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# Georgia's Champions

October 2014

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## News and Stories

### Love of Riding and for Her Horse Brings Athlete to the State Horse Show

It's the love of her horse and just riding horseback that brings Jennifer Maddox to the **State Horse Show** next weekend at Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center.

"There's a connection with my horse," Jennifer, of Henry County, said of her American Painted Horse named Georgia. "She's calm with me; she can be excited but not rambunctious," she said and added that Georgia has never scared or bucked while she was riding the horse. Jennifer will also compete in equestrian events July 25th-August 2nd at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.



Jennifer will be one of 277 athletes and unified partners at the State Horse Show in Hall County.

Thank you to the following sponsors of the State Horse Show: Hall County Farm Bureau, the Georgia Hunter Jumper Association, Allied World Assurance, Georgia Farm Bureau, The Pritchett Family, and the Georgia Quarter Horse Association.

The **State Fall Games**, also being held October 10th-12th, will feature competitions in bocce, cycling, golf, and softball at North Hall Park, Laurel Park, and Chicopee Woods Golf Course.

That weekend, both State Games will feature an Opening Ceremony Friday night with competition continuing Saturday and Sunday morning. Athletes will also receive health screenings Saturday at both events.

## Upcoming Events

### 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 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](http://www.rundunwoody.net).

**Bob Busse**

Thank you to the following sponsors of State Fall Games: Mattel, Appalachian Tech Services, Belk, Bennett Thrasher Foundation, Woodward Management, Knights of Columbus-Georgia Chapter, Northeast Georgia Inc., Teradata, Lakeshore Mall, Franca Orefice, North Georgia EMC, Controlled Products, Allied World Assurance, Mar-Jac Poultry, Jaemor Farms, and Shaw Industries.

## New Monthly Donors Earn Our Athletes An Extra \$100!

Great news! In September and October, for every new Sustaining Partner – those who commit to give monthly to Special Olympics Georgia – one of our partners, MTM Recognition, will generously contribute \$100. As a Sustaining Partner, your steady, ongoing monthly gift of any amount you choose will help ensure we're always able to provide training and competition opportunities to our athletes year-round. Thanks to the match, there's never been a better time to join, because your generosity will stretch even further. **Please help the athletes take advantage of this incredible opportunity by becoming a Sustaining Partner today.** Help our athletes receive an extra \$100 just because you signed up.



## Metro Atlanta Athletes Learn Soccer Skills from the Atlanta Silverbacks

Nearly 60 Special Olympics Georgia athletes from metro Atlanta learned more about shooting, dribbling and passing the soccer ball from the pros at a soccer clinic put on by the Atlanta Silverbacks September 26th at the team's stadium.



On October 25th, Covington athlete Beth Wright will sing The National Anthem at the match against the Carolina RailHawks.

You can **purchase tickets** to the RailHawks match and to the remaining two home matches of the season: October 11th against the Fort Lauderdale Strikers and October 18th against the Tampa Bay Rowdies. Use the code SOGA and you'll pay \$11 (normally \$17) for general admission and \$15 (normally \$25) for reserved seating.

## Athlete of the Month: Jon Paul Thomas

Jon Paul joined Special Olympics when he was in high school.

He was labeled "high functioning" and had good grades in regular education classes. Because of his grades, he wore the gold Beta Club cord at graduation.

But, Jon Paul had no interest in social skills, said his Mom Liz Ferguson. At home, he was a total couch potato and was only interested in video games.

Before Special Olympics, he had not participated in sports before. He made fast friends with athletes who welcomed him into their group. Soon, Liz was shocked and amazed to hear her son initiate contact with his teammates after a few months, and later with the coaches. He became very good at bowling, and then competed in tennis, bocce, basketball, softball, and floor hockey.



## 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 November 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.

## Georgia Gives Back Day November 13th

Georgia Gives Day is an initiative that has been co-created by Georgia's nonprofit sector. It doesn't support one cause or one locale -- it's all of Georgia's nonprofit sector pulling together to ask you to stop and consider your life and your community without nonprofits. On November 13th, we will challenge the public in a "flash mob of giving" focusing on one 24-hour period to see how much we can raise for Georgia's nonprofits. Whether you have \$10 or \$10,000 to give, it's all tax deductible and it all adds up!



Let's put Special Olympics Georgia on the top of that list! Go to **www.gagivesday.org** for more details.

## Volunteer Opportunities



**Bob Busse Memorial Classic November 3rd Sandy Springs**

He doesn't really care about medals. More so, he loves the traveling, staying in hotels, and hanging out with the different Special Olympic groups. Jon Paul has also given speeches to parents at a number of seminars and would love to become a Special Olympics Global Messenger.

