



www.sgaofatlanta.org

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Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 70 Issue 7

July 2026

President

JJ Goldsack

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(770) 513-4609



So the 2026 SGAA season is half over. The Member Guest registration deadline is August 15th. This year the event is in Hiawassee, GA on October 4th through 7th. The registration form and activity information for this event are included in the Newsletter and on the SGAA website <https://sgaofatlanta.org/>. We look forward to seeing you at Lake Chatuge Lodge.

Years ago members only joined SGAA at the beginning of the year and attended an orientation meeting where the rules and nuances of the organization were presented. Currently the Executive Committee is working on a review of the *SGAA Handbook* in order to update with all the changes and revisions that have occurred in the last 6-7 years. This will be presented to the Board of Directors in August.

This may seem simple to many members, but there are things that come up which cause some confusion. An example would be when handicaps change. Take July for instance. Since the last week of June starts on the 29th, July doesn't start until Wednesday; so the handicaps will not change until after July 3rd. Clarifying things like this is the goal.



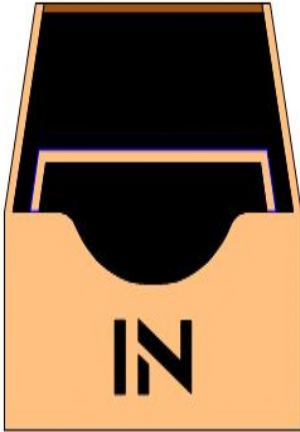
"I THOUGHT GOLF INSTRUCTORS AREN'T
SUPPOSED TO LAUGH."

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Vice President

Dave Mueller

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We had a great time on the Smoky Mountain trip. We had 36 players and a perfect trip. Larry did an outstanding job with the figures and being there when I needed him.

Mike and the staff at Smoky Mountain Golf Club were outstanding. No one could have been treated better. I wish everyone could have been there.

We have reserved the course for the same time next year. Plan on going and having a great time. Mike has told me that next year will feature fewer steps for the rooms. He also has just hired a new greenskeeper, so the course will be even better next year.

Keep playing golf and having 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."

Gene Bryant member 1998 – 2022

Harry Chapman member 2017 – 2021

David Mason member since 2008

Gene Latham member since 2007

Jesse Dooley member 2002 – 2026

**EVENTS FOR
JULY 2026**

July 1
WED: 8:30 a/m
Sugar Creek

July 2
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Southland

July 6
MON: 8:30 a/m
Mystery Valley

July 8
WED: 8:30 a/m
Heron Bay

July 9
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Providence

July 13
MON: 8:30 a/m
Crystal Lake

July 14
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Bear Creek

July 15
WED: 8:30 a/m
Panola Mountain

July 20
MON: 8:30 a/m
Pine Hills

July 22
WED: 8:30 a/m
Honey Creek

July 23
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Ashton Hills

July 27
MON: 8:30 a/m
Dogwood

July 29
WED: 8:30 a/m
Collins Hill

July 30
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Mystery Valley

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



Membership Overview

As of June 2026, the SGAA has welcomed several new members, bringing the total active membership to 216. This year, we have added ten new members, continuing the positive trend of growth. Our ongoing efforts to encourage friends and neighbors to join are making a difference, and it would be beneficial to maintain last year's momentum in membership additions.

Membership Application Process

When inviting prospective members to join, it is essential to ensure that all application forms are completed fully and legibly. Applications that are missing required information cannot be processed, so careful attention to detail is crucial. By assisting with accurate and thorough submissions, you help promote an efficient and effective membership process. Thank you for your continued support and diligence in this important matter.

Board Suggestions

If you have suggestions that could help the board or improve the enjoyment of SGAA activities, please share your ideas with me or any other board member. While not every suggestion can be implemented, all will be carefully discussed at the next board meeting. Your input is valued and plays an important role in the ongoing improvement of our group.

In Memoriam

We honor and remember Gene Bryant, who passed away in January. Gene was a member for over 20 years and was actively involved in the operation of SGAA until he could no longer participate. Gene Latham passed away on 02/09/2026. Gene was a member from 2007 through 2026 and was known for being a likable person and enjoyable golf companion. David Mason, a member for 18 years and well-liked by the membership, and Harry Chapman, who passed away this year after moving away from the Atlanta area, are also remembered. Harry enjoyed his family and time outdoors. Jesse Dooley was an ex-president and involved in all aspects of SGAA. He moved to Carrollton a few years ago so many of you may not have had the privilege of knowing him. All these gentlemen will be greatly missed.

