

Southern Living®

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How to Wow!

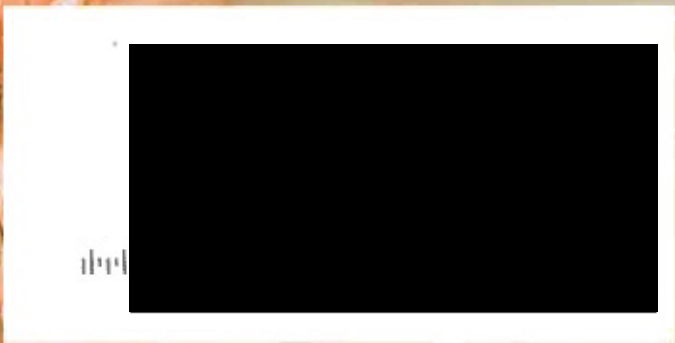
OUR BEST IDEAS FOR A MAGICAL FALL

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POSTCARD PERFECT GETAWAYS

HEARTY SOUPS, SLOW-COOKER SUPPERS and IRRESISTIBLE DESSERTS

Top 10 Tailgating Essentials



Disc Golf Goes Global

This laid-back sport is more than a walk in the park. It's played from Africa to Asia and beyond—and it's based right here in Georgia.

BY BOBBY HICKMAN

Click on the course directory on pdga.com, the site for the Professional Disc Golf Association, and explore the countries with courses. From Norway to Nicaragua, people are playing this Frisbee-inspired game with flat discs sailing toward elevated baskets. But only Georgia can claim its own 50-plus courses and the international headquarters of the association itself (in Appling, just 25 miles northwest of the traditional golf mecca, Augusta National). Here's the scoop on "our" sport and how you can catch the fever. **What it is:** Disc golf is played much like conventional "ball golf," with the



objective of completing the 18-hole course in the fewest number of strokes. Disc golfers hurl flat plastic discs along heavily wooded paths in relatively undeveloped venues. They gently "putt" discs into targets, typically chain-lined, metal baskets.

The history: It started as a grassroots movement in the 1970s and is growing by at least 7% annually. There are more than 3,000 U.S. courses, plus venues in 35 countries on every continent—even Antarctica.

Why Georgia is headquarters: Brian Graham, executive director of the Professional Disk Golf Association (PDGA) attributes the PDGA's relocation from Toronto to Appling four years ago to a combination of "timing, luck, and hard work." The organization sought a move about the same time Brian set out to develop Columbia County's multicourse facility. Georgia is now the center of the disc golf world.

Who can play: If you can throw a Frisbee, you can play disc golf. "It's a great walk in the park," he says. The

average member is "30 to 50 years old with a college degree."

Where to find Georgia courses: PDGA's Web site lists 53 Georgia courses scattered from Albany to Toccoa; some are private, while others are located in state parks. The PDGA headquarters offers three courses in Appling.

What it costs: A family of four can start for less than \$30: Professional discs sell for \$5 to \$15; playing the headquarters courses costs \$3 if you're a PDGA member or live in Columbia County, \$5 for all others. *

pdga.com or 706/261-6342



LEFT: Frisbie Pie tins inspired the modern-day discs (above). **RIGHT:** Players at the International Disc Golf Center course in Appling

