



## Soup's On!

### WARM UP WITH A PEACH STATE PLEASER

**What's your favorite soup?** Georgians love traditional favorites but also favor options that reflect the state's increasingly global tastes. Whatever the preference, one thing that's a constant is that low and slow wins the soup-making game.

#### SUPER SOUPS

Southern comfort classic Brunswick Stew – a thick, hearty soup – became the state's official stew last year. This "barbecue stew" features smoked meats and vegetables. Paired with cornbread, named the official state bread in 2025, it's a soul-warming, traditional supper.

Locally grown produce and meats are the top-line ingredients in favorites like Creamy Shiitake Mushroom Soup and Southern Peanut Soup. Georgia-grown products mix well with international recipes to make favorites like Beef Enchilada Soup and Avgolemono, a Greek chicken soup.

#### COOKING WITH GAS

No matter what recipe you begin with, set yourself up for success with these tips for making great soup on a natural gas stove:

**Choose the right equipment.** Use a heavy-bottomed pot (like a Dutch oven). This thickness distributes the intense direct heat more evenly and prevents burning or hot spots.

**Manage the heat.** Natural gas stoves offer instant and precise heat control, which is a big advantage for soup-making. Use high heat to quickly bring liquids to a boil and then immediately drop it to a simmer once achieved. Low-flame settings should be used to maintain a gentle simmer.

**Sauté for flavor.** Before adding to the soup pot, coax more flavor from onions, carrots and celery by first sautéing them over medium heat.

**Go low and slow.** The magic of a good soup happens during the slow simmer. Let flavors meld for at least 30 minutes, or several hours for bone broths or rich stews.

With the precise heat control of your natural gas stove and the right tools, you can easily achieve consistently delicious soup.

Find recipes for some of  
 Georgians' favorite soup recipes  
 and tips for preparing them in  
 this month's Walton Wise.



# Rockin' with the Lobsters

MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY BRINGS PUCK POWER TO ATHENS

Bulldog football has long reigned as king of the sports world in Athens. But a new team in town is quickly winning over the hearts of local sporting fans.

The Athens Rock Lobsters, a professional minor league ice hockey team, are skating through their second season in the Classic City. The fun-but-quirky team name was selected by the community. Some 8,000 cast votes, with an iconic Athens band, The B-52s, and their 1970s song "Rock Lobster" winning out.

"From the start, we knew we wanted a name that encapsulates the unique energy and spirit of Athens," said Britton Briley, the team's director of marketing. "The name 'Rock Lobsters' struck a chord with our fans, blending music, creativity and a touch of humor."

The Lobster loyal are called Crustacean Nation. They fill rink-side seats for home games at the Lobster Tank, aka the brand-new Akins Ford Arena near downtown Athens.



Image: Athens Rock Lobsters

What happens on the ice is only part of the appeal of Lobsters game. Personal encounters with the team mascot, Clawdius, playful theme nights and a club exclusively for the team's youngest fans are just part of the fan experience.

The arena itself is a draw for some. Hints about the city's rich musical history are evident everywhere. There are displays featuring memorabilia like the guitar Duane Allman used while recording "Statesboro Blues." Interactive displays include features such as music trivia games and a gigantic floor piano.

After clinching a playoff spot in their first season, the Lobsters are making a push to finish atop the 14-team Federal Prospects Hockey League standings in 2026. The regular season ends in early April, so sports fans still have several opportunities to spend a rockin' evening in Athens with the Lobsters.

Forward Daniil Glukharev, left, is helping the Athens Rock Lobsters deliver exciting hockey to quickly grow the team's fan base.



This year, Walton Gas is proud to support Annandale Village, Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities and Camp Twin Lakes through our Champions for Charity program.

As the University of Georgia football season comes to a close, \$16,000 will be divided among these three incredible organizations, and you get to help decide how it's shared. By casting your vote, you're helping direct funding to a charity making a meaningful difference in our communities.

Visit [wالتongas.com/uga](http://wالتongas.com/uga) or scan the QR code to vote for the charity you'd like to support.



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