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Georgia's Champions

August 2014

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News and Stories

Athletes to Show Skills and Talent at State Masters Bowling

Amanda Bridges will make her **2014 State Masters Bowling** debut by singing the National Anthem at Opening Ceremony and then she will bowl. "Every week, she'll say 'I've been practicing,'" said her coach John Bodenhamer of her singing and bowling. The 37-year-old athlete sings at church and on the bus while headed to competitions. The friendly and outgoing Houston County athlete is a good bowler, too, John said. Her scores are typically between 95 and 100.



Amanda will join approximately 1,300 athletes and unified partners for competitions to be Georgia's top bowler Aug. 22nd-24th in Warner Robins. Competition will be held at Robins Air Force base and Gold Cup Lanes. The tournament is for athletes who are at least 22 years old.

Thank you to all of the sponsors for this year's tournament including the presenting sponsors The Mayor and City Council of Warner Robins and The Warner Robins Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the following official sponsors: The Boeing Company, Arby's Foundation, Allied World Assurance, McDonald's of Warner Robins and Byron, Judy Schmidt, and Merv Applegate.

Team Georgia Announced for World Games

SOGA is thrilled to announce the Georgia athletes who are selected to join Team USA for the **World Games** set for July 24-August 2, 2015 in Los Angeles! The Georgia delegation is comprised of the following athletes



Upcoming Events

Only 24 Hours Left to Adopt Your Duck!!

Time is running out to adopt ducks for the **Duck Derby**



happening [this](#) Friday at Six Flags White Water. All ducks must be adopted by 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7th.

Adopt a rubber duck and get in the race for \$5 and if yours is one of the first few of 10,000 to cross the finish line Aug. 8, you could win great prizes ranging from iPhone 5c 16 GB to a \$300 Publix Gift Card. You don't have to be present to win.

You can adopt a single duck for \$5, or increase your chances by buying a quack pack of 7 ducks

and unified partners:

- Brooke Hasfjord of Forsyth County (Aquatics)
- Jennifer Maddox of Henry County Parks & Recreation (Equestrian)
- Julie Doss of Valdosta Parks and Recreation (Artistic Gymnastics)
- Shannon Laffey of Cobb County (Artistic Gymnastics)
- Will Crain of Hall County Schools (Kayaking)
- Michael Crofton of Fayette County (Sailing Team)
- John Kirkland of Macon County (Unified Partner/Sailing)

The Georgia delegation will participate in World Games Training Oct. 1st-7th in Indianapolis. Team USA Coaches are still being determined.



Celebrities Join Strike the R-word

Former Atlanta Falcon and Georgia Bulldog Dj Shockley and former Pittsburgh Steeler Kordell Stewart are helping eliminate the R-word (retard) by bowling and fundraising for **Strike the R-word Sept. 16th at Bowlmor Atlanta**. Power 96.1's radio personality Sonic has also joined in and will emcee the event. Check out each celebrities' Web page by clicking on the names below their pictures and make a donation in honor of your favorite while supporting Special Olympics Georgia athletes at the same time.

Enjoy bowling, food, silent auction, and goodie bags, while striking the r-word, which demeans and hurts people. Sponsorships (ranging from \$250-\$3,000) and bowling slots are still available. For more information, contact **Wendy Bigham**.

Strike the R-word kicks off a month long recognition of Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver with individual events held at the local, national, regional and global level. Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day is September 27.



Dj Shockley



Sonic Power 96.1



Kordell Stewart

Kroger Community Rewards® Re-Enrollment/Enrollment

If you have previously enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards® program and selected SOGA as your charity, **you must re-enroll in August** for SOGA to continue to receive money from your purchases. To re-enroll, go to **www.kroger.com/communityrewards**, sign into your account, select view rewards details, scroll down to the Community Rewards section, click edit or re-enroll, enter Special Olympics Georgia, select Special Olympics Georgia, and click enroll. If you haven't enrolled previously, now is a great time. Kroger Community Rewards® makes supporting SOGA super easy . . . all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus



for \$30.