He is a wonderful artist, and has done flyers for local tournaments, as well as help design shirts. "I love the wonderful positive changes Special Olympics has made in his life," his Mom said.

Congratulations Jon Paul, for being named Athlete of the Month!

## Summer Games Fundraising

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** or 770-414-9390 x111.



## PLATINUM PARTNER OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA

From its earliest days, **The Coca-Cola Company** has worked to build strong partnerships with its customers and consumers. The Company understands its responsibility as a corporate citizen, and often lends its unique expertise and resources to those in need.



As a global leader in the beverage industry, The Coca-Cola Company is committed to making an impact around the world and to improving the quality of life in the communities where it does business. They are committed to investing their time, expertise and resources to help develop and maintain vibrant, sustainable and local communities.



Coca-Cola generously supports Special Olympics Georgia through monetary and product donations. It also regularly provides hands-on volunteer assistance during our State Competitions and hosts various events for our athletes. The Company puts its mission -- to refresh the world, inspire moments of optimism and happiness, to create value and make a difference -- into action through its support of SOGA.

"Our partnership with Special Olympics Georgia touches the lives of Coca-Cola associates and their families in a number of ways," said Lori George Billingsley, Vice President Community Relations, Coca-Cola North America Group. "As event volunteers or as parents of athletes, our associates feel connected to SOGA. Helping our hometown athletes achieve their goals both on and off the field is truly a joy and an inspiration."

Thank you to **The Coca-Cola Company** for "Being a Fan of Joy" to the 26,702 Special Olympics Georgia athletes!

## Volunteer of the Month: Camrie

SOGA will once again proudly host the annual Bob Busse Golf Tournament, held at Cherokee Town and Country Club. Volunteers must be 21 or older to volunteer.

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

## Quick Links

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Teaching inclusion, volunteering and physical fitness is what makes up most of Camrie Schwartz' days.

She certainly wears many hats.

Not only does she dedicate herself to being a day-to-day volunteer but she can also be found teaching inclusion preschool, coaching and putting on weekly fitness trainings for Dalton/Whitfield County athletes.

Camrie started Dalton's first special needs cheerleading squad. They practice weekly and perform at many of their school's football games. The squad also performed at the Fall Games Opening Ceremony in 2012.



She got involved with Special Olympics 4 years ago and hasn't looked back. When Fall Games came to Dalton, she jumped on the opportunity to be involved in any way possible. After running one Fall Games Olympic Town venue, she was volunteer director for bocce in Dalton twice. She will once again be the Fall Games bocce volunteer director next weekend in Gainesville.

Her love for Special Olympics, the athletes, and her students at St. Marks Preschool is awesome to see. Special Olympics Georgia is lucky to have such a dedicated individual a part of their program. We congratulate Camrie for being Volunteer of the Month!

## Great Buys at Incredibly Low Prices

Listed below are available items from a recent SOGA silent auction fundraiser that would make great gifts for yourself or someone else. If you are interested in purchasing an item or want more information, please contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111. Each silent auction item sale helps us to raise money and ensure that all SOGA programs are free to our athletes and their families.



- John Smoltz Autographed Sports Illustrated From October 12, 1998: value \$200, price \$100
- Atlanta History Center or Margaret Mitchell House Family Pass: value \$87, price \$40
- Cason Photography Children's Portrait Session & 9x15 canvas portrait - Poole's Mill Park in Ball Ground, GA (Canvas mounting, shipping, & park admission fees not included; Expires 12/22/14): value \$650, price \$200
- Jeff Teague Autographed Photo: value \$25, price \$10
- PGA TOUR Superstore Players Club Plus Annual Membership (Activation expires 12/22/14): value \$100, price \$50
- Men's Wearhouse Tie and Pocket Square Set: value \$50, price \$25

## 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:

- Marlow's Tavern - Mall of Georgia Opening raised \$5,660
- Georgia Military College Parham Hall Offices-Dress Down Fridays raised \$151

- UBS Private Wealth Management's Atlanta Office - Jeans Fridays raised \$200
- Marlow's Tavern - Facebook Promotion raised \$500
- Vineyard Vines - Give Back Day raised \$206



## Forward to a Friend

We're fortunate to have you as part of the Special Olympics Georgia family. Our goal is to reach as many potential sponsors, volunteers and athletes as possible, so please help us grow the family even more. Please forward this e-newsletter to your friends and family so they can **sign up** to also receive the monthly e-newsletter!



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