

NEWS RELEASE * ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER

Scheduled as of 10/10/08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Calendar of Events – 2008

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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 29+ years of building environmental literacy through quality educational field trip experiences, 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 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 50,000 visitors enjoy Elachee's educational programs and hands-on learning experiences. The Center is open to the public Monday - Saturday 10 am – 5 pm where visitors can tour three discovery areas that explore astronomy, local archaeological history, and a display of live amphibians, reptiles, and hawks. Admission to the Center is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 2-12, children under 2 and members of Elachee admitted free. Outside the Center you can visit 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 and use of the trails is free, although donations are welcome. Elachee is located just south of Gainesville, GA and less than one hour from metro Atlanta. Take I-985 to Exit 16, Oakwood and follow the signs to the nature center.

Ongoing Programs

Elachee Programs for 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, and scout 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.

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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, and making pottery rubbings to take home. Monday-Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children, Elachee members and children under 2 free. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504.
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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 that is 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. Monday-Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children, Elachee members and children under 2 free. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504.
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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.
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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. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504.
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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. Elachee Nature Science Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504.
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Calendar of Events, October – December 2008

***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Friday, October 3rd, 6:45-8:45pm.** Learn to use a star chart and telescope to view planets, stars, and constellations in the night sky. Suggested for adults and children ages 8 and up. Bring a flashlight and pencil. Pre-registration is required due to limited space available. Call to register and reserve a telescope. Program fee: Adults, \$10; Children ages 2-12, \$5; Elachee members free.

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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee, Saturday, October 4th, 10 – 11:30 am.** Investigate local and migrating species of birds on a naturalist-guided hike in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. This interpretive hike is a great time for families, scout groups and individuals to learn more about our natural world. Program fee: Adults, \$5; Children ages 2-12, \$3; Children under 2 & Elachee members free.

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Georgia Mountains Archaeology Society. Saturday, October 4th, 10am-3pm. History enthusiasts can join members of the archaeology club for their monthly meeting to do field studies and categorize artifacts. Free. Membership fee to join club. Those under age 18 need to be accompanied by an adult. Please email to register and confirm location at mfjtwynn@bellsouth.net.

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Inspired By Nature - Elachee's Safari Benefit Dinner & Auction. Saturday, October 4th, 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, \$125 for two, \$225 for four, and sponsor tables are available. Call for details and reservations.

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***Elachee's Members Only Fall Program – Birds and Migration – Saturday, October 11th, 8-11am.** Elachee members can take advantage of this special free program to see and learn about the beautiful varieties of birds that inhabit and migrate through our local area. Our experienced birders will assist you in searching for beautiful and interesting species found in the treetops and around Chicopee Lake.

For current Elachee members only. Free. Call to register.

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Elachee's Trail Crew Work Day, Saturday, October 11th, 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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Adopt-A-Stream Training at Elachee, Friday, October 17th, 6-10 pm, and Saturday, October 18th, 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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Elachee's Backyard Conservation Workshops, Saturday, October 18th, Composting 10-11 am and Rainwater Collection, 11am – 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.
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***Elachee's NightFall Halloween Festival. Friday, October 24th & Saturday, October 25th, 6–9 PM.** Enter the nighttime forest for a non-scary adventure to learn about nocturnal creatures from our animal-costumed naturalists. Also see a live animal program and enjoy crafts, face painting, storytelling, stargazing, and treats for the children. Sponsored by Jackson EMC. Admission: Elachee members, \$3; Non-members, \$5. Jackson EMC employees receive \$2 admission discount per person with Jackson EMC employee ID card.
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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee, Saturday, November 1st, 10 – 11:30 am.** Investigate the tremendous trees of Chicopee Woods along with other seasonal sights on a naturalist-guided hike. This interpretive hike is a great opportunity for families, scout groups and individuals to learn more about our natural world. Program fee: Adults, \$5; Children ages 2-12, \$3; Children under 2 and Elachee members free.
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***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Saturday, November 1st, 6:15-8:15pm.** Learn to use a star chart and telescope to view planets, stars, and constellations in the night sky. Suggested for adults and children ages 8 and up. Bring a flashlight and pencil. Pre-registration is required due to limited space available. Call to register and reserve a telescope. Program fee: Adults, \$10; Children ages 2-12, \$5; Elachee members free.
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***Georgia Junior Duck Stamp Art Tour, November 10th – December 23rd, Monday-Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm.** Elachee is pleased to again host the 100 winning waterfowl renditions created by students throughout the state. These entries in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Contest represent hours of waterfowl and habitat research by K-12 students culminating in their amazing art creations in pencil, watercolor, and collage. Sponsored by the Federal Wildlife Service. Admission (includes entire museum): Adults, \$5; Children ages 2-12, \$3; Children under 2 and Elachee members free.

Weed Warrior Training Workshop. Saturday, November 15th, 9am – 2pm. Learn to identify exotic invasive plants found here in Georgia and then investigate removal and control techniques for different species. Participants should bring work gloves. Snacks, drinks, and lunch provided. Pre-registration required. Free. Call or email judith@elachee.org to register.
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***Stars Over Elachee at Chicopee Lake, Friday, December 5th, 5-7pm.** Learn to use a star chart and telescope to view planets, stars, and constellations in the night sky. Suggested for adults and children ages 8 and up. Bring a flashlight and pencil. Pre-registration is required due to limited space available. Call to register and reserve a telescope. Program fee: Adults, \$10; Children ages 2-12, \$5; Elachee members free.
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***First Saturday Hike at Elachee, Saturday, December 6th, 10–11:30 am.** Explore the Chicopee Woods on a winter scavenger hunt of seasonal sights with assistance from one of our knowledgeable naturalists. This interpretive hike is a great opportunity for families, scout groups and individuals to learn more about our natural world. Program fee: Adults, \$5; Children ages 2-12, \$3; Children under 2 and Elachee members free.
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***Elachee's Winter in the Woods Holiday Celebration, Saturday, December 13th, 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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