

## NEWS RELEASE \* ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RE: Calendar of Events – June - December 2010**

**Contacts: Karen Legg, [elachee@elachee.org](mailto:elachee@elachee.org)  
Andrea Timpone, President and CEO  
770/535-1976 – [www.elachee.org](http://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 over 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 was Georgia's first and is currently metro Atlanta'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 green space 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 archaeological history, astronomy, and displays of live amphibians, reptiles, and hawks. Seasonal museum hours can be found on the website: [www.elachee.org](http://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., 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century periods. View two authentic fossilized mosasaur skeletons and explore how cultures lived through actual 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.elachee.org).

## **Elachee Nature Science Center**

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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](http://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](http://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](http://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. Choose from a variety of themes: bugs, snakes, dinos, and amphibians. Party includes a nature hike, craft, animal encounter, party favors, 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](http://www.elachee.org).

### **Calendar of Events June – December 2010**

**Elachee's Summer Camp. May 24th - August 6th, 9am - 2pm for elementary and middle school camps; 9am - 12pm for Pre-K camp.** Morning and afternoon extended care available. Call or check our website for details and registration information. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. [www.elachee.org](http://www.elachee.org).

**\*First Saturday Hike at Elachee "Stream Animals", Saturday, June 5th, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike to explore the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. Learn about the creatures inhabiting the streams that flow through the Preserve. 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](http://www.elachee.org).

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**National Trails Day at Elachee. Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 3pm;**

A good day of exercise, camaraderie, and doing something good for the planet! Join us as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, lunch, work gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and afternoon refreshments included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call or e-mail [preserve@elachee.org](mailto:preserve@elachee.org) for details and to register.

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**Project WET, WILD and Adopt-A Stream for Teachers. Tuesday - Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-4:00pm.**

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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770/535-1976. [www.elachee.org](http://www.elachee.org).

**\*First Saturday Hike at Elachee “Young Animals of the Chicopee Woods”, Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike to explore the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve and learn about the animals living here. 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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770/535-1976. [www.elachee.org](http://www.elachee.org).

**Elachee's Volunteer Trail Crew Work Day. Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 3pm.**

A good day of exercise, camaraderie, and doing something good for the planet! Join us as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, lunch, work gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and afternoon refreshments included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call or e-mail [preserve@elachee.org](mailto:preserve@elachee.org) for details and to register.

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**Elachee's First Wednesday Home School Education Program –Preview Day, Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am – 1:00pm.** Visit Elachee to see what our First Wednesday Home School Program series is all about. Tour the buildings, take a guided hike on the trails, visit the live animal room, and talk to the Education Director and Program Manager about the series which begins August 4th. You can register for the upcoming year or the first semester that day.

Program Fee: Free

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**Elachee's First Wednesday Home School Education Program for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 through Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 1:30-3:30 pm.** A series of programs specially designed for home-schooled students and parents. Each session covers a different science topic with hands-on, educational, and age-appropriate activities. Subjects this year include Fall Migration, Tree-mendous Trees, Wild Georgia Math, Watersheds, and much more. Program Fees: 10 session program year - \$75 per student, \$35 per parent; 5 session semester - \$50 per student, \$25 per parent. Pre-registration is required. Call to register.

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**Elachee's Junior Master Naturalist Home School Program for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Older, Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 1:30 – 3:30 pm.** New for rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade home school students! Learn effective teaching skills and audience management while studying a variety of science topics in Chicopee Woods and other sites in northeast Georgia. Elachee staff and visiting experts will provide instruction and additional resources. Each person will receive a certificate at the end of the program. Participants are encouraged to volunteer at Elachee or elsewhere upon completion of the program. The fee is \$75 for the entire series. Call to pre-register.

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**Elachee's Volunteer Trail Crew Work Day. Annual Tool Clean-Up & Cookout. Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am- 1pm.** Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call to pre-register.

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770/535-1976. [www.elachee.org](http://www.elachee.org).

**\*Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 10:00 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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**Elachee's Georgia Master Naturalist Program. Weekly sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 - 5:30pm, August 17<sup>th</sup> - October 19<sup>th</sup>, plus one field trip to Tumbling Waters in Rabun County on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 5pm.**

Join Elachee staff and invited speakers for a hands-on program that explores habitats and ecosystems in Georgia. The program is a combination of lectures and outside learning in the Chicopee Woods plus a field trip to another location. Topics include: geology, stream life, fall 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: \$160 for all ten sessions plus one field trip. Must be 18 or older to participate. Call for more information and to register.

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**First Saturday Hike at Elachee “Reptiles and Amphibians”, Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. Learn about native animals with dry scales and slimy skin. 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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**\*Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 – 9:15pm.** 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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**\*Elachee's Annual Snake Day. Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 2pm.** See a wide variety of live native and exotic snakes and reptiles at our most popular public program! Dispel your myths and fears about reptiles and learn why they are important to our world from our expert exhibitors. Children can also enjoy crafts and activities. Sponsored by Tipton Construction Company. Program fee: Adults, \$5, Children 2–12, \$3, Members: Free.

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**Elachee's Pre-order Native Plant Sale. Pre-order dates: September 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Pickup day: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 12 – 6pm.** Pre-order fantastic fall plants that will create a garden of color later this autumn. Selections include high quality, drought resistant wildflowers, perennials, native azaleas, and woody shrubs that attract butterflies, birds and wildlife. Call (770) 535-1976 to receive a list and order form or download from our website.

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**\*First Saturday Hike at Elachee “Fall Migration”, Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join us in the search for the beautiful varieties of birds that inhabit and migrate through our local area during the fall. Aided by a trained naturalist, this is a great opportunity 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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**Inspired By Nature – Elachee’s Safari Benefit Dinner & Auction, Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 – 10pm.** Enjoy a casual evening of cocktails, dinner, jazz music, and live and silent auctions featuring unique artwork, trips, entertainment activities, and items from local merchants. Proceeds benefit Elachee environmental education programs. Reservations required in advance. Tickets: \$75 per person, or sponsor tables are available. Call for details and reservations.  
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**Elachee’s Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 3 pm.** A good day of exercise, camaraderie, and doing something good for the planet! Join us as we work to improve Elachee’s trails. Bring water, lunch, work gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and afternoon refreshments included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call or e-mail [preserve@elachee.org](mailto:preserve@elachee.org) for details and to register.  
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**\*Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 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 even 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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**\*Elachee’s Family Fall Festival. Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 - 5pm.**  
See a live animal program, play games, make crafts and have fun at this new Elachee event. Enjoy hikes, costumed animal characters, face painting, and much more.  
Admission: Elachee members, \$3; non-members, \$5.  
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**\*First Saturday Hike at Elachee “Fall Colors”, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve and learn about Georgia’s tree species. 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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**\*Adopt-A-Stream Training at Elachee, Friday, November 12th, 6-10 pm, and Saturday, November 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 accurately 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 in advance. Registration required. Call to pre-register.

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**\*Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, November 13th, 5:00 – 7:00 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 even 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 "Holiday Scavenger Hunt", Saturday, December 4th, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. 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 Winter in the Woods Holiday Celebration, Saturday, December 11th, 10am – 1pm.** Families can take a break from the season's busy schedule to enjoy the holidays with natural seasonal crafts, candy cane hunt, face painting, cookie decorating, holiday music, and winter hikes. Admission: Adults \$5, Children 2-12 \$3, Members and under 2 are Free.

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**\*Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, December 11th, 5:00 – 7:00 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 even 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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