

GEORGIA PGA
590 W. Crossville Rd., Suite 204
Roswell, GA 30075
(678) 461-8600
www.georgiapga.com

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CONTACT: Mike Paull

CELL/EMAIL: (404) 664-2485 / mpaul@pgahq.com

YAMAHA ATLANTA OPEN PREVIEW

A field of 145 of Georgia's top PGA professional and amateur golfers will be on hand to compete in the state's oldest golf tournament, the Yamaha Atlanta Open presented by Bushnell Golf. The event will be conducted at Pinetree Country Club in Kennesaw, June 4-5, 2019 with free admission to the public.

2019 marks the 102nd playing year for this great event. The Atlanta Open precedes the Masters tournament by 14 years. In fact, one of the early champions of the Atlanta Open was none other than the legendary founder of Augusta National, Bobby Jones.

The defending champion is amateur Spencer Ball, a rising senior at Mercer University. Other contenders that are scheduled to compete in this year's Yamaha Atlanta Open and vie for the title include 2017 Georgia PGA Player of the Year, Kyle Owens from Dunwoody Country Club; 2015 & 2016 Yamaha Atlanta Open champion Sonny Skinner of Sylvester; nine-time Georgia PGA Player of the Year, Tim Weinhart of Heritage Golf Club & and recent Kennesaw State graduate and 2017 Atlanta Open champion Wyatt Larkin of Morganton.

Pinetree Country Club has hosted numerous Georgia Section events over the years including the Atlanta Open in 2004, and the Georgia Open in 2014 and 2015. It has also hosted the Georgia Amateur Championship in 1976, 1985, 2003, & 2011. The course will play to a par 72 at 7010 yards for the championship.

Pinetree Country Club was originally designed by the noted architect Chick Adams and opened in 1962. In the summer of 2007, Pinetree Country Club retained noted architect Bill Bergin to oversee a renovation of the golf course. Bergin's challenge was to preserve the course's original character while improving each hole.

The Yamaha Golf-Car Company has been a long time supporter of the Georgia Section and serves as the title sponsor of the Atlanta Open and the Georgia Senior Open, Yamaha Golf-Car Company has based its North American headquarters in Newnan, located off I-85 in south metro Atlanta, since 1987. It has developed into the largest employer in Coweta County, with more than 1500 employees.

The Georgia PGA is one of the 41 Sections of the PGA of America. Its membership includes nearly 890 PGA professionals working at over 260 golf courses, clubs, and ranges throughout the

state. Additionally, more than 35 Georgia PGA members compete on one of the PGA Tours. In keeping with the fundamental objectives laid down by its founders, one of the Georgia PGA's primary goals is promoting the game of golf through clinics, junior and minority golf programs, consumer programs, and print and television media.