



Elachee

Nature Science Center

In the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve

Nature Mixed In

Quarterly News from Elachee Nature Science Center • August 2018

This, That and the Other

New! Look for quarterly mailed newsletters in November, February, May and August, in addition to our monthly newsletters. Plus, visit us at elachee.org or on social media for timely Elachee news. Stay connected. Sign up to receive email updates at elachee@elachee.org or call 770-535-1976.

Gathering of Like Minds

Elachee will host a series of **Science Nights** at Recess Southern Gastro-Pub the second Tuesday of September, October and November. Arrive early to purchase your meal, then join the discussion at 6:30 p.m.

Where's the Buzz?

University of North Georgia Professor Dr. Evan Lampert kicks off this environmental public programming on September 11, 2018. He will provide expert analysis on insect populations, why we need them and what is happening to them.

DETAILS: elachee.org/public-programs/lifelong-learning

Evan Lampert pictured with daughter Claire, a student in Elachee Nature Academy's Preschool. He is a frequent guest presenter at Elachee's seasonal lifelong learning programs, and recently delighted children during the Mad Science Mayhem week at Camp Elachee 2018, where Claire was his 'bug' helper.



Touch a Snake!

Encounter creatures that slither and crawl at Elachee's **26th Annual Snake Day** on Saturday, September 8. This nature education festival is a family-friendly favorite!

A Festival of All Things Reptilian

Snake Day showcases nearly two dozen herpetological experts who will entertain audiences with live exotic species of snakes, alligator, lizards, turtles, tortoises, toads and frogs at this action-packed festival. Make crafts, buy souvenirs, eat yummy food and hike, too!

DETAILS: elachee.org/snake-day

Clint Eller, with Those Reptile Guys, will return as an exhibitor at Snake Day 2018 to delight Elachee visitors with live reptile encounters.

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Snake Day

September 8, 2018

10 AM to 3 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$10 Per Person

(Ages 2 and up)

ELACHEE MEMBERS

\$5 Per Person

*FREE Shuttles to/from
Designated Parking Areas*

LOCATION

Elachee Visitor Center

2125 Elachee Drive

Gainesville, GA 30504

770-535-1976

elachee.org/snake-day

PRESENTED BY



Membership Rewards

Elachee annual membership is \$100.

Membership includes two (2) named adults and up to four (4) of their children and/or grandchildren. In addition to valuable discounts (admission, Camp Elachee and nature education programs), you get a 12-month Chicopee Woods Conservation Area parking pass!

DETAILS: elachee.org/membership



Naturalists Roanne LaVere and Cindy Andrews visit with Elachee royalty, Rosemary Dodd, one of Elachee's founding mothers who participated as a sponsor and an auction donor at this year's event.

Spring Fundraiser Hits Its Mark

The 2018 *Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction* raised \$112,676 at the May 5 event. This support represents 10-percent of Elachee's annual operations budget.

Hosted by the Elachee Board of Trustees, this popular party on the Nature Center's outdoor patio is Elachee's primary annual fundraiser benefiting the region's children, families and nature lovers. Monies raised provide critical funding for educational programming and conservation initiatives.

Not only was *Flights* a sold-out event, a record number joined Elachee as sponsors this year! We are also grateful to the scores of auction donors for a fabulous selection of eclectic nature-related art and outdoor entertaining items and excursions.

This event is possible thanks to our volunteer steering committee's creativity, dedication, time and energy: Ginny Barber, Beth Bell, Jennie Clayton, Cathy Cobb, Allyson Everett, Cindy Gay, Sybil Hall-Beheler, Jock Hornor, Robbie McCormac, Gale McKibbon, Abby Murray, Amanda Norton, Sally Oliver, Brandi Paul, Amanda Watkins, Jane White and Morgan Wood.

Fund the Need Response Helps Young Students

More than \$26,000 of the total amount raised at *Flights of Fancy* was in response to the event's Fund the Need appeal. Our guests' generosity helped Elachee reach 70-percent of the \$37,000 annual need to award financial aid to qualifying students enrolled in the on-campus **Elachee Nature Academy Preschool and Kindergarten-1st Grade** programs for the 2018-19 school year. **LEARN MORE: ElacheeNatureAcademy.org**

Save the Date!

