

NEWS RELEASE * ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER

Scheduled as of 2/14/09

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Calendar of Events – February – June 2009

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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 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. 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 16.

Ongoing Programs

Elachee Programs for Teachers and Educators, Ongoing. Experience high quality, experience-based environmental/nature education at Georgia's first SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accredited nature center! Choose from more than 30 different programs for all grade levels correlated to Georgia's Performance Standards and Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT). Programs for schools, home-school groups, scouts and community groups, are held at Elachee within a 1,500-acre nature preserve...an ideal outdoor classroom...or at your site/school. Teacher education programs are also available. Fees vary based on program length. 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 woodland or 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 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 actual artifacts, dioramas, and hands-on activities. Children will love searching for real fossils in the dino dig box, 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.

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***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, make a rubbing of star constellations, and watch an astronomy video. 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, hands-on activities and special reading area. Seasonal Hours are available on the website www.elachee.org. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children, Elachee members and children under 2 free.

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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.

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***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.

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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.

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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee - Winter Ecology, Saturday, February 7th, 10 – 11:30 am..** Join a naturalist on a guided hike to explore the winter beauty and ecology of the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. Learn how plants and animals adapt to the change in weather. 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 Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, February 7th, 10 am – 3 pm. Join us as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, lunch, gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and afternoon snack included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 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, February 28th, 6-8 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, Saturday, March 7th, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike to search for early spring wildflowers 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 Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, March 7th, 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, gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and afternoon refreshments included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call to pre-register.

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Elachee's Backyard Conservation Workshops, Saturday, March 7th, Composting 10-11 am and Rain Garden/Rainwater Collection, 11 am – 12 Noon. Learn the basics of composting, rain garden design and rain barrel construction. Explore composting, a natural way to dispose of leaves and other yard materials while building rich soil for your garden. Then investigate rain garden creation and rain barrel construction to capture, store and reuse rainwater around your home. These workshops are made possible by a grant from the City of Gainesville and are free to local residents, but pre-registration is required. Call or email elachee@elachee.org to register.

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Elachee's Pre-order Plant Sale. March 16th – April 3rd. Pre-order high quality, drought resistant native plants that attract butterflies, birds and wildlife to your yard. This spring's selections include perennials, grasses, ferns, shrubs and azaleas. Order by April 3rd for pick up on Wednesday, April 22nd 12noon-4pm or Thursday, April 23rd 4-7pm at Elachee. Call to receive a list and order form or download from www.elachee.org.

Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504.
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Elachee's Backyard Conservation Workshops, Saturday, March 21st, Composting 10-11 am and Rain Garden/Rainwater Collection, 11 am – 12 Noon. Learn the basics of composting, rain garden design and rain barrel construction. Explore composting, a natural way to dispose of leaves and other yard materials while building rich soil for your garden. Then investigate rain garden creation and rain barrel construction to capture, store and reuse rainwater around your home. These workshops are made possible by a grant from the City of Gainesville and are free to local residents, but pre-registration is required. Call or email elachee@elachee.org to register.

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Adopt-A-Stream Training at Elachee, Friday, March 27th, 6-10 pm, and Saturday, March 28th, 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. Registration required. Call to pre-register.

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***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Friday, April 3rd & Saturday, April, 4th, 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 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, Saturday, April 4th, 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 spring. Guided 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.

Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504
770/535-1976. www.elachee.org.

Elachee's Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, April 4th, 10 am – 3 pm. Join in the fun as we work to improve Elachee's trails. Bring water, lunch, gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and afternoon snack included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call to pre-register.

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Elachee's Backyard Conservation Workshops, Saturday, April 4th, Composting 10-11 am and Rain Garden/Rainwater Collection, 11 am – 12 Noon. Learn the basics of composting, rain garden design and rain barrel construction. Explore composting, a natural way to dispose of leaves and other yard materials while building rich soil for your garden. Then investigate rain garden creation and rain barrel construction to capture, store and reuse rainwater around your home. These workshops are made possible by a grant from the City of Gainesville and are free to local residents, but pre-registration is required. Call or email elachee@elachee.org to register.