You will make a difference. Proceeds will support athletes at the upcoming State Games: Masters Bowling in August and Fall Games and Horse Show in October.

Visit

www.AtlantaDuckDerby.com

to adopt your ducks today!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Kids 'R' Kids Learning

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Sherwin-Williams, Craig

Automotive, Dale Massey-State

Farm Insurance, and North

Georgia Replacement

Windows. Also thank you to Six

Flags White Water and our

media partner 94.9 The Bull.

Titletown Tasting August 9th

Enjoy live music, food and a silent auction at

Titletown Tasting

August 9th at the Cotton Corner

in Valdosta. For tickets or

information about being a

sponsor or donating a silent

auction item, contact **Stephen**

Sparks at 229-292-6955.



Arby's Give Back Days August 14th and 21st

In support of the State Master's Bowling

Tournament, all

Arby's in Warner

Robins, Macon, and Columbus will

hold two Give Back Days for SOGA

on Thursday, August 14th and

August 21st. Arby's will donate



Card! Sign up with your 12 digit Kroger Plus Card number at www.kroger.com/communityrewards, and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code 57973) as the organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for SOGA every time you shop and use your Plus Card, and you'll keep earning rewards points for yourself! **Enroll now for the Kroger Community Rewards Program** (you must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for SOGA). If your Kroger Plus Card is not already registered online, you will need to create an account. If you already have an account, simply sign in, find the Community Rewards section, and select Special Olympics Georgia. Questions or problems, contact [Susan Skolnick](mailto:Susan.Skolnick@soga.org) or 770-414-9390 x111.

Athlete of the Month: Clay Doub

Valdosta Athlete Clay Doub shines a light throughout the community by showing how you can overcome obstacles and succeed.

Born with Fragile X Syndrome, the lifelong athlete has influenced and befriended so many because of his sense of team and strong support network of family and friends. These factors have helped him develop socially, stay determined, and have respect for others.



Some of his accomplishments are:

- In 1995, he received the prestigious Naismith Award for Special Olympics.
- He received the 1998 Achievement Award from the Valdosta Mayor's Council for Persons with Disabilities.
- In 2006, he represented Team Georgia at the Special Olympics USA Games, where he won two gold medals in the breaststroke and four-person relay.
- At the World Games in 2009, Clay came home with the bronze in floor hockey.

Through it all, Clay continues to be a wonderful example of how SOGA athletes can continue pushing forward with a good attitude and a determined spirit.

Today, Clay lives independently and is a custodian with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority and remains an active athlete. Congratulations, Clay, for being Athlete of the Month.

Summer Games Fundraising Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help identify and/or approach potential corporate sponsors and individual donors for the State Summer Games. This is an extremely important component to the success of Summer Games, as it is funded by sponsorships/donations. By generating new ideas and discovering new opportunities that can help us meet or exceed our revenue goals, you will make a vital contribution to SOGA. For more information, contact [Susan Skolnick](mailto:Susan.Skolnick@soga.org) or 770-414-9390 x111.



Sponsor of the Month: Platinum Partner Marlow's Tavern

[Marlow's Tavern](http://www.marlowstavern.com) and sister companies [Aqua Blue](http://www.aquablue.com)



10% of the sales for all Olympic Meals (sandwich, fry, regular drink, and dessert) purchased between 6-8p.m. To find the address of the location nearest to you, visit www.arbys.com. For more information, contact [Susan Skolnick](mailto:Susan.Skolnick@soga.org) or 770-414- 9390 x111.

Strike the R-word September 16th

Strike the

R-word and bowl

with former

Atlanta Falcon and Georgia Bulldog Dj Shockley, former Pittsburgh Steeler Kordell Stewart and other celebrity supporters Tuesday, September 16th at Bowlmor Atlanta. Enjoy bowling, food, silent auction, and goodie bags, while striking the r-word "retard," which demeans and hurts people. For more information, contact [Wendy Bigham](mailto:Wendy.Bigham@soga.org).