2019 *Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction* is Saturday evening, April 27, 2019. **DETAILS: elachee.org/flights-of-fancy**



Gifts \$25,000 and Up
Anonymous
Robert G. & Gloria S. Molloy Foundation

Gifts \$10,000 to \$24,999
Cargill, Inc.
Jackson EMC Foundation
Mike and Robbie McCormac
Steve and Gale McKibbon

Gifts \$5,000 to \$9,999
James Baugh
Gainesville Flooring
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Murrayville Veterinary Clinic
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Springer Mountain Farms Fresh Chicken
Tipton Construction Company
Jane White and Joe Amerling
Willis Investment Counsel, Inc.

Gifts \$2,500 to \$4,999
Brand Properties
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Environmental Fund for Georgia, Inc.
Gainesville-Hall County Junior League
Georgia Power Foundation
John and Judy Girardeau
Jackson EMC
Northside Hospital
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Rob and Kelly Robinson
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Wells Fargo Foundation
Kelvin and Anu Whisenhunt
ZF Community Care Fund/ZF Gainesville

Gifts \$1,000 to \$2,499
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Steve and Ginny Barber
Beth Bell

Ed Cook and Marjie Berman
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David and Gail Chester
Chestnut Mountain Logistics
Conditioned Air Systems
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Jim and Robin Mathis
Grace McMillan
Kelly Miles and Mandy Smith
Milton Martin Honda
Dirk and Pat Mitchell
Pete and Martha Nesbitt



Educating for Today, Preserving for Tomorrow

Annual Fund Gifts by Donor Received During Elachee's Fiscal Year Reporting Period: June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018

Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
Ralph and Mary Cleveland Foundation
Sylwester Ratowt and Ryan Fogg
Bill and Sarah Rhoads
William and Elizabeth Rives
Ed and Myra Schrader
Jean Simone and James Bell
Lessie Smithgall
Eula Sommer
Stewart, Melvin & Frost
TCC Gives
Team Ryan Automotive
The Longstreet Clinic, P.C.
The Norton Agency
University of North Georgia
Dave and Faye Westfall
Whitehead Die Casting
Trey and Morgan Wood

Gifts \$500 to \$999
Michael and Danielle Allenbach
Frank and Carol Ann Armstrong
Phil and Lindsay Bonelli
Jack and Pat Burd
Bruce Cutler and Margaret Pate
Sage and Lynne Dorsey
Dr. Hart Joiner Endowment for Children and Youth/Rotary Club of Gainesville

Tory and Paula Elliott
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Robert and Julie Ferguson
Bob and Linda Fowler
Dianne Kosmala and Dianna Fuller
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Griff and Nikki Law
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Bob and Amanda Norton
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Purple House Gallery and Framing
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Synergy Wellness
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David and Kathy Wedegis
Christopher and Christa Williams

Gifts \$200 to \$499
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Rosemary Dodd
Geraldyn Drymalski
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Roger Marks, Sr.
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Justin and Natalia McNew
Pete Moraitakis
Randall and Dottie Murray
National Business Institute, Inc.
Carol O'Connor
Stephen and Jorie O'Malley
Diamondis and Evanthia Papadopoulos
Brandi Paul
Pinnacle Bank-Braselton
Sam and Bess Poole
Strother and Cynthia Randolph
Sam and Pat Rauch
Ed and Joan Rigel
Doug and Jennifer Terry
The Shirley Family Foundation
Anne Thomas
Alison Toller
Al and Mary Beth Trembley
John Turner
Steven J. Volino
Lea and Claudia Williams

Gifts Up to \$199
Warren and Dena Almand
Antebellum Restaurant
Les and Kay Apley
Kareen Bally
Ed Borden
Rick and Susan Boyd
Jan Brown
Homer and Lisa Bryson
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John and Luanne Cape
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Chad and Christina Carter
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Jack Wynn

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Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Rosemary Dodd
Ryan Fogg and Sylwester Ratowt
Don and Sandra Lane
Pinnacle Bank-Braselton
Tommy and Lisa Wilson

Partnering with Elachee is a Sound Investment

Become an annual sponsor, choosing the investment level with benefits most relevant to you. Or, select seasonal event sponsorships (*Flights of Fancy, Raptor Fest, Trillium Trek Trail Run, Snake Day*) to gain visibility for your business or organization.

Call 770-535-1976 or email kim@elachee.org for details.

Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs

DETAILS: elachee.org/calendar

Aug. 2018 – May 2019 ... Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake MONTHLY		
Sep. 11, 2018	... Science Night at Recess	Feb. 16, 2019 ... Bird Walk at Chicopee Lake
Oct. 6, 2018	... Forest Therapy Walk	Mar. 16, 2019 ... Raptor Fest
Oct. 9, 2018	... Science Night at Recess	Apr. 13, 2019 ... Trillium Trek Trail Run & Walk
Nov. 13, 2018	... Science Night at Recess	Apr. 27, 2019 ... Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction



DONOR PROFILE Dave and Faye Westfall

In 1978, Dave Westfall caught wind of an idea about starting a nature center in the area that others in the Gainesville community were tossing around. “I was immediately hooked,” he recalls.

A few months later, Dave and wife Faye were sitting at the kitchen table with Leonard and Becky Geiger talking about these dreams that soon became reality, and the start of Elachee. Now 40 years later, Dave wants others to know what a unique opportunity it is for a community of this size to have the added value of an amenity such as Elachee Nature Science Center and the 1,440-acre Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve.

“We are proud to support the Elachee organization, a good steward of the natural world that we want to be available for our grandchildren who are 8 and 11,” says Dave. “When they get to be our age, Faye and I want them to still have the chance to enjoy places like Elachee and the Chicopee Woods.”

Dave recently had to start taking mandatory retirement fund withdrawals. The Westfalls found that through a Qualified Charitable Distribution, they could support Elachee in an even more tax-friendly way.

“Elachee has been very much a part of our lives and vision for the community,” Dave shares. “We have always financially supported Elachee. It’s never been a question of if, just how.”

As you plan an annual or a legacy gift to Elachee, there are numerous options to consider. We would be honored to meet with you to learn more about your wishes and how Elachee may help meet your philanthropic goals. Please call 770-535-1976.

Natural Setting to Say, “I Do!”

Brides find Elachee’s many open-air and indoor amenity packages offer the ideal backdrop to exchange vows. We book weddings six to 18 months in advance for intimate ceremonies of 20 up to gatherings of 200 guests. Call 770-535-1976 to schedule a tour.

PACKAGE DETAILS: elachee.org/the-nature-center/facility-rentals



Woods Whisperer

Insights from Dave McCarroll

In his roles as a volunteer Trail Steward and on Elachee’s Trail Crew, Dave McCarroll has seen a lot the past 20 years. He asks, “How do we share and educate newcomers on conservation lessons, share these values of stewardship and instill an appreciation of wild areas?” A visit to one of Georgia’s largest protected green spaces is a first step.



“A fellow who moved to Gainesville from Gwinnett County told me how much he loves seeing so many snakes and other wildlife in Chicopee Woods,” Dave shares. “He compared the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve with other parks that he felt were more sterile, having a more developed and less ‘natural’ feel to them.”

“I appreciate what it takes to keep the Park going, and like knowing Elachee provides order and structure for Chicopee Woods by having an active land manager to function as an authority figure responsible for land management and protection.”

School Days Resume

Last spring Issac, a Kennedy Elementary first-grader wrote this note after his field trip that reads (with corrected spelling), “Thank you for teaching us about plants and animals. I learned that seeds have their own food inside them.”



Teachers all across north Georgia are booking their **Elachee field trips** and **Elachee in Your Classroom** programs. The grade-specific and accredited STEAM-based environmental programs for students in grades Pre-K through 12 offer children in our region the chance to experience memorable and meaningful nature encounters.

2018-19 PROGRAM DETAILS: elachee.org/school-programs

Six Years of ‘Growing Up Naturally’

In August, **Elachee Nature Academy** welcomes students for the sixth year to its Nature Preschool and the third year for the innovative Nature Kindergarten-1st Grade program.

“I look forward to seeing my students make new discoveries while learning new things,” says K-1 teacher Melissa Miner. “We have a plethora of outdoor teaching spaces that I cannot wait to utilize such as the amphitheater, hiking trails and gardens.”

LEARN MORE: elachenatureacademy.org or call 770-535-1976

Incredible Camp Elachee

Mad Science Mayhem, Creature Feature and Space Camp are among the nine weekly summer day camps that 943 children enjoyed at Camp Elachee 2018. We’ve captured highlights!

READ CAMP ELACHEE 2018 BLOGS: elachee.org/blog

