



Elachee

Nature Science Center

In the *Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve*

Nature Mixed In

Quarterly News from Elachee Nature Science Center • February 2019

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Relevant Partners

Elachee's worthy mission aligns with the values that many community partners readily embrace. With a 40-year legacy of promoting environmental understanding through education and conservation, Elachee offers natural balance to help fulfill a collective desire to improve quality of life in this north Georgia region where we all work, play and live.

Meet Elachee's Annual Sponsors

Elachee is delighted to introduce these 2019 Annual Sponsors.

PLATINUM



SILVER



BRONZE



Partnering with Elachee is a Sound Investment

Opt-in at any time. Choose an annual or seasonal event sponsorship investment option to help achieve your community engagement and marketing goals. Visit elachee.org or call 770-535-1976.

Total School Immersion Pilot

Grant Award Funds Week-Long Elachee in Your School Program

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant award from **Walton Electric Trust, Inc.'s Operation Round Up®**, 1,052 students at Craig Elementary kicked off the New Year enjoying a week of Elachee ecology programming. This grant fully-funded student program fees for a K-5 pilot outreach program: *Elachee in Your School Environmental Immersion*.

The Elachee team taught a five-day series of nature education classes, plus delivered a STEAM-night program! Each participating K-5 student at this Gwinnett County Public School benefited from grade-specific content meeting curriculum standards while complementing classroom instruction.

Topics for Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 5th grades ranged from meteorology, geology, Georgia aquatic habitats, water resources and pollution to Georgia landforms, as 2nd and 4th graders visited the STAR-LAB portable planetarium.

For schools unable to visit Elachee for field trips, PreK-12 *Elachee in Your Classroom* or *School* outreach programs are ideal options.

READ THE FULL STORY: elachee.org/total-school-immersion-pilot-a-success



Elachee Nature Academy

Now Enrolling for 2019-2020

PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN

www.ElacheeNatureAcademy.org

Offering Parents an Innovative, Nature-based Education Choice for Their Young Children

Key Advantages

- Our educational philosophy promotes a nature-based learning environment.
- Inquiry-based curriculum meets Georgia learning standards.
- Accredited by SACS/AdvancED, licensed by *Bright from the Start*.
- Small class sizes allow for personalized instruction.
- Students spend 50% of their instructional day outdoors!



Call 770-535-1976 to schedule a tour.

Avoid Hitchhikers

Be prepared before heading into the woods this spring and summer.

Tick Facts

- Georgia is home to 21 species of ticks, four of which feed on humans.
- Georgia's tick season is during warm months, April through October.
- Ticks dislike short vegetation and sunny, dry environments.
- Only 2-percent of a single Georgia tick species carries pathogen/disease.
- 'Attached' ticks do not feed within the first 24-48 hours or transmit disease-causing organisms during this time.



Tick Prevention

- Stay on marked trails. Avoid brushing up against vegetation.
- Wear long pants, and when possible tuck pant legs into socks and tuck shirts under belts.
- Wear a hat or other head covering to prevent ticks' access from overhead limbs and leaves.
- To repel ticks, use products containing DEET on skin and clothing. To repel and kill ticks, use an aerosol containing Permethrin ONLY on clothing.
- Ticks can attach themselves to any part of your body, so check hair and scalp, inside the ears, under arms and behind knees.
- Routinely check pets and administer regular flea and tick prevention.

Tick Removal

If you find an 'attached' tick:

- DO gently remove with fine tweezers, grasping the tick close to the skin.
- DO NOT apply a lit match or Vaseline product to the tick while attached as this may cause it to regurgitate. If the tick regurgitates, this could infect you with a tick-borne pathogen.

Three ways to dispose of a tick:

- Drown it in rubbing alcohol;
- Suffocate it between two layers of tape;
- Flush it down the toilet.

The first two options allow you to keep the tick in case any symptoms were to arise, and you would like to send the tick for medical pathogen testing.



