

NEWS RELEASE * ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Calendar of Events – January through June, 2010

**Contacts: Karen Legg, elachee@elachee.org
Andrea Timpone, President and CEO
770/535-1976 – www.elachee.org
Photos are available in electronic form for the asking
* Family-oriented programming**

***Elachee Nature Science Center**, the premier environmental education center in Georgia, is celebrating 30 years of building environmental literacy through quality educational field trips, museum exhibits, programs for families and children, and resources for schools, groups, and the general public. Elachee is Georgia's only nature center to be accredited by SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Elachee also serves as the natural resource manager of the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, a 1,500-acre woodland which surrounds the Center, one of the largest greenspace areas in North Georgia and an ideal outdoor learning laboratory for Elachee's hands-on programs. Each year over 35,000 students from more than 35 school systems and an additional 30,000 visitors enjoy Elachee's educational programs and hands-on learning experiences. The Museum Center houses three discovery areas where visitors can explore native plants and animals, local archaeology, astronomy, and displays of live amphibians, reptiles, and hawks.

Seasonal museum hours can be found on the website: www.elachee.org.

Admission to the Center is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 2-12, and Free for children under 2 and Elachee members. Outside the Center, visitors can tour our rain garden and compost demonstration sites, picnic, or hike on any of the 13 miles of trails through the Nature Preserve. Trails are open every day of the year from 8 am – dusk. Use of the trails is free, although donations are welcome. Elachee is located just south of Gainesville, GA., just off I-985 at Exit 17.

Ongoing Programs

***Elachee's Permanent Exhibit: "Waters of Time: The Chicopee Woods Story" – Ongoing.** This exhibit traces the importance of Walnut Creek in the development and preservation of the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, highlighting previous eras and inhabitants of Chicopee Woods through the Ice Age, Native American, Colonial, and 20th Century periods. View two authentic fossilized mosasaur skeletons and explore how cultures lived through historical artifacts, dioramas, and hands-on activities. Children will love climbing on a 1-ton petrified log, making pottery rubbings to take home, and using our computer kiosk to explore Chicopee Woods habitats and animals. Seasonal Hours are available on the website www.elachee.org. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children, Elachee members and children under 2 free. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

***Elachee's Permanent Exhibit: "Searching for Spaceship Earth" – Ongoing.** Take a voyage to outer space in our astronomy hall filled with an array of displays to acquaint you with our solar system, planet earth, and beyond. See a 100 pound meteorite older than any Earth rock, discover how much you weigh on other planets, make a "moon crater", check out the current moon phase, and make a rubbing of star constellations. Keep up to date with the latest earth and astronomy discoveries through ViewSpace, a continually updating video display from NASA's Space Science Telescope Institute including views from the Hubble Space Telescope of earth, other planets, and celestial bodies. Children will enjoy the moonscape and hands-on activities. Seasonal Hours are available on the website www.elachee.org. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children, Elachee members and children under 2 free. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

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***Elachee's Discover Nature Packs – Ongoing.** Check out a free *Discover Nature Pack* and explore nature in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve! The daypacks are filled with nature guides, activities, and fun learning games to help parents maximize their family's woodland experience. Pack versions available are animals, plants, bilingual English/Spanish, and GPS/Orienteering for older children. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

***Elachee's Adopt-A-Friend - Ongoing.** Adoption program for Elachee's collection of 30 live animals that is perfect for school classes, scout groups or individuals. Priced by amount of care and food needed, this educational adoption program is complete with adoption certificate, picture of the animal and info sheet, passes to visit your animal, plus a basket of themed goodies. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

Rent Elachee for Your Next Special Event - Ongoing. Our beautiful facilities are available for your next business meeting, wedding, bridal shower, or anniversary party. You can choose from five unique spaces located in a wooded nature preserve with the beauty of wildflowers and the trill of birdsong in the air. Call for details. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

