

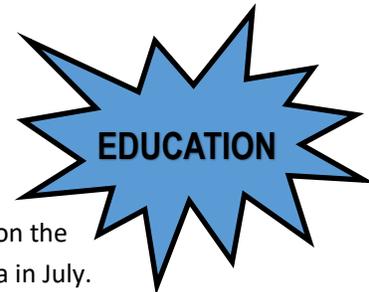
Although it's been a while—we are excited to report 2018 was another successful year for the SFGA! We have continued to meet our mission goals of **support, education, and research**. Read on to see what we have done this year—from Patient Seminars (local and national) to our very successful fundraisers. We are able to do all these things because of YOU—Our membership. We hope you enjoy reading about all we have accomplished this year and what we look forward to in the coming months.



Even when things are going well you still want to attend our Support Groups to help someone else. There are several benefits in attending Support Groups, and when dealing with Scleroderma probably the number one benefit is helping you or others realize they are not alone in dealing with this disease. We try hard to make sure all that attend have a voice, have some time to express their feelings, share their stories, struggles, and triumphs. They are also a great resource for finding very useful information. Newnan Support Group Leaders Vernita White and Demetra Newton are pictured here (right) with Mike Levengood. For meeting schedules check out our website at www.scleroderma.org/georgia.



Patient Seminars are an important way to learn about Scleroderma. We participate in the patient seminars at our chapter level as well as the National Patient Seminar. Last year we heard from Dr. Susan Wallis and Dr. Kristina Tsagaris who gave a very informative overview presentation on the effects of scleroderma. The National Conference was held in Philadelphia in July. Here is photo (left) of Co-President Peggy Levengood and National Board member Mike Levengood in Philly.



One of the best ways the Georgia Chapter supports research is through our Hiking and Hotcakes event every summer. We host over 300 people for a timed 5K race, 1 mile family fun walk, pancakes, bingo, and loads of fun—all to raise money for Scleroderma Research. We are happy to report that this year we are able to send \$50,000 to Reach for the Cure.

Our 2018 5k winner Patrick Smith is pictured here with our Reach for the Cure sign. We were able to write the names of all the loved ones for whom we race, volunteer and raise funds! Mark your calendars for Hiking and Hotcakes 2019—Saturday, June 8, 2019—at Lilburn City Park.



Highlights from the Year

Every June for the past 5 years, SFGA members and friends descend on Lilburn City Park for our Annual Hiking and Hotcakes event. Our **2018 Hiking and Hotcakes** theme was Reach for the Cure—and we did. We were able to raise over \$35,000.00 during this event. Despite construction on our usual race route, we had a large and competitive group of runners for the 5K and a huge group of Friends of Scleroderma for our 1 mile walk. There was breakfast bingo, chance drawings, and lots of fun for the whole family. We had a record number of teams raise over \$1000 this year. Thank you to our many sponsors and terrific community volunteers to help to make this event happen every year!



Knights of Columbus serve their great breakfast (top).
Team Jenkins and Rash's Dash



Despite a rain postponement in August and more rain on November 2nd, the **10th Annual Kathleen Basile Memorial Golf Tournament** was a huge success! We appreciate our many golfers who have been with us all 10 years. We had a great round of golf, despite less than ideal weather, a terrific lunch by our own Hospitality Maven Mary Wetherington, and great prizes! We appreciate the great hospitality of the Reunion Golf Club and wonderful sponsors. It was another great day for the Georgia Chapter!



Terrific grill prize from Home Depot. (left)
Chick-fila Hamilton Mill's Bob Garrett and his winning golf foursome.



Bill Basile—Tournament Director—and golfers



MARCH 10, 2019 3:00 pm—**Patient Seminar and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce 6500 Sugarloaf Parkway Duluth, GA 30097
Topic: Scleroderma and the Lung & Other Topics

JUNE 8, 2019 8:30 am—**Hiking and Hotcakes 2019—Take a Stand and Step Out**
Lilburn City Park

JULY 19-21, 2019—**National Patient Education Conference**—Chicago, IL

For more information go to www.scleroderma.org/georgia