Contact Information Updates

If you change your address, phone number, or email, please notify me at tandgpogue@att.net. Keeping your contact information current ensures you receive timely updates about SGAA news and upcoming events.



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Editor

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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

It seems like it was just last week we were grumbling about the cold and damp weather we were experiencing and the number of tournaments that were canceled due to the weather. The reality though is that we're beginning the 7th month of our season; the second of three out-of-town trips (Smoky Mountain Country Club) has come and gone; and you might think things are going to slow down in the SGAA world.

Apparently you haven't been paying attention to the schedule because there's a lot more left in our season. Remember our season runs through December 9th.

Wednesday, August 26th we have our Par 3 tournament hosted by Honey Creek Golf and Country Club.

If you haven't been already, now is the time to fine tune your game; the first full week in September – Tuesday, September 8th – is the start of our Annual Tournament.

And now is the time to send in your reservation for the Member-Guest scheduled for October 4th through 7th at Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee, Georgia. The reservation form and information regarding the scheduled events along with various points of interest in the area are included in the Newsletter and on our website <https://sgaofatlanta.org/>

And the Year-End Luncheon and Annual Election is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th at Honey Creek Golf and Country Club.



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Mike Faulkenberry
Member since 2026

Mike Faulkenberry

I became a member of SGAA on June 1, 2026. As for my golfing history, I was a member for three years at Summit Chase Country Club before it ceased operations in 2021. I now play at Country Club of Gwinnett, being a member there since February of 2021. I decided to join SGAA to have an opportunity to play different courses and to meet some new golfing friends while still keeping my membership at CC of G.

As for my career, I retired from Georgia Power Company on June 1, 2017, after 47 years. I started working there while going to Georgia Tech, subsequently graduating in 1973 with an Electrical Engineering degree. Obviously, it's the only company I ever worked for in my career. While I played some golf while still working, it was only once or twice per month, if that much. Once I retired, though, I joined a club and began playing typically one to two times a week.

My wife, Janice, and I have been married for 49 years. We have two sons and four grandkids. Our oldest son, who is 47 and not married, works at Walt Disney World. The other son, who is 45, is set to retire from the Air Force next March after serving 23 years. He also just graduated from Liberty University with a Business Administration Degree. So, he'll be looking for a new job.

Thanks for letting me join you. I look forward to playing golf with you and getting to know some new friends.

**The senior tees aren't a demotion — they're
a reward.**



2026 SGAA MEMBER/GUEST ACTIVITIES



Famous as the home of Georgia's highest peak, Brasstown Bald, Hiawassee is full of gorgeous mountain scenery and recreation opportunities. Hiawassee was originally inhabited by Cherokee tribes. It is located near the Appalachian and Southern Highroads trails. Lake Chatuge is another beloved landmark with countless recreation opportunities, along with the trout fishing favorite, the Hiawassee River. Don't miss the changing color of the leaves.

Brasstown Bald, is a must-see at over 4,000 feet and surrounded by the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. On clear days, visitors can see four states from the observation deck.

Walking Trails in Hiawassee, GA

Hiawassee, Georgia, is a treasure trove for hikers and nature enthusiasts. The town offers a variety of walking trails that cater to different skill levels and preferences. Here are some of the best walking trails in Hiawassee:

1. Wagon Train Trail: This trail is known for its challenging incline and beautiful waterfall views. It has a 4.6-star rating from 401 reviews, making it a popular choice for hikers.
2. Bell Mountain Trail: Offering stunning summit views, this trail is perfect for photography enthusiasts and is open year-round.
3. Tallulah Gorge State Park Trails: With over 20 miles of well-maintained trails, this park is a must-visit for those seeking epic views and waterfalls.
4. Little Tennessee River Greenway: A scenic river trail that provides a peaceful, shaded path with beautiful views of the river.
5. Nantahala Bikeway: A bike trail that runs alongside the Little Tennessee River, offering a unique experience for those who prefer biking.
6. Hamilton Rhododendron Gardens: A hidden gem, this botanical garden features a variety of native plants and flowers, making it a peaceful spot for a stroll. A sprawling botanical garden with more than 3,000 plants, including dogwood, native azaleas, wildflowers, trillium and rhododendron. In fact, the more than 400 varieties of rhododendron make it the largest collection in the state. The garden includes two lovely hiking trails– a 1-mile trail and a 2-mile trail– as well as walking paths that lead along the shore of Lake Chatuge and to a popular fishing hole.
7. High Shoals Falls - One of the area's most stunning waterfalls is High Shoals Falls, five falls in one area that have a total vertical drop of 300 feet. Accessible by the 1.2-mile High Shoals Trail, there are observation decks along the way.
8. The Chatgugue trail - The 1-mile, dog-friendly hiking trail takes you through the forest along the banks of a small peninsula, offering sensational views of the shoreline and southern Appalachian Mountains along the way.
9. Rent A Boat - As much fun as a day at the beach can be, there's nothing better than exploring the lake in your own boat or jet ski.