***Elachee's Birthday Parties for Children- Ongoing.** Leap into nature with Elachee's education-themed birthday parties for children ages 4 and up...bugs, snakes, dinos, amphibians. Party includes a naturalist guided nature hike, craft, animal encounter, party favor, invites, admission to Elachee for 12 friends. Weekdays at 3 pm, Saturdays at 10:30 am or 1:30 pm, reservations required. \$125 Elachee members, \$150 non-members. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

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Elachee's Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, January 9th, 10 am – 3 pm. Join in the fun as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, work gloves, lunch, and rain gear. Tools, training and afternoon refreshments provided. Registration Required. Free. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call for details and to pre-register. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

Elachee's First Wednesday Home School Education Program –Wednesday, January 6th, through Wednesday, May 5th, 1:30-3:30 pm. "Winter Ecology" kicks off this semester's series of 5 programs specially designed for home-schooled students and parents. Each session covers a different science topic with hands-on, educational, and age-appropriate activities. Other subjects this semester will include Georgia Raptors, Home Conservation for Families, Spring Wildflowers at Elachee, and The Fishes of Chicopee Woods. Program Fees: 5 session semester - \$50 per student, \$25 per parent. Pre-registration is required. Call to register. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

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***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Friday, January 22nd, 5:30-7:30 pm.** Learn about astronomy and how to use a telescope to view the night sky. You'll receive an observing log and star chart to assist in seeing constellations, stars, planets, and possibly Moon craters and Apollo landing sites. Suggested for adults and children ages 8 and up. Bring a flashlight and pencil. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call to register and reserve a telescope. Program fee: \$10 Adults, \$5 for children ages 2-12. Elachee members free.

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770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

***First Saturday Hike at Elachee “Winter Birds”, Saturday, February 6th, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. Learn about the birds in the winter woods. Great for families, scout groups and individuals. Program fee: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children ages 2-12. Children under 2 and Elachee members free.

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Elachee’s Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, February 6th, 10 am – 3 pm. Join in the fun as we work to improve Elachee’s trails. Bring water, work gloves, lunch, and rain gear. Tools, training and afternoon refreshments provided. Registration Required. Free. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call for details and to pre-register.

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***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, February 20th, 5:45-7:45 pm.** Learn about astronomy and how to use a telescope to view the night sky. You'll receive an observing log and star chart to assist in seeing constellations, stars, planets, and possibly Moon craters and Apollo landing sites. Suggested for adults and children ages 8 and up. Bring a flashlight and pencil. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call to register and reserve a telescope. Program fee: \$10 Adults, \$5 for children ages 2-12. Elachee members free.

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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee “Signs of Spring”, Saturday, March 6th, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve as we search for signs of spring in the Chicopee Woods. Great for families, scout groups and individuals.

Program fee: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children ages 2-12. Children under 2 and Elachee members free.

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Elachee’s Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, March 6th, 10 am – 3 pm. Join in the fun as we work to improve Elachee’s trails. Bring water, work gloves, lunch, and rain gear. Tools, training and afternoon refreshments provided. Registration Required. Free. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call for details and to pre-register.

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***Adopt-A-Stream Training at Elachee, Friday, March 12th, 6-10 pm, and Saturday, March 13th, 9 am – 4 pm.** Join us for an intensive 1.5-day workshop that will train you to effectively and accurately monitor streams. Learn to delineate your watershed, chemically analyze streams, and identify macro invertebrates. Upon completion you'll be certified by GA Adopt-A-Stream, the state's leading citizen science stream monitoring organization. Trainees under age 18 are welcome when accompanied by an adult. Materials Fee: \$5. Registration required. Call to pre-register. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

Elachee's Backyard Conservation Workshop, Saturday, March 20th, 10 am -12 noon. Learn the rudiments of composting, a natural way to dispose of leaves and other yard materials while building rich soil for the garden. Then explore ways to use barrels and cisterns to capture and store rain water for your gardens or create a new rain garden in your yard. These workshops are made possible by a grant from the City of Gainesville and are free to local residents. Call to pre-register. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, March 20th and Sunday, March 21st, 7:30-9:30 pm.** Learn about astronomy and how to use a telescope to view the night sky. You'll receive an observing log and star chart to assist in seeing constellations, stars, planets, and possibly Moon craters and Apollo landing sites. Suggested for adults and children ages 8 and up. Bring a flashlight and pencil. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call to register and reserve a telescope. Program fee: \$10 Adults, \$5 for children ages 2-12. Elachee members free. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

