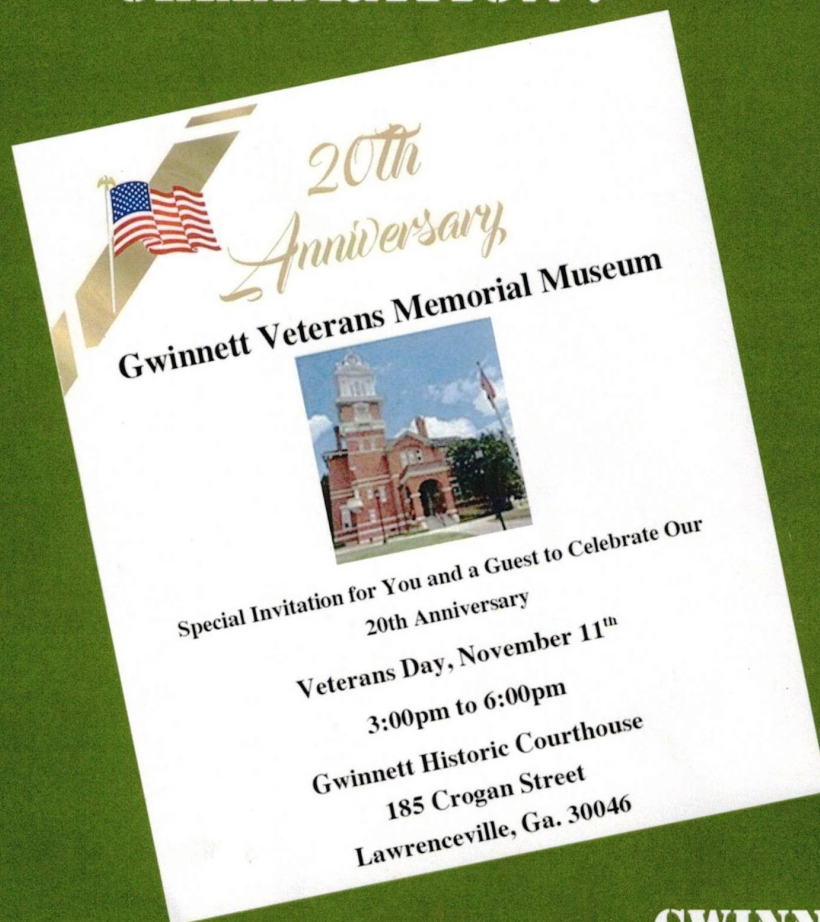
Assistance League wants to give back to those who give so much.
Help us by sponsoring a player or foursome of veterans, police, firefighters, and
first responders.

PLAYER - \$150
FOURSOME - \$600

**Thank you for participating in the
8th annual Assistance League of Atlanta Golf Tournament**

★ **SAVE THE DATE !** ★

**COMING NOV. 11 TH
GWINNETT VETERANS MUSEUM
20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION !**



VETERANS WELCOME !

PUBLIC WELCOME !

EVERYONE WELCOME !

**GWINNETT
HISTORIC
COURTHOUSE
ON THE SQUARE
LAWRENCEVILLE**

HOSTED BY
BEAR'S BEST ATLANTA
CHARITY CLASSIC & INVITED FOUNDATION



Bear's Best
Atlanta

2ND ANNUAL VETERANS GOLF CLASSIC

BENEFITING



GEORGIA
PURPLE HEART
VETERANS FOUNDATION

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 10, 2025

BEAR'S BEST ATLANTA
5342 ALDEBURGH DR
SUWANEE, GA 30024

www.bearsbestatlanta.com

**VETERAN'S
REGISTRATION:
CALL 678.714.2582**

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INFORMATION:**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

TITLE: FIDELITY INVESTMENTS

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TRONCALI SUBARU

FOR MORE INFO:

Kenny Weis | Bear's Best GM
678.714.2582

**VETERANS
PLAY FOR FREE!**
Thanks to the
generosity
of sponsors
like you!

SEPTEMBER 2025

| SEPTEMBER 2025 | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--|--|--|--------|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | 1 | 2 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 3 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 4 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 9 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 10 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 17 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 18 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$32 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 CC of Gwinnett 8:30a/m \$45 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Bear Creek 8:30a/m \$42 | September is the month to step up and Volunteer | | | |

Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253