These trails are just a few examples of the many walking opportunities Hiawassee has to offer. Whether you're looking for a leisurely stroll or a challenging hike, Hiawassee's trails provide a perfect escape into nature. Remember to pack hiking safety essentials and enjoy the breathtaking scenery along the way.



2026 SGAA MEMBER/GUEST ACTIVITIES

Shopping places in Hiawassee

1. Art Works
2. Trailful Outdoor Co.
3. TATA On Main
4. Lakeview Vintage Market
5. Hiawassee Antique Mall
6. Secret's Attic
7. Always Christmas
8. Mountain Quilts
9. The Wishing Well
10. Hen's Nest

Alexander's "Everything Under The Sun" has been family-owned since 1953. And families love coming to Alexander's, where there's something for everyone. With 50,000 square feet of retail space (and expanding all the time), Alexander's sells just about everything. ADDRESS: 4482 Town Creek School Road, Blairsville, GA 30512, 706-745-6450.

Harrah's Cherokee Valley River – A Caesars Rewards Destination - 777 Casino Parkway, Murphy, NC 28906. Take advantage of recreation opportunities such as the casino, or grab a bite at Brew Brothers, one of the hotel's 6 restaurants. A great escape with glorious views.

Enjoy a great afternoon on Lake Chatuge by renting a boat from one of several local venues. Lake Chatuge and the surrounding rivers and creeks are home to a great variety of fish making it the ideal place to relax and enjoy a fishing adventure.

Enjoy the scenery and North Georgia Mountain views while on horseback. There are several trails and horseback riding opportunities around the Lodge.



Cane Creek Vinery – Young Harris

Widely regarded as one of North Georgia's best wineries, Crane Creek Vineyards encompasses 20+ acres high in the hills of Young Harris GA. Cane Creek offers full wine service, including tastings, wine by the glass, and bottles, along with drip coffee, espresso drinks, snacks, and pastries. It is the perfect spot to unwind with a glass of wine or freshly brewed coffee—whether you're relaxing in the lounge or enjoying the sweeping vineyard views from the deck. Prices for the wine, cheese, snacks tastings are have not been finalized. This will be updated as soon as they are finalized.





2026 SGAA MEMBER/GUEST TOURNAMENT

Chatuge Golf Course & Mountain Harbor Golf Course

October 4th – 7th, 2026

Hiawassee, Ga.

Monday – Wednesday T-Time 9:00 am at Chatuge Shores. Tuesday T-time 9:30 at Mountain Harbor.

Guests are welcome. Bring a friend, a family member, a neighbor. The more the merrier. Packages include the following: 3 nights lodging, 3 rounds of golf, 2 dinners, live band on Tuesday, and cash bar on Sunday and Tuesday.

If you are sharing a room and planning to play only two rounds and/or two nights, your roommate must have the same package as you. **RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE August 15th. All reservations must be made through the SGAA. NOTE: A continental breakfast is included with coffee, juices, cereal, sweet rolls and fruit.**

OCCUPANCY	PACKAGE	PRICE	CHOICE
Couple Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Lakeview	\$878	
Single Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Lakeview	\$776	
Double Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Lakeview	\$574	
Couple Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Regular	\$811	
Single Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Regular	\$709	
Double Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Regular	\$540	
Other Accomadations	3 Rounds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2	\$473	

Other options may be available on an individual basis. Please call Larry Thomas at 770-596-4432 for rates.

