

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER**

*1979-2009 - Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence  
in Environmental Education and Conservation.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RE: Community Earth Day 2009 Events**  
**TODAY'S DATE: March 23, 2009**

**CONTACTS: Andrea Timpone, President and CEO, 770/535-1976**  
**Frank Armstrong, Earth Day 2009 Chairman, 770/536-0101**

Gainesville's Elachee Nature Science Center, Featherbone Communiversity, Brenau University, and an alliance of local churches have teamed up to offer a unique set of activities to commemorate Earth Day 2009 in the Gainesville area.

Entitled "Celebrate Earth Day 2009" these four Earth Day events are designed to help people reconnect with Planet Earth, teach people to advocate for a healthy and sustainable environment for everyone, and remind people of the importance of green space preservation and stewardship of our natural resources.

Kicking off the series is "**Stewardship of the Earth...Why Should We Care?**" on **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at St. Paul United Methodist Church on Washington Street in Gainesville.** Katy Hinman, Executive Director of the Atlanta-based Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) and Alexis Myers also with GIPL, will present a program about becoming active and responsible stewards to protect the Earth with a focus on energy conservation. The presentation will include viewing the documentary "Kilowatt Ours," a discussion of carbon footprints, and a Q & A session. The event is free and open to the public. Advance registration is encouraged (but not required) by calling the church office at 770/532-2977 or emailing them at [office@st-paul-umc.org](mailto:office@st-paul-umc.org). Additional biographical info is attached.

**On Wednesday, April 22 (officially Earth Day ) at 5 pm at Featherbone Communiversity, 999 Chestnut Street in Gainesville, noted Georgia-born author and green space advocate Janisse Ray** will conduct an open dialogue entitled "**Live Earth Day Every Day**" and book signing. A writer, naturalist, and activist, Janisse is the author of three books of literary nonfiction. She won numerous awards for her 1999 book *Ecology of A Cracker Childhood*, a memoir about growing up in the ruined longleaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast. The event is free and open to the public and pre-registration is not required. Additional bio information for media is attached.

Get in a morning of hands-on volunteer work and then enjoy an afternoon of learning at "**Earth Day At Elachee**" at **Elachee Nature Science Center on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 3 pm.** Projects are available for all ages and will include mulching

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Elachee's picnic area and gardens, planting trees, and re-vamping of a dry stream bed. Follow your morning of service with a BYO bag lunch from 12-1 pm and then join an Elachee staff naturalist for an educational 45-60 minute walk/hike in the incomparable Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. Hike topics include birding, spring wildflowers, and general nature interpretive hikes of 45-60 minutes in length. All activities are free for those participating in the morning volunteer projects. Fee for those not participating in the morning projects: \$5 adults, \$3 children (includes admission to Elachee's museum that day). Call Elachee to sign up: 770/535-1976.

Episcopal priest, professor of religion at Piedmont College, and noted author, **The Reverend Barbara Brown Taylor** will conduct a dialogue and book signing at a luncheon on **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at First Baptist Church on Green St. in Gainesville** featuring her new book *An Altar In The World: The Geography of Faith* just released in February. Rev. Taylor is the author of twelve books and lives on a working farm in north Georgia. The event is open to the public and the \$10 fee will cover the expense of lunch. Members of the First Baptist Congregation should contact the church to register. All others may register by calling Elachee at 770/535-1976 with credit card information. Additional biographical information for media is attached.

Plan to participate in one or all of these Earth Day 2009 activities to help the planet we all share.

Additional biographical information is attached.

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## **Additional Biographical Information Earth Day 2009**

**Dr. Katy Hinman, Executive Director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL)**, began her career with GIPL in 2004. She earned her PhD in Ecology and Evolution at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2003, and earned her Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University Atlanta in May 2006. Katy is a candidate for ordination in the United Methodist Church and is a member of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Atlanta. [www.gipl.org](http://www.gipl.org).

**Alexis Myers, Communications and Outreach Director for GIPL**, joined the staff in September 2008. She earned her Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary and is pursuing ordination in the Episcopal Church.

**Janisse Ray** lectures widely on nature, community, organic agriculture, native plants, sustainability, and the politics of wholeness. As an organizer and activist she works to create sustainable communities, local food systems, a stable global climate, intact ecosystems, clean rivers, life-enhancing economies, and participatory democracy. She is a founding board member of Altamaha Riverkeeper and is on the board of the Environmental Leadership Center of Warren Wilson College and Satilla Riverkeeper. In addition to her first book, *Ecology of A Cracker Childhood*, Janisse's other books include: *Wild Card Quilt: Take A Chance On Home* about rural community, published in 2003, and *Pinhook: Finding Wholeness In a Fragmented Land*, the story of a 750,000-acre wildland corridor between south Georgia and north Florida, published in 2005. She also writes essays, poetry, and fiction and attempts to live a simple, sustainable life on a family farm in southern Georgia with her husband and college aged son. Watershed address: little ten mile creek @ten mile creek@altamaha river @ atlantic ocean.

**Reverend Barbara Brown Taylor** was named as "One of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world" by Baylor University. Taylor holds degrees from Emory University and Yale Divinity School. Before she entered full-time teaching, Taylor spent 15 years in parish ministry. She is a sought-after speaker and teacher around the world and is the author of twelve books. She lives on a working farm in north Georgia with her husband and a wide variety of creatures. [www.barbarabrowntaylor.com/bio.htm](http://www.barbarabrowntaylor.com/bio.htm)

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