

Nature Mixed In

Quarterly News from Elachee Nature Science Center • April 2019

First 40 Years a Nod to Volunteers

Elachee is Here Today Thanks to Volunteers' Dreams and Nurturing

On Saturday, March 2, 2019, nearly 100 close friends of Elachee Nature Science Center came together to reminisce and celebrate four decades of promoting environmental understanding through education and conservation. This event was also Elachee's annual volunteer appreciation gathering to honor the individuals who give of their time and talent to support this mission, and to recognize the 2019 volunteer of the year recipients. *Meet the 2019 Volunteers of the Year on Page 2.*



Pictured are three of Elachee's 'founding mothers' and the organization's first Board of Trustees Chair. L-R Julia Cromartie, John Girardeau, Sissy Lawson and Rosemary Dodd

"Elachee Nature Science Center is here today because of wonderful volunteers who dreamed and have nurtured this organization for 40+ years," shared Andrea Timpone, Elachee's President/CEO. In 2018, alone, volunteers logged 2,600 hours with 1,300 of those spent in conservation activities within the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve (one of Georgia's largest protected green spaces).

"Happy 40th anniversary, Elachee!" says Elachee Advisory Board member and volunteer Robbie McCormac. "When I think about Elachee, two words come to mind: change and consistency. Change because Elachee is always adding, updating and improving to make things better and current. Consistency because even though Elachee is always changing, it remains true to the core beliefs of its mission of educating and preserving."

Friends were asked to express wishes for Elachee's next 40 years. One person shared this heartfelt desire: continue to prosper as a refuge from urbanization, wilderness for all animals and plants including humans.

READ FULL STORY: elachee.org/happy-40th-birthday-elachee

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Now Enrolling for 2019-2020
KINDERGARTEN

www.ElacheeNatureAcademy.org

Call 770-535-1976
 to schedule a tour.



Field Trip Follow-ups

Students often write Elachee Naturalists thank you notes after school field trips... and we want to share!

Thank you for letting me learn and explore with you. – Colby

The hike was so fun! – Lily

I was fascinated by the way you taught us how to start a fire. I also enjoyed going down to the creek, skipping rocks and learning how to make a fish trap. I'm glad we were able to do a lot of hiking. Watching the hawk up close was amazing! – Isaac

I loved that we got to go on a hike. – Dom

I learned many things today, like how to find North, how to purify water, and how to make a lean-to. – Ace

I enjoyed looking at habitats and the creeks. I learned about making fires, things you need to prepare for and plants to eat and not eat. – Logan

LEARN MORE: elachee.org/school-programs





Chestatee High students and teacher-sponsors participated in the February and March 2019 'Honeysuckle Sweep' along Dodd Trail.



Spring Cleaning

February and March volunteer work days helped spruce up the Elachee gardens, grounds and hiking trails in preparation for a busy spring.

Clearing invasive Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) from along the Dodd Trail is an example of a routine supervised project for individual volunteers and groups seeking community service opportunities.

Volunteers positively impact each aspect of Elachee operations. Due to the seasonal nature of our needs, Elachee may not be able to fulfill every volunteer request.

READ BLOG: elachee.org/getting-ready-for-spring

LEARN MORE: elachee.org/volunteer



Flying High

Elachee has received a special birthday present from John and Jane Hemmer. John graciously hung Jane's breathtaking solid bronze red-tailed hawk sculpture in the massive White Oak tree at the Nature Center's entrance. This soaring hawk will now welcome the tens of thousands of school children and guests who visit Elachee.

Next Step for Our Hiking Trails

A comprehensive revamp of signage and mapping is in the home stretch for the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve hiking trail system. Changes will greatly enhance hiker navigation.

Hiking trail alterations made through time, for conservation-related purposes, have resulted in reroutes and trail closures subsequently reducing the available amount of trail. A measure of conservation-minded management success, the newly determined length of the hiking trail system is eight miles.

CHANGES COMING SOON TO THE HIKING TRAILS

Wayfinding signs are being inventoried and updated with new decals, then placed, where appropriate, at intersections with trail blaze color and mileage details on the decals. New maps will also reflect trail system changes, including trail name changes. Look for announcements of other future changes, along with rollout of the new map.

READ MORE DETAILS & HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: elachee.org/next-step-for-our-hiking-trails



Elachee Recognizes 2019 Volunteers of the Year Recipients



Pictured L-R: 2019 Ed Dodd Conservationist of the Year award recipient **John Girardeau**, 2019 Elachee Volunteer Appreciation award recipient **ZF Gainesville LLC** representatives **Michelle Whitt** and **Sherree Moss**, Elachee Board of Trustees Chair **Rob Robinson**, Elachee President/CEO **Andrea Timpone** and 2019 Elachee Volunteer of the Year **Julia Johnson**. **READ ABOUT EACH WINNER:** elachee.org/happy-40th-birthday-elachee

Elachee Exhibits

Both New and Newly Enhanced

With most of the “Pardon Our Progress” barriers removed, visitors now have even more reasons to plan a trip to Elachee.

NEWEST ELACHEE ATTRACTIONS

Stroll around the Nature Center perimeter, along the *Garden Trail*, to study plants in six interpretive garden exhibits: the Green Roof, Pollinator Meadow, Rain, Bee and Children’s Garden.



The newly installed *Trail of Trees Exhibit* introduces you to trees in Chicopee Woods viewable from the Elachee Visitor Center balcony. Identify 10 species with help from interpretive panels.