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

Themed Weekly Day Camps <i>*4-Day Camp Week</i>	PRE-KINDERGARTEN Ages 3, 4 and 5 fully toilet-trained, not entering Kindergarten in the Fall.	ELEMENTARY Children entering Kindergarten–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.
April 1–5	Spring Break Camp	Spring Break Camp	Senior CIT Program Teens Entering Grades 9–12 ONE-DAY PROGRAM FEE: \$60 Per CIT <i>Two (2) Camp Week Minimum</i>
May 28–31*	Water Week*	Water Week*	
June 3–7	Sense of Wonder	Wilderness Survival	
June 10–14	Habitat Haven	Habitat Haven	
June 17–21	Space Week	Space Week	
June 24–28	Wet and Wild	Wet and Wild	
July 1–3, 5*	Elachee Explorers*	Elachee Explorers*	
July 8–12	Mad Science Mayhem	Mad Science Mayhem	Junior CIT Program Teens Entering Grades 7–8 WEEKLY PROGRAM FEE: \$150 Per CIT OPTIONAL WEEKLY AFTER CAMP CARE FEE: \$60 Per CIT, Per Week
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
<small>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.</small>			OPTIONAL ELEMENTARY AFTER CAMP CHILD CARE FEE \$60 Per Camper, Per Camp Week <small>Offered Daily, 2:30-5:30</small>
			Limited CIT Spots Available Per Camp Week Submit an application by May 1, 2019 for consideration. DOWNLOAD APPLICATION elachee.org/camp-elachee/counselors-in-training

REGISTER ONLINE: elachee.org/camp-elachee

Hiking Trails Mileage Marker and Mapping Update

Did you know that community volunteers, led and guided by Elachee's staff, have developed much of the 63,360 linear feet of hiking trails in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve?

Developing and installing the hiking trails' mileage marker signage and map system represents a significant Chicopee Woods' wayfarer project that began in the early 2000s. Elachee staff and volunteers originally placed color-coded mileage markers along the hiking trails that approximate quarter-mile distances along each trail. To this day, tens of thousands of hikers each year use these markers to navigate this 12-mile hiking trail network found within one of Georgia's largest protected green spaces.

Emergency responders also make use of the map system to find hikers needing assistance in the Preserve. As well, the markers aid in timely Preserve management efforts when hikers can accurately pinpoint the location of fallen trees blocking a trail or to report other issues.



The next significant marker update occurred in 2013 when Girl Scout Troop 10811 mapped mileage markers and hiking trails using GPS devices and computer software. Volunteer trail crew projects relocating trails, changing signage and maintenance in 2018 have necessitated updates.

Elachee volunteer David Scobey has graciously undertaken the most recent effort to maintain this system. To measure and confirm trail distances, David has traveled the hiking trail system multiple times, using both a handheld measuring wheel and a GPS unit. Data collection includes the newly designated .4-mile Bridge Trail partitioned from the Dunlap Trail last year to limit trail name overlap. As expected, his findings confirm trail distances have changed over time due to hiking trails' relocation.



What's different?

David is now in the process of changing existing mileage marker placements to reflect the adjusted distance measurements along each hiking trail. He is also installing new green mileage markers on the Bridge Trail, its assigned blaze color. Changing terminus mileage markers to reflect the actual trail length makes them more precise. For example, a trail that ends at .68 miles will display that distance on the final mileage marker instead of rounding up to .75 miles, as it did under the former quarter-mile system.

When complete, the Elachee website will reflect these mileage measurement updates as will future Preserve trail maps published by Elachee. In addition, emergency responders and law enforcement will receive this data to support their efforts.

TIPS FOR TRAIL USE AND TRAIL DETAILS: elachee.org/hiking-trails

Otters Spotted

What a sight! Elachee reports a family of Eastern River Otters (*Lontra canadensis*) have been seen frolicking in Chicopee Lake.

You can find this endearing mammal, a member of the weasel family, in a variety of aquatic habitats across Georgia and much



of the Eastern United States, the Pacific Northwest and almost all of Canada.

Since otters are crepuscular animals, the best time to see them from the dock at the Chicopee Woods Aquatic Studies Center at Chicopee Lake is just after sunrise or before sunset. As a bonus, hikers report that they also see beavers (*Castor canadensis*) at this great habitat. **READ MORE:** elachee.org/otter-spotting-at-chicopee-lake

PRESENTED BY
NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL
EVENT SPONSOR
TOYOTA

Raptor Fest

March 16, 2019

General Admission \$10 Per Person
Elachee Members \$5 Each

elachee.org/raptor-fest



19th Annual

Flights of Fancy

BENEFIT & AUCTION

Saturday Evening • April 27, 2019

elachee.org/flights-of-fancy

Sponsorships range from \$500 up to \$10,000.
Secure by February 28 to be on the invitation.