Ladies golf on Monday/Wednesday at Mountain Harbor is \$65, Tuesday at Chatuge Shores is \$35. If your companion plans to play any of these days, please provide: NAME _____ Mon____ Tue____ Wed____

Wine Tasting Tuesday 11:00 – 1:00 NAME _____

Sunday dinner: Member – Trout _____ Brisket _____ Dessert – Pecan pie _____ Peach Cobbler _____
Spouse - Trout _____ Brisket _____ Dessert – Pecan pie _____ Peach Cobbler _____

Tuesday dinner: Member – Steak _____ Chicken _____ Dessert – Apple pie _____ Bread Pudding _____
Spouse – Steak _____ Chicken _____ Dessert – Apple pie _____ Bread Pudding _____

Name: _____ SGAA Member Number _____ Shirt size _____

Guest: _____ Guest Stroke Handicap _____ Shirt size _____

SGAA Roommate: _____

COMMENTS: _____

EARLY ARRIVAL: If you plan to come in on Saturday or stay over on Wednesday night, call Chatuge Shores for information on making an early arrival/late departure reservation. Let them know you are with SGAA.

Lake Chatuge Lodge, 653 Hwy 76, Hiawassee, Ga, . Phone 706-896-5253

SEND CHECKS TO: LARRY THOMAS

2065 WOODBERRY RUN DR.

SNELLVILLE, GEORGIA 30078

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

The graphic features a background of the American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. Overlaid on the flag is a large, stylized graphic of a golf ball, composed of several overlapping circles in shades of green and yellow. The text is prominently displayed in the center, with '3RD ANNUAL' in a small, dark green, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, 'VETERANS' is in a large, dark green, sans-serif font. 'GOLF CLASSIC' is in a very large, bold, green, sans-serif font, with 'GOLF' and 'CLASSIC' being significantly larger than 'VETERANS'. At the bottom, the date '11.09.26' is in a large, bold, dark green, sans-serif font. The overall design is clean and patriotic, emphasizing the event's focus on veterans.

3RD ANNUAL
VETERANS
GOLF CLASSIC
11.09.26

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 2026

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

www.bearsbestatlanta.com

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

8:00 a.m. Check-in/ Range Open
9:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony -
National Anthem & Parachute Jump
10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Catered Dinner Following the Tournament



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

3RD ANNUAL
VETERANS
GOLF CLASSIC
11.09.26

TITLE SPONSOR \$5000 (1 AVAILABLE)

- Company or Individual Name included in the Tournament Name
- Two (2) signs to be placed on the course
- Company banner
- Prominent space on the main banner, website, and all marketing recognition
- Four (4) individual Golf & Dinner Tickets
- One future foursome pass certificate

GOLD SPONSOR \$2000

- Two (2) signs placed on the course
- Logo on the main banner and website
- Recognition during announcements
- Four (4) individual Dinner Tickets
- One future foursome pass certificate

SILVER SPONSOR \$1000

- Two (2) signs placed on the course
- Logo on the main banner and website
- Website Recognition
- Four (4) individual Dinner Tickets

BRONZE SPONSOR \$500

- One (1) sign placed on the course
- Logo on the main banner
- Website Recognition
- Two (2) individual Dinner Tickets

DINNER SPONSOR \$1000

- Company or Individual Banner Placed at the Dinner
- Logo on the main banner
- Website Recognition
- Dinner announcements recognition
- Ten (10) individual Dinner Tickets

SPONSOR A VETERAN \$100

- Golf & Dinner Ticket for a Veteran
- Sponsor receives the company or individual name on the main banner

HOLE SPONSOR \$150 (UNLIMITED)

- Logo sign on the golf course
- Website recognition

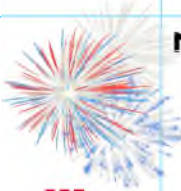


**VETERANS
PLAY FOR FREE!**
Thanks to the
generosity
of sponsors
like you!

Col. Vince Apruzzese
770.945.7531

Kenny Weis | Bear's Best GM
678.714.2582

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 REGISTRATION FOR LAKE CHATUGUE IS NOW OPEN			1 Sugar Creek 8:30 a/m	2 Southland 8:30 a/m	3	4 Independence Day
5	6 Mystery Valley 8:30 a/m	7	8 Heron Bay 8:30 a/m	9 Providence 8:30 a/m	10	11
12	13 Crystal Lake 8:30 a/m	14 Bear Creek 8:30 a/m	15 Panola Mountain 8:30 a/m	16	17	18
19	20 Pine Hills 8:30 a/m	21	22 Honey Creek 8:30 a/m	23 Ashton Hills 8:30 a/m	24	25
26	27 Dogwood 8:30 a/m	28	29 Collins Hill 8:30 a/m	30 Mystery Valley 8:30 a/m	31	

Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253