

# USTA GEORGIA



SOUTHERN  
GEORGIA

## District Newsletter

Summer 2016

### District 1—Rome

#### Calendar:

Ga. State Jr. Clay Court Championship, Columbus, June 18-21

Ga. State Jr. Open Championships, Rome, July 16-19

BB&T Atlanta Open July 30– Aug 7



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#### Former President Bernard Neal Passes

Former USTA Southern and USTA Georgia President Bernard Neeson Neal, Jr., passed away in his home in Rome, GA on May 22, 2016. He was 89. One of Bernard's passions was tennis. Bernard was asked to use his business acumen to help USTA Georgia and he served as President of the USTA Georgia and President of the Coosa Valley Tennis Association. He was elected President of USTA Southern in 1990 and served one year. During his tenure, Bernard helped bring the Federation Cup to Atlanta along with several other prestige events and tournaments. He was also actively involved in developing Rome as a center for tennis for Rome and Georgia juniors over the last 30 years. In 1993, Bernard received the Rome-Floyd County Sports Hall of Fame Award for meritorious service. Bernard was inducted into the Georgia Tennis Hall of Fame in 2001 for a lifetime of service. He will be greatly missed.



### District 2

#### Clarke/Oconee Tennis Association—Athens

- ◆ Plans underway to host USTA 40 & Over State Championships June 3-6.
- ◆ COTA continues it's own version of "USTA Georgia's Shock and Awe", by randomly giving our COTA shirts to teams playing in summer leagues.

#### NEGTA—Gainesville

- ◆ Darren Potkey, Bill Dopp and NEGTA board members attended March work session of Hall County Commissioners to encourage the building of 8-12 new courts (included in the '09 SPLOST vote) in north Hall County.
- ◆ NEGTA is working with 3 elementary schools in north Hall County area promoting and providing supplies for tennis in the P. E. program. Amanda Boudreau will in-service the schools during pre-planning in August and tennis will be part of next year's curriculum.
- ◆ Junior Tennis Apprentice began May 9 with twenty participants.
- ◆ Adult Tennis Apprentice, taught by Brenau University Coach Andre Ferreira, has generated enough new players to form four 2.5 teams for the fall of this year.
- ◆ Awarded two \$1000 scholarships to high school tennis players. Trevor Munn, Gainesville High, and Karleigh Dills of North Hall High were this years recipients.
- ◆ After NEGTA sponsored several play dates in Dawson County on Saturdays, Betsy Kiser, local pro, is beginning to teach adult and junior clinics on a regular basis at Rock Creek Park. Rock Creek has also registered a ladies 7.5 combo team for summer play with NEGTA.

#### Mountain Tennis Association—Jasper

- ◆ Working with USTA National to acquire funding for court refurbishment in Ellijay city park.



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### District 3

#### Sandy Springs Tennis Association

- ◆ 107 players in their after-school Kids-Luv-Tennis program and SSTA supports 60% of students in the program financially
- ◆ Added 4 free match play Saturdays leading up to the session-ending Battle of the Schools Tennis Challenge, an inter-school tournament
- ◆ A USTA coaches youth tennis workshop was hosted in February

#### Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation

- ◆ 2016 Serving Winners Gala & Pro-Am was held at Olde Town Athletic Club on February 27th. This annual event raised funds for the Atlanta Youth Tennis and Education Foundation, an NJTL Chapter.
- ◆ Hosted its Volley Against Violence, a Community/Police Engagement initiative designed to utilize tennis to bring youth and police together for physical activity, informal mentoring, relationship building, and the seamless delivery of life-skills curricula on April 15.

#### Special Populations Tennis Program

- ◆ Traveled with 19 athletes to compete in Dothan Alabama at the Alabama adaptive tennis tournament.
- ◆ Traveled with 4 athletes to compete in Montgomery, Alabama at the Alabama Unified Doubles Play Day.
- ◆ Traveled with 4 athletes to compete in Winston-Salem, North Carolina at the NC adaptive tennis tournament.
- ◆ Registered 130 athletes and unified partners for the upcoming Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games.
- ◆ Currently training over 600 athletes at 14 metro Atlanta tennis venues for the spring season

#### Lost Mountain Community Tennis Association

- ◆ Host its annual Spring Fling tennis tournament this Saturday May 21
- ◆ LMCTA will host its 8 annual Halloween Fright Festival Charity tennis tournament on October 29-31 at the Lost Mountain Tennis Center in Powder Springs
- ◆ The tournament is open to everyone who wants to participate and revenue from the tournament will be donated to Pets for Vets a non-profit company that helps veterans who suffer from PTSB.
- ◆ The tournament will feature all playing levels from AA to C levels including junior singles, men's and women's doubles, mixed doubles and parent/child doubles

### District 5



#### Macon

- ◆ Macon Sets in the City program saw participation double in its second season to 50 players. Board members, Kevin Frounfelker and Lindsey Stephens, helped players from beginners to intermediates enjoy the league. Local pubs/restaurants offered discounts for the players to encourage some after the match socializing.
- ◆ The newly refurbished John Drew Smith Tennis Center has been busy hosting several Southern Junior tournaments.