While on the balcony, seek inspiration from the words of famous naturalists, poets, writers, philosophers and other nature observers, featured on the newly installed *Nature Banners*. Also take in the imaginative *Georgia Pollinator Exhibit* – interpretive art, created by students in PreK through 12th Grade, from 30 area schools’ art programs. Then step inside to admire more student art as part of the traveling *Duck Stamp Exhibit*.

Just off the Visitor Center lobby witness live bee hives in the *Pollinator Pass Exhibit* and tour the *Natural History Exhibit*. On the patio, stop by the *Outdoor Aviary* and say hello to the red-tailed hawk, then meet snakes, turtles and other species in Elachee’s renovated *Live Animal Exhibit*.

LEARN MORE: elachee.org/plan-your-visit



elachee.org/camp-elachee

Camp Elachee gets children unplugged and outside during school breaks for carefree, fun-filled days having the time of their lives! For nearly 40 years, Elachee has been blending traditional outdoor camp activities in our 1,440-acre woodland with creative discovery experiences conducted at a child-friendly and age-appropriate pace. **NOTE: camp registration closes the Wednesday before each camp week.** Call 770-535-1976 with questions.

CAMP ELACHEE 2019
PRESENTED BY



NEW FOR 2019: Counselors-In-Training Leadership Program for Teens!

Thanks to the generosity of Elachee supporters, Camp Elachee financial aid is available. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Call 770-535-1976 for details.

CAMP ELACHEE 2019					
<p>Themed Weekly Day Camps *4-Day Camp Week</p>	PRE-KINDERGARTEN Ages 3, 4 and 5 fully toilet-trained, NOT entering Kindergarten in the Fall.	ELEMENTARY Children ENTERING Kindergarten through 6th Grade in the Fall.	COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM Teens Entering Grades 7-12 <i>Supervised by the Camp Director and mentored by Camp Counselors</i>		
	CAMP HOURS 8 a.m. to Noon	CAMP HOURS 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	SUMMER DAY CAMP CIT PROGRAM HOURS 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.		
	May 28-31*	Water Week*	Water Week*	Senior CIT Program Teens Entering Grades 9-12	
	June 3-7	Sense of Wonder	Wilderness Survival	ONE-TIME PROGRAM FEE: \$60 Per CIT <i>Two (2) Camp Week Minimum</i>	
	June 10-14	Habitat Haven	Habitat Haven	Junior CIT Program Teens Entering Grades 7-8	
	June 17-21	Space Week	Space Week	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEE: \$150 Per CIT	
	June 24-28	Wet and Wild	Wet and Wild	OPTIONAL WEEKLY AFTER CAMP CARE FEE: \$60 Per CIT, Per Week	
	July 1-3, 5*	Elachee Explorers*	Elachee Explorers*	Limited CIT Spots Available Per Camp Week Submit an application by May 1, 2019 for consideration.	
	July 8-12	Mad Science Mayhem	Mad Science Mayhem	DOWNLOAD APPLICATION elachee.org/camp-elachee/counselors-in-training	
	July 15-19	Creature Feature	Creature Feature		
July 22-26	Camp Rewind	Camp Rewind			
CAMP FEES ▶	NON-MEMBER FEE \$160 Per Camper, Per Camp Week	ELACHEE MEMBER FEE \$140 Per Camper, Per Camp Week	NON-MEMBER FEE \$170 Per Camper, Per Camp Week	ELACHEE MEMBER FEE \$150 Per Camper, Per Camp Week	
	OPTIONAL ELEMENTARY AFTER CAMP CHILD CARE FEE \$60 Per Camper, Per Camp Week Offered Daily, 2:30-5:30				

Camp Elachee meets the requirements and standards for 'exemption status' from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's Bright from the Start. Attendance policies for Pre-Kindergarten require that each child will attend no more than four (4) hours per day.

REGISTER ONLINE: elachee.org/camp-elachee

ELACHEE TRUSTEE PROFILE Dallas Gay



Elachee has been a natural fit for Dallas. “You come to Elachee, then get inspired,” he explains. “As you become part of a great group of other volunteers with a common interest, your dedication and inspiration grow.” He adds, “There are other things I do that are also worthwhile. None gives me such a warm, heartfelt feeling as nurturing youth and helping them develop an appreciation for nature.”

Dallas grew up in nature with his imagination as his trusty companion. For a child, in his opinion, there’s nothing like the “creativity you develop by standing in the woods, picking things up, making forts and other things. When exposed to nature, children are more adept at taking things on and becoming more self-sufficient.”

As a Trustee and Board Treasurer, he understands the imperative for continuously involving a greater number of people in Elachee’s work, to learn and share, to bring fresh thoughts and views. Elachee’s future success depends on public awareness for all that’s positive about supporting a concern for nature and how that correlates to enriching children’s lives.

“Name another place that has roughly 1,500 acres of nature,” Dallas challenges. “We are blessed to have this huge amount of land to care for,” he declares.

In his experience, Dallas says people who have a warmer feeling about Elachee and see that “something good is happening here,” will cycle through in any capacity. This ‘good thing’ subsequently pays off via support: time, talent and treasure. That support is critical to build good programs. “But good programs require good money to support them,” Dallas cautions. **READ FULL STORY:** elachee.org/trustee-profile-dallas-gay

19th Annual Flights of Fancy

BENEFIT & AUCTION

The Community’s Impressive Support

Elachee Nature Science Center, its Board of Trustees, Staff and Flights of Fancy Volunteer Host Committee

are grateful for the impressive community support for this annual fundraising event that benefits children, nature education and conservation. In anticipation of this sold-out April 27 event, we are honored to recognize the sponsors who are making this event possible.

NOTE: Following are sponsorships as of April 8, 2019.



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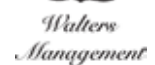
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