



Staghorn Plantation Estates
Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 267
Nicholson, GA 30565

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS September 2026

Staghorn 250 Years Ago Today

In 1776, Jackson County was just wilderness to early settlers. Gustavus James Nash Wilson, our first known resident of Jackson County, reported in 1784 that this land belonged to “wild animals and wild men”.

Staghorn and the area surrounding the North Oconee River tributary was most likely home to Muscogee Native Americans.



*Muscogee Nation - Ocmulgee Mounds
National Historical Park*

Every few miles these native people would establish small communities. They were known to live in Georgia and Alabama as early as the 1400s.

These native tribes lived off the land, dining primarily on wild animals, birds, fish, and mud turtles they hunted, or custard-apples, wild beans, pig potatoes, wild berries, and chestnuts they foraged. Their main crop was corn – for which they would perform a ritual dance to ensure a successful harvest.

By 1715 English newcomers from South Carolina called these peoples “Creeks.” The term was shorthand for “Indians living on Ochese Creek”. They numbered about 10,000 at that time.

Early trade between Muscogee and colonists centered on deerskins in exchange for foreign products like textiles and kettles.

By the time James Oglethorpe and his Georgia colonists arrived in 1733, relations between the Muscogee and the English were already well established.



Muscogee and John Oglethorpe.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, traveled to the Georgia colony in 1736 with the mission to convert natives to Christianity. Wesley formed friendships with Muscogee figures such as Chief Tomochichi and translator Mary Musgrove. He was never allowed to visit their villages.

Our Muscogee Legacy

The city of Jefferson was home to a former Muscogee village called Thomocoggan. All of Jackson County and the neighboring Hall, Barrow, and Gwinnett Counties were rich with members of both Creek and Cherokee tribes. Their trails cross through Jackson County and have served as the foundation of many migration paths and trade routes – which have since become railroad tracks and modern highways.

The Muscogee (Creek) nation is known to be the direct descendant of the Mississippian culture mound builders. They constructed massive earthen pyramids and ceremonial centers across Georgia.



One of many pyramids found in Georgia.

The Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee shared many of their agricultural practices with early settlers – introducing concepts like crop rotation, irrigation, and crops such as corn, beans, squash, melons, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes.

To this day, their legacy lives on in the names of mountain ranges like the Appalachian Mountains and local rivers like the Chattahoochee, Alachua, and Allatoona. The next time you take a walk in the woods in and around Staghorn, try to envision what it must have looked like through the eyes of those early Native Americans.

Join the Staghorn Board of Directors

Staghorn needs volunteers to attend nine meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM and perform these duties.

Architecture Chair has responsibility for reviewing and approving all house plans in Staghorn Plantation, meeting with contractors on any proposals and ensuring that construction follows the approved plans. The position is ideal for a person who has served as builders, real estate agents or has been active in the real estate industry now or in the past. However, this is not a requirement.

Recreation Chair has responsibility for maintaining Recreation Area properties and renting the Recreation Center to homeowners. This person would communicate with potential renters, accept their rental payment, give them keys to the facility, check to ensure the facility has been properly cleaned after use and return the security funds to the homeowner. This person would place a box outside their residence for handling transactions with homeowners. The ideal chairperson would probably be a former Staghorn renter.

Security Chair has responsibility to ensure that there is easy access to the recreation area through gates and monitor gate access to the recreation area. There are video cameras to check for potential intruders. This potential chairperson would enjoy working with police and the technicians handling the gate access control.

If you would like to help your community, email me at craig.gieler@gmail.com or text me at 678-427-8619.

Craig Gieler SPEHOA Secretary