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### USTA League—2016 Local Growth Challenge

Reprinted from the USTA National Grow League Tennis Newsletter 6/17/2016

Highest Increases in Registration (above 400) from January 1, 2016-May 31, 2016  
Columbus, GA (405)

Highest Percentage Increase in Unique Players from January 1, 2016-May 31, 2016  
Mountain, Ga 230%  
Lake Oconee, GA 79%  
La Grange, GA 70%



### District 6

Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Tennis Association—Augusta

- ◆ Donated 2 cases of balls (one for each gender) to each local high school team for use in team matches.
- ◆ The Spring 2016 Tennis Apprentice Program is underway with 60 participants.
- ◆ Anna Hendrick of North Augusta High School and Drew Harris of Lakeside High School were awarded \$2,000 each to be applied toward their first year college expenses.

Lake Oconee Tennis Association (LOTA) - Greensboro

- ◆ A Sport Court was set up as part of a community fair that was attended by 18 new players trying tennis for the first time. Local league players are mostly retired, so running junior events brings a new level of excitement to the area.
- ◆ A play day hosted by LOTA was attended by 23 juniors and staffed by 2 pros and 9 LOTA volunteers.
- ◆ Nathan Pasha, a touring tennis pro, was brought in to speak to 140 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from local middle school and introduce them to the sport of tennis.

MACH Academy—Augusta

- ◆ The annual spring break STEM workshop was held at the Fleming Tennis Center on April 16. This unique workshop provided participants with hands-on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities. The participants had to see who could construct the tallest tower in 20 minutes using only marshmallows and toothpicks. Participants had to figure out if a triangle or square would make a better foundation.
- ◆ Twenty-five campers and 4 adults attended the Volvo Car Open Tennis Tournament in Charleston, SC. Teen Ambassadors assisted staff to plan and carryout a successful USTA Play Day for more than 50 participants.





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### District 7

#### Albany, Bainbridge, & Camilla

- ♦ Flint River is made up of three CTA's which meet annually. Camilla will be hosting the annual meeting of all 3 boards on July 30th. Over 30 players are expected to lend their voice on how to grow tennis in South Georgia.
- ♦ Donna Friedlander, the Albany & Flint River LLC, will be moving to South Carolina in the Fall. Albany is currently searching for someone to fill her position.
- ♦ Albany welcomes Yvette Armstrong (President) and Viki Curtis (Vice President) to the Board.
- ♦ Sunday Fun Days brought new and old players together in Bainbridge during March and April.
- ♦ Bainbridge hosted a benefit tournament in April for the Decatur County Humane Society with over 50 players participating.
- ♦ Camilla held their annual Mitchell County Pro Tennis Invitational April 29th—May 1st. The money raised from the tournament benefits the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mitchell County; the Mitchell-Baker Service Center, for physically and mentally handicapped citizens; Southwest Georgia Technical College; the Mitchell County Food Bank; and the Mitchell County Family Abuse Program.



### District 8

#### SATA—Savannah

- ♦ SATA hosted Ladies Day at The Savannah Challenger on April 22. Fun filled clinics and on court activities, food and prizes were available to the 60 participants. The Savannah Challenger attracts some of the top names on the ATP Tour.
- ♦ SATA hosted its annual Special Olympics event on April 6 and included 5 schools and over 70 athletes. SATA had 8 instructors and several volunteers to keep scores. Following the trials, all gathered for pizza and awards.
- ♦ SATA and The Landings Club will co-host the 2016 USTA Georgia 55 and over and 65 and over League State Championship from June 10-13 at The Landings and four area clubs in Savannah. Anticipate approximately 120 teams and 1200 players will participate. The 2015 Tournament was the recipient of USTA Georgia's "2015 Team Tennis Event of the Year" presented annually to the USTA Georgia sanctioned event that demonstrated outstanding execution of a team tennis event/program.

