

## NEWS RELEASE \* ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER

Scheduled as of 12/2/08

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Calendar of Events – 2009

Contacts: Dottie Suchke, Communications, [dottie@elachee.org](mailto:dottie@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

### Ongoing Programs

**Elachee Science Programs for Students, Teachers, and Educators, Ongoing.** 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's 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](http://www.elachee.org).

**\* 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 by visiting previous eras and inhabitants of Chicopee Woods. Time periods highlighted include 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 searching for real fossils in the dino dig box, climbing on a 1-ton petrified log, playing the animal habitat game and making pottery rubbings to take home. 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, 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. See amazing 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. 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).

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**\*Elachee's Discover Nature Packs – Ongoing.** Borrow a free *Discover Nature Pack* to help you 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. Check one out in the museum lobby.  
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...bugs, snakes, dinos, amphibians. Party includes nature program with a naturalist, animal encounter, party favors, invites, choice of a nature hike or craft activity, and admission to Elachee for 12 friends. Reservations required in advance. Call for details and to book a time. \$125 Elachee members, \$150 non-members.  
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**\*Elachee's Adopt-A-Friend - Ongoing.** Participate in Elachee's adoption program for our 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 and info sheet of the animal, passes to visit your animal, and a gift 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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**Calendar of Events January – March 2009**

**\*Elachee's First Wednesday Home School Education Program – Daytime Astronomy, Wednesday, January 7th, 1:30-3:30 pm.** A series of programs specially designed for home schooled students and parents with hands-on, educational, age-appropriate activities. This first session of the semester features daytime astronomy with lessons about the solar system, sunspots, and the movement of planets. Pre-registration for the semester is required. Program Fee for series of 5 programs: \$50 per student and \$25 per adult. Call for information.  
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**Elachee's Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, January 10th, 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. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770/535-1976. [www.elachee.org](http://www.elachee.org).

**Elachee's Members Only Program - Astronomy – Saturday, January 31st, 5:30-7:30pm**  
Elachee members can take advantage of this special program to learn about stars, constellations and planets in the night sky with the assistance of our telescopes and resident astronomer. This program is one of the Free events for Elachee members but please call to reserve a telescope as space is limited.  
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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.  
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**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](http://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.  
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**\*First Saturday Hike at Elachee – Early Spring Wildflowers, 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! Help 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 21st, Composting 10-11 am and Rainwater Collection, 11 am – 12 Noon.** Learn the basics of composting, a natural way to dispose of leaves and other yard materials while building rich soil for the garden. Then explore ways to capture and store rain water with barrels and cisterns for creating a rain garden. These workshops are made possible by a grant from the City of Gainesville and are free to local residents. Call to pre-register.

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**Elachee’s Pre-order Plant Sale. Plant List available in March.** Pre-order 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.

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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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