GLOW for Gold September 20th

Help us encourage SOGA Athletes to Go for Gold at the first **GLOW for Gold**

5K/FunRun in Valdosta at the Freedom Park Softball Complex on September 20th. For more information on how to participate or sponsor, contact [Whitney Warren](mailto:Whitney.Warren@soga.org) at 229-712-9973.



16th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic September 22nd

The 16th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic



Restaurant & Bar, Market Street Café, and Sterling Spoon Culinary Management continue to generously support Special Olympics Georgia year-round through the annual Marlow's Tavern/Sterling Spoon Golf Classic and new Tavern/Café opening fundraising efforts.



John C. Metz, co-founder and executive chef of Marlow's Tavern, Aqua Blue Restaurant & Bar, Market Street Café, and Sterling Spoon Culinary Management, has been a true friend and supporter of Special Olympics Georgia for 17 years. During this time, John and the Marlow's Tavern/Sterling Spoon Family have raised close to \$474,000 for Special Olympics Georgia. 2014's Golf Classic and restaurant openings will move this total amount to well over half-a-million dollars!



For seventeen years, Sterling Spoon has delivered world-class on-site cafes, catering, and refreshment to corporations, their employees and their guests throughout the state of Georgia, including the Woodruff Arts Center and the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. In 2014, Sterling was named to the list of top 50 food service companies in the country. In 2013, **Marlow's Tavern** was recognized by Nation's Restaurant News as one of 50 restaurant brands that stood out above the others and one of today's hottest emerging concepts. In addition, Marlow's Tavern and Aqua Blue were selected for the Top 100 Restaurants in Atlanta by Jezebel Magazine. Currently, Marlow's Taverns are located in Alpharetta, Vinings, Midtown, Kennesaw, Northlake, Duluth, East Cobb, Cumming, Dunwoody, Emory Point, and Sandy Springs, and look for new openings this fall at the Mall of Georgia and Avalon.

Thank you John, Marlow's Tavern, Aqua Blue, Market Street Café, and Sterling Spoon partners, management, employees, and supporters for Being A Fan of Special Olympics Georgia and Bringing Out The Champion In Everyone!

Magazine Subscription/Renewal

Whether renewing your favorite magazine or subscribing to a new one, you can help raise funds for Special Olympics Georgia by ordering through our partner, **DialAmerica**. You'll get BIG discounts, and DialAmerica will donate 12.5 percent of your paid subscription to SOGA. To subscribe, call (877) 872-2362 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. or click on the icon above.



Volunteer of the Month: Lewis Gordon

Lewis Gordon volunteers at the Valdosta SOGA staff office and is an athlete who continues to accomplish much in Special Olympics. He volunteers with his whole heart and tries his best to inspire others.

Competing each year since he was 8, Lewis still competes in softball, volleyball, floor hockey, and bowling. He says he has grown as a person through meeting people, accomplishing goals,



benefiting SOGA will be September 22nd at the Country Club of Roswell. Since 1999, this annual golf tournament has raised more than \$431,000 for our athletes. This year's tournament goal is to raise \$58,000! The fun-filled day will include a putting contest, shotgun start, hole contests, and an awards ceremony, reception, and silent auction at Aqua Blue Restaurant.

Available sponsorships.

Registration Form. For more information, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111. Thank you Marlow's Tavern and past and current sponsors for your generous support over the years!

Clay Shoot September 25th

Secure your spot now for the Sporting Clay Charity



Tournament, called the 2014 Shoot for Champions, Thursday, Sept. 25th at Foxhall Resort and Sporting Club in Douglasville. The event benefits the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Costs \$425 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, shells, snacks, beverages, and awards. **Click here** for the flyer.