PRESENTED BY
NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL
EVENT SPONSORS
SYFAN LOGISTICS

Trillium Trek

Trail Run & Walk

April 13, 2019

elachee.org/trillium-trek

Bonelli and Bruner Join Elachee Board

"I am an avid trail runner and hiker, and love being able to get out on Elachee's beautiful trails just minutes from my home and office! As a father of four children, I am so thankful to have a world class nature science center where they can learn, grow and spend time together out in nature."

- Phil Bonelli
SVP, Regions Commercial Banking



"Growing up in rural south Georgia I think of myself as spoiled when it comes to the amount of time I could spend playing in the fields and woods. Educating our younger generations on the importance of land conservation, as well as all the great things about being outside, is extremely important."

- Nick Bruner, CPA, CFE, CVA
Partner-Corporate Audit and Consulting
Rushton & Company





VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Greg Gill

New to the area, recent retiree Greg Gill finds value in using his skills to continue learning while contributing to an organization, bigger than himself, that aligns with his passion for wildlife.

Greg has found his ideal role as a volunteer with Elachee's

Animal Room Crew. He honed this affinity with wildlife through his involvement at the Turkey Creek Sanctuary in Palm Bay, FL.

Greg now spends two afternoons each week assisting our Animal Curators in caring for residents in Elachee's live animal exhibit. He has quickly evolved to become the Animal Room Crew's most skilled volunteer thanks to his dedicated, continuous involvement.

Greg prepares food, changes water bowls and makes sure each resident is happy and healthy. While those tasks may not seem to require a lot of expertise, they do! Each resident animal has a unique personality and needs. Greg has quickly learned specific care instructions for each.

Volunteers like Greg and others on the Animal Room Crew make it possible for Elachee to offer interactive educational aids such as this exhibit. This allows our professional staff to prioritize their tasks, knowing routine jobs are being handled with care.

"When we began this program we knew any volunteer who wanted to join would need to be trained and retained to make this program a success," explains Amy Bradford, Community Relations Manager. "We have been blown away by the interest and dedication of our Animal Room Crew volunteers."

JOIN THE ANIMAL ROOM CREW: elachee.org/volunteer

Nature Art Workshops in 2019

Elachee is launching a new Life-Long Learning Program series in March for participants ages 18 and older.

In the Elachee *Nature Sketching and Painting Workshop Program* series, learn to observe and capture subjects in their natural settings using pencil and watercolor. Instructor Sara Oakley of The Art Colony will get you started as a true beginner or help to advance your skill set with customized coaching.

Botanical Illustration and Field Sketching Program

Each 8-week workshop session meets Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Chicopee Woods Aquatic Studies Center at Chicopee Lake. You will keep a nature journal, collect references by camera and sketch/paint on site to then compile into finished paintings.

WORKSHOP SERIES SCHEDULE

SESSION I: April 12 through May 31, 2019

SESSION II: June 7 through July 26, 2019

SESSION III: September 6 through October 25, 2019

ENROLL ONLINE

Program Fee is \$225 per person, per workshop session. Part of each program fee is tax-deductible with funds directly benefiting children's art programs at Elachee Nature Academy.

PROGRAM DETAILS/LINK TO ENROLL: elachee.org/lifelong-learning



GA Master Naturalist Program

Now enrolling. The 2019 spring semester series is 1-5:30 p.m., primarily on Thursdays, from April 4 through June 6, 2019.

Elachee tailors the Georgia Master Naturalist course for the local environment, within the framework developed by The University of Georgia (UGA) Cooperative Extension Service and the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Explore local habitats and ecosystems in this interactive 11-program course. Each guest ecology expert will combine indoor lectures with outdoor field experiences.

COURSE TOPICS

- *Intro to Ecology and Natural Communities of the Piedmont*
- *Georgia Geology*
- *Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers*
- *Spring Bird Migration*
- *Stream Ecology and Amphibians of North Georgia*
- *Mountain Ecology Field Trip of the Piedmont*
- *Lake Lanier and the Upper Chattahoochee Watershed*
- *Trees of Georgia*
- *Fungi of Georgia*
- *Reptiles of Georgia*
- *Butterflies of North Georgia*

ENROLL ONLINE <https://bit.ly/2OQ2geN>

Program Fee is \$300 per person. Elachee members receive a \$25 discount at registration. Pre-registration required. Enrollment is limited to 20. Course participants receive a certificate of completion.

LEARN MORE: elachee.org/lifelong-learning