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***Elachee's Spring Discovery Camp, April 6th – April 10th, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm.**

Spend spring break having fun outdoors and discovering the wonders of spring in the Chicopee Woods! Elementary aged children (grades K-5th) learn to appreciate nature through exciting learning activities plus the fun of crafts, songs, and woodland hikes. Investigate nature/science topics like animal, plant and water study, astronomy, forest exploration, and archaeology. Before and after-camp care is available for an additional fee. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call for details and to register or visit our website at www.elachee.org.

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Elachee's Pre-order Plant Sale Pick-up. Wednesday, April 22nd, 12noon - 4pm & Thursday, April 23rd, 4-7pm. Pick-up times for your pre-ordered plants are Wednesday, April 22nd, 12noon - 4pm & Thursday, April 23rd, 4-7pm at Elachee. Limited quantities of some varieties of our high quality, drought resistant perennials, grasses, ferns, shrubs and azaleas may be available for purchase at these times.

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***Earth Day at Elachee, Saturday, April 25th, 9am – 3pm.** Celebrate our planet with a morning of service in the Chicopee Woods and an afternoon of nature exploration at Elachee. Join our natural resource staff working on beautification and maintenance projects in the Preserve from 9am – noon. Bring a picnic lunch for a break from 12-1pm and then stay from 1-3pm to enjoy animal and wildlife programs presented by Elachee staff including bird and wildflower hikes and live animal programs. Pre-registration is required. To sign up call 770-535-1976 or email elachee@elachee.org. All activities are free for those participating in the morning service projects. Admission for those not participating in the morning events: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children ages 2-12. Children under 2 and Elachee members free.

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Elachee's Flights of Fancy Benefit Auction, Friday, May 1st, 6-9 pm. Join fans of winged wildlife and Elachee supporters for a casual evening featuring beverage bar, light dinner fare, live jazz and an auction of truly unique yard art, garden sculptures, and hand decorated bird houses and feeders created by local artists, notables and Elachee friends. Proceeds benefit Elachee's education programs for children and conservation efforts in the preserve. Tickets are \$30 per person in advance. Call 770/535-1976 for reservations.

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***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Friday, May 1st, and Saturday, May 2nd, 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 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, Saturday, May 2nd, 10 – 11:30 am.** Join a naturalist on a guided hike to learn about medicinal plants growing 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 Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, May 2nd, 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, gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and afternoon refreshments included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call to pre-register.

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***Camp Elachee Preview. Saturday, May 23rd, 11am – 2pm.** Join us for fun and the opportunity to tour our facility, meet our camp staff, see our live animals and sample camp activities like hiking, crafts, and games. You can even register while you're here! Free.

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***Camp Elachee 2009. May 26th – August 7th, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm.** Pre-K, elementary, and middle school youngsters experience outdoor, active fun in these hands-on nature and science-oriented programs in a woodland setting. Weekly sessions feature fun activities including hiking, creek exploration, games, songs, crafts, and special programs relating to the theme of the week. Weekly themes include animals, reptiles, insects, water, energy, astronomy, geology, art, woodland exploration and middle school mountain biking. Extended care available. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call for details, a brochure and to register, or visit our website at www.elachee.org to download a brochure, registration form, or register online.

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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee. Saturday, June 6th, 10 – 11:30 am.** Explore the kinds of animals that inhabit the streams of the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve with the assistance of an Elachee naturalist. 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 National Trails Day in the Chicopee Woods. June 6th, 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, gloves and rain gear. Tools, training, and snack included. Free. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call to pre-register.

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Adopt-A-Stream Training at Elachee, Friday, June 19th, 6-10 pm, and Saturday, June 20th, 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. Registration required. Call to pre-register.

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