For more information, contact **Thomas Ritch**.

RunDunwoody October 19th



RunDunwoody is a 5K Run and a Peachtree Road Race Qualifier, 1 Mile Fun Run, Tot Trot, and family festival rolled into a morning of activities on October 19th in the heart of

and traveling the country. (In the picture to the right, Lewis is shown standing in front of the nation's capitol while traveling with Special Olympics International.) Lewis has always shown support for his teammates and fellow SOGA athletes, and is constantly encouraging other athletes to do their best.

At the SOGA office, he has shown incredible leadership skills and is always willing to try new tasks. Whether it be counting and organizing medals for awards, or organizing files and making copies, Lewis is always willing to tackle whatever jobs his position requires.

He not only shows leadership skills, but he constantly has a fantastic, hard-working attitude no matter what he's working on. On his first day at the office, he said 'I just want to do all I can to make Special Olympics Georgia the best organization that it can possibly be, says one SOGA staff member.' Thank you, Lewis!

The SOGA Community Makes a Difference

We often receive calls from individuals, companies, and groups who have an idea for a fundraiser and want to donate the proceeds to SOGA. Every single fundraising effort, no matter the financial outcome, is very significant and makes a tremendous difference. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following:

- * Royston Baptist Church - Vacation Bible School raised \$693
- * Midvale Elementary School - Hat Day raised \$46



Give Us Your Old Cell Phones

Looking for an EASY way to give back to your community & support SOGA?

Our Phone Bones project recycles old cell phones to raise funds for SOGA and helps our environment. Other items that we recycle are empty toner/printer cartridges, laptops and iPods. In addition to turning in your own items, we can work with you to set up a collection at your business with your friends and family. We'll send you a flyer and a box and will even pay for shipping if you'll collect the items to be recycled! Contact **Whitney Warren** or 229-712-9973.



Silent Auction Items Needed

SOGA has several upcoming silent auctions that are in need of items. If you personally have or know someone/a business who might be willing to donate any of the following, please contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111: vacation/time-share home, resort/hotel stay, sports memorabilia, sporting event tickets, concert tickets, airline tickets/vouchers, golf foursome, restaurant gift card, or any other item, type of service, or recreational activity that you think would be a great addition to a silent auction. Each silent auction item donation helps us to raise money and ensure that all SOGA programs are free to our athletes and their families.

Forward to a Friend

Dunwoody. As a beneficiary of RunDunwoody and long-time partner of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody (the run's founding and presenting sponsor), Special Olympics Georgia has created a team for the Team Challenge in the not-for-profit category. Registration fees start at \$15 and increase to \$35 as it gets closer to the date of the race. For more information on the race or to register as part of Team Special Olympics Georgia, go to **www.rundunwoody.net**.

Bob Busse Memorial Classic November 3rd

Special Olympics Georgia once again proudly hosts the **Bob**



Busse Memorial Classic. The tournament will be held at a prestigious golf club in Sandy Springs Nov. 3rd. This event promises to be a great way to spend your day. Each year, this tournament grows and becomes better than the last. Expect a great golf game, prizes, a silent auction and wonderful reception. Email **Riley Cerone** for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities



State Masters Bowling Tournament
August 22nd-24th
Warner Robins

Help us get the word out about what Special Olympics Georgia athletes, coaches and volunteers are doing in the community and how folks can get involved. **Forward This E-newsletter to a Friend** and ask them to sign up to receive their monthly updates.



Love bowling? We have a whole weekend of bowling for you and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to assist athletes on bowling lanes and hand out awards afterwards.

**Strike the R-word
Bowling Event
September 16th
Atlanta**

Special Olympics has a worldwide campaign to eliminate the word "retard" and educate people on the effects of the hurtful word. Volunteers are needed day of to help with this event.

If you are interested in the volunteering opportunities above, please contact Stephen Sparks.

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