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Issue Date: 3/24/08

**ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER'S "FLIGHTS OF FANCY" FUNDRAISER
CELEBRATES SPRING**

Original Outdoor Art Showcase, Auction of Bird Houses and Garden Art, Friday May 9th

GAINESVILLE, GA -- Here's an event that's strictly for the birds ... and for fans of winged wildlife, art lovers and friends of the Elachee Nature Science Center. An array of hand-decorated birdhouses, garden sculptures, whimsical yard art, bird feeders and butterfly houses created and donated by local artists and friends of Elachee Nature Science Center are the highlight of Flights of Fancy, the annual spring fund-raising event for the center.

From 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 9th, guests will gather at the Center off Atlanta Highway for a casual evening of live jazz, beverage bar, light dinner fare, and bidding on live and silent auction items against the backdrop of the stunning woodland setting which surrounds the Center. Tickets are \$30 each.

"The variety of creations is amazing ... from a pair of tiled chalets to a rustic house to a surfer's hut for birds," said Jane White, event chairperson. "The event is a great chance to pick up a functional birdhouse or a unique piece of art for your home or garden while enjoying a pleasant evening with good company. And best of all, it supports Elachee Nature Science Center, the premier nature center in Georgia."

"We added a live auction last year and more unique items were donated such as like statuary, garden fountains, painted glassware, and hand-painted furniture and windows, all with great success," said White. The planning committee plans to expand the selections even further for this year's event.

Sponsors for the event include: Presenting sponsor The McKibbon Family; Platinum sponsors are Turner, Wood and Smith Insurance, and Morton, Vardeman and Carlson; Bronze Sponsor is Georgia Power; and promotional sponsors for the event include AdMark Strategies, and Matthews Printing.

Flights of Fancy event tickets are available by calling the center at 770-535-1976. Proceeds benefit Elachee's education programs for students and families and our environmental preservation efforts. Can't make it to event but want to help out? Elachee welcomes donations of your creations or purchased items.

Elachee Nature Science Center is a private, not-for-profit organization providing environmental education programs for over 38,000 students plus 38,600 family program participants and trail users. Located in the 1,500-acre Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve an hour north of Atlanta in Gainesville/Hall County, the protected wilderness area is an ideal outdoor classroom for nature education.

For more information and to reserve tickets for the fundraiser. call the center at 770-535-1976.

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