***First Saturday Hike at Elachee "Wildflowers", Saturday, April 3rd, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve and look for early spring wildflowers. Great for families, scout groups and individuals. Program fee: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children ages 2-12. Children under 2 and Elachee members free. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

Elachee's Backyard Conservation Workshop, Saturday, April 3rd, 10 am -12 noon. Learn the rudiments of composting, a natural way to dispose of leaves and other yard materials while building rich soil for the garden. Then explore ways to use barrels and cisterns to capture and store rain water for your gardens or create a new rain garden in your yard. These workshops are made possible by a grant from the City of Gainesville and are free to local residents. Call to pre-register. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

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***Elachee's Spring Break Camp, April 5th – April 9th, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm.** Children learn to appreciate nature and enjoy the great outdoors in the beautiful Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve surrounding the Center. This popular day camp for elementary-aged children features exciting nature/science topics with learning activities plus the fun of crafts, songs, woodland and creek hikes, making new friends and more. Experienced and trained staff, excellent staff to child ratios, and a warm, personal atmosphere in a well-supervised setting. Before and after-camp care available for an additional fee. Call for details and to register.

Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504
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Elachee's Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, April 10th, 10 am – 3 pm. Join in the fun as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, work gloves, lunch, and rain gear. Tools, training and afternoon refreshments provided. Registration Required. Free. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call for details and to pre-register.

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***Earth Day at Elachee, Saturday, April 17th, 10 am – 1 pm.**

Celebrate our planet and its wonders with outdoor exploration, activities, demonstrations, and lots of fun! Participate in guided hikes, recycled crafts and learning about our natural world through live animal and nature discovery programs, and a special orienteering program. Join Elachee staff and volunteers in a habitat restoration project on Walnut Creek planting seedlings to re-vegetate an area where invasive plants have been removed. This event supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Five Star Restoration Grant and the National Association of Counties.

Admission: Adults, \$5, Children 2–12, \$3, Members: Free.

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Elachee's Pre-order Native Plant Sale. Plant list available on April 1st. Order by April 16th. Pick up at Elachee April 29th noon-6pm.

Pre-order fantastic native plants that will create a garden of color later this spring and summer. Selections include high quality, drought resistant wildflowers, perennials, native azaleas, and woody shrubs that attract butterflies, birds and wildlife.

Call to receive a list and order form or download from www.elachee.org.

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Elachee's Georgia Master Naturalist Program Weekly sessions: April 13th through May 25th, 12:30-5:00pm. Plus 4 field trips, dates to be determined

Join Elachee staff and invited speakers for a hands-on program that explores habitats and ecosystems in Georgia. The program is combination of lectures and outside learning in the Chicopee Woods plus field trips to other locations. Topics include: geology, stream life, spring wildflowers, vertebrate animals, natural resource management, and much more! After completing this fun and interactive program, the Georgia Master Naturalists are encouraged to share their knowledge with their communities by volunteering as trail guides or trail stewards at Elachee.

Program fee: \$125 for all 7 sessions and 4 field trips. Must be 18 or older to participate.

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***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Sunday, April 18th, 7:45-9:45 pm.** Learn about astronomy and how to use a telescope to view the night sky. You'll receive an observing log and star chart to assist in seeing constellations, stars, planets, and possibly Moon craters and Apollo landing sites. Suggested for adults and children ages 8 and up. Bring a flashlight and pencil. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call to register and reserve a telescope. Program fee: \$10 Adults, \$5 for children ages 2-12. Elachee members free.

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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee, "Wildflowers", Saturday, May 1st, 10 – 11:30 am.**

Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve and look for spring wildflowers. Great for families, scout groups and individuals.

