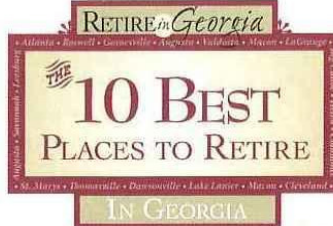
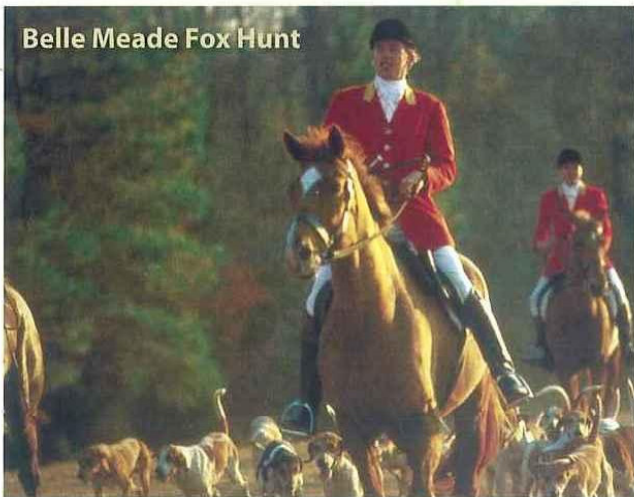


LOWNDES, BROOKS, & LANIER

Counties are retirement heaven for outdoor enthusiasts. Triple Crown Hometowns is a five-year economic development partnership of the chambers of commerce from all three counties. This area is home to thirty parks and hundreds of lakes, rivers and acres of wildlife plantations for outdoor sports and peaceful relaxation. The Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area, Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Reed Bingham State Park and nearby Okefenokee Swamp are just a few examples of the vast outdoor opportunities available in this scenic area. Active adults also enjoy the arts, music, and entertainment in downtown areas including the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, South Georgia's premier arts destination, and the Valdosta State University Theater, Opera, and Fine Arts Gallery. If you are continuing your education, look no further than Valdosta State University. Part of the University System of Georgia, their Institute for Learning in Retirement is one of only five in Georgia and 200 in the country. Easily accessible via I-75, I-10, or the Valdosta Airport, the community is two hours from Jacksonville and Tallahassee and just three hours from Atlanta and Orlando. With several active adult communities under development, a continuing care retirement community in Brooks County and a unique community-wide health and wellness program, it's easy to see why so many are considering this nature lover's paradise for retirement.

Belle Meade Fox Hunt



Morgan, Greene, Putnam, & Baldwin

Counties make up Georgia's Lake Country and are contiguous counties to Lakes Oconee and Sinclair. Lake Oconee is a Georgia Power impoundment covering 19,050 acres and includes a five-star resort, championship fishing and golf. Lake Sinclair is a 15,330-acre lake known for boating and fishing as well as attractive real estate. Several moderately priced and upscale residential developments are within the region, including the 850 home Del Webb at Lake Oconee community, their first lake community for active adults. Horseback riding, hiking, and one of Georgia's best golf values can be found at Hard Labor Creek State Park in Morgan County. Several cities, developments, and golf courses in the area have received national recognition as being attractive to the 50-plus market, helping make the Lake Country one of Georgia's top areas for in-migration of active adults.



Hard Labor Creek Park

St. Marys

is our next recipient of the award and is a town that should be considered by all active adults who envision retirement near the coast. Steeped in true southern hospitality, St. Marys began as a Spanish settlement and is one of the oldest cities in America. The abundance of saltwater marshes, deep water, wildlife and a gateway to Cumberland Island have drawn people from near and far. While visiting the area, you will find an abundance of hotel and bed and breakfast choices in the historic village. Take a short drive to Jacksonville to enjoy shopping, dining, and various professional sports. Many who visit become residents, choosing from affordable to upscale housing in gated communities, with golf and waterfront options. Seniors receive a tax break on homestead exemption of \$25,000 on city and county property taxes, and outstanding medical facilities support residents of all ages. Historic structures are prevalent in the historic downtown district, where art galleries and concerts provide cultural entertainment. Life on the coast does not get more beautiful or relaxing than St. Marys in Camden County.

McDuffie & Columbia Counties are one of the top relocation destinations for active adults moving from other states to Georgia. These counties draw crowds from across the U.S. and Europe for the Belle Meade Fox Hunt event. Nearby Augusta offers shopping, educational opportunities, golf, and entertainment while Clarks Hill Lake provides residents with 1,200 miles of gorgeous shoreline to enjoy water sports and relax. A low cost of living, scenic surroundings, and central location have earned the McDuffie and Columbia County region a place on "The 10 Best Places to Retire in Georgia" list.