Program fee: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children ages 2-12. Children under 2 and Elachee members free.

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Elachee's Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, May 1st, 10 am – 3 pm. Join in the fun as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, work gloves, lunch, and rain gear. Tools, training and afternoon refreshments provided. Registration Required. Free. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call for details and to pre-register.

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Elachee's Flights of Fancy Benefit Auction, Friday, May 7th, 6-9 pm. Come for a casual evening featuring hors d'oeuvres, wine and other beverages, jazz music and a unique silent auction of "flighty" garden items, bird houses, and truly unique yard art created by local artists, notables and Elachee friends. Proceeds benefit Elachee's education programs for children and conservation efforts in the preserve. Call 770/535-1976 for reservations.

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Chicopee Woods Trillium Trek Team Eco-Adventure Race, Saturday, May 15th.

This inaugural event is hosted by Elachee Nature Science Center. The event promises to be a unique challenge of endurance, skill, knowledge, and teamwork. Three or four-person, coed teams will run, bike, hike, orienteer, and identify Georgia flora and fauna as they traverse the 13-mile course through the Chicopee Woods. Entries will be accepted in three categories: family, corporate, and open. Proceeds from the event will support Elachee's mission of environmental education and conservation. Though the exact course of the race is held secret until the race starts, the participants can count on events that will challenge them physically and mentally in almost every kind of terrain. The teams will have to work together to finish each leg of the race and check into each checkpoint. Strategy and intelligence are as important as physical endurance.

For more information or to register, visit www.elachee.org or call 770/535/1976.

Special Trillium Trek Training Clinics

Saturdays: March 20th & 27th, and April 17th & 24th, 10am-1pm

Topics will include orienteering, nature facts, and first aid. Come explore the trails and learn more about the Trek. Call for more information or to register.

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***Camp Elachee Preview Day, Saturday, May 22nd 11am-2pm**

Join us for our annual kick-off to Camp Elachee. Meet our professional, friendly and knowledgeable camp staff. Enjoy guided hikes in the Chicopee Woods. Participate in craft making, guided hikes, special animal programs and other activities that make Camp Elachee the area's best camp. Bring a picnic lunch and take in the beauty of the Chicopee Woods in springtime. Free.

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Camp Elachee Summer Camp

May 24th through August 6th, 9am-2pm elementary & middle school camps, 9am-12 pre-K camp

Elachee Nature Science Center has hosted quality environmental education camps in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve for over 20 years. Each week of camp uniquely blends traditional camp activities and inquiry based learning opportunities set in the beautiful Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. The pace is slow and children-friendly. Our campers study nature while walking trails, wading in creeks, creating crafts, and singing songs. Their adventures and experiences at Camp Elachee increase their knowledge and appreciation of nature while they strengthen life-long connections to the natural world. Elementary, middle school, and pre-K camps available. Morning and afternoon extended care is also available. Call or check our website for details and registration information.

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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee “Stream Animals”, Saturday, June 5th, 10 – 11:30 am.**

Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. Investigate Walnut Creek to inspect and identify native aquatic animals. Great for families, scout groups and individuals. Program fee: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children ages 2-12. Children under 2 and Elachee members free.

Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504.
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Elachee's Trail Crew Work Day, National Trails Day, Saturday, June 5th, 10 am – 3 pm.

Join in the fun as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, work gloves, lunch, and rain gear. Tools, training and afternoon refreshments provided. Registration Required. Free. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call for details and to pre-register.

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Project WET, WILD and Adopt-A-Stream for Teachers

Tuesday - Friday, June 22nd - 25th, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Elachee is pleased to offer a new summer education course for teachers that will enable participants to become certified in *Project WET*, *Project WILD* and *Georgia Adopt-A-Stream* while earning three (3) PLUs. Each participant will receive Project WILD and WET Curriculum Guides and a complete set of Adopt-A-Stream resource and instructional materials. Elachee staff will conduct the training in the classroom and the field. The cost for this exciting new course is \$90 per participant.

Call for details and to pre-register.

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