



Annual Program Report June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

Elachee Nature Science Center

Educating for Today...Preserving for Tomorrow

Mission Statement

Elachee Nature Science Center's mission is to promote environmental understanding through education and conservation

Accomplishments

Our annual progress report highlights the many ways your support has advanced education and conservation during our fiscal year of June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011.

Education

- Instructed 33,700 students from 22 school districts in over 700 environmental education programs and added five new classes to our slate of 30+ environmental education programs all correlated with the state curriculum standards.
- Provided 1,700 hours of nature education instruction in our monthly homeschool education series and added new "Junior Master Naturalist" program for middle and high school students.
- Conducted a successful Camp Elachee day camp program for 692 preschoolers, elementary and middle school youngsters.
- Working on our mid-point progress report for our recent re-accreditation by SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) as the only nature center in the entire southeast to hold this prestigious recognition.
- Provided NPDES required instruction in watershed protection for Hall County and the cities of Oakwood and Flowery Branch.
- In public programming, educated 40 participants in our new Master Naturalist class for adults, offered a

Preservation

- Completed testing and yearly monitoring on Walnut Creek showing improved fish and macroinvertebrate populations as part of Phase I of the Mitigation Bank, which restored 2,600 linear feet of stream.
- Utilized 2,600 volunteer hours building and maintaining hiking trails and removing exotic invasive plants.
- Completed exotic invasive plant control on 30 acres in the Chicopee Woods with funding from the 2010 5-Star Restoration Grant.
- Monitored endangered plant populations in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, noting all populations remain healthy, and constructed trail-side fencing to discourage foot traffic near one population of plants.
- Offered quarterly Adopt-A-Stream training for community members to obtain certification as citizen scientists who collect water quality data on local streams.
- Welcomed 10,000 visitors to our 12+ miles of hiking trails.

(continued on page 2)



Education (continued from page 1)

new educational/informational film series, entertained and educated 1,500 attendees at Snake Day and 300 at our Family Fall Festival in 2010, welcomed 270 children and adults in our First Saturday hikes, family astronomy, and backyard conservation programs, and hosted 1,500 museum visitors to our live animal room, museum exhibits and Jr. Duck Stamp exhibition.

- Witnessed an increase in the area's only on-the-lake ecology program aboard the *Chota Princess II* floating classroom in cooperation with Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper.

Preservation (continued from page 1)

- Conducted a trail user survey of over 1,500 visitors collecting data including zip codes, why they hike here, frequency of their visits, and noting their comments and recommendations.
- Added "Conservation News" page to Elachee's website with articles on all our conservation projects in the Preserve and in Chicopee Woods Area Park.

Also Noteworthy

- Conducted a Nature Preschool feasibility study with a grant from the Atlanta-based Waterfall Foundation aided by a pro-bono consult with MBA level professionals from Community Consulting Teams of Atlanta.
- Hosted a visiting team of 4 nature center professionals from our national association, ANCA (Association of Nature Center Administrators), from the upper midwest who conducted a three-day consult with us on the feasibility of a Nature Preschool. We also exchanged information on nature center best practices in a variety of areas including programming, facilities, management, finances, marketing, staffing, community partnerships, etc.
- Completed all facility improvements funded by "Grants to Green," a grant program of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, including energy efficient lighting and HVAC upgrades with a resulting 21% decrease in electricity consumption.
- Accomplished an "extreme makeover" of our Live Animal Room with generous assistance from the Flowery Branch Home Depot which provided supplies and volunteers.
- Re-planted and expanded plantings in the butterfly garden with the assistance of Hall County Master Gardeners, and redesigned and re-planted the Dunlap Garden at the entrance to the main building.
- Held successful fall and spring plant sales featuring native plants and attracting a new audience to Elachee.
- Conducted a successful Spring Donor Appreciation Brunch at Brenau.
- Elachee staff remain active members of Earth Share of Georgia, the Association of Nature Center Administrators and the GA Environmental Education Alliance.
- Held two very successful fund-and friend-raising events including Flights of Fancy in May 2011 raising a record \$22,000 in revenue to support our mission plus a great Safari event in Fall 2010 netting \$54,000.
- Initiated a new fundraising event, "Nights Out For Nature", a first-ever series of monthly dining events with a portion of each evening's proceeds being donated to Elachee for education and conservation.
- Launched a new and expanded web page and added multiple social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and a blog) to our communications efforts.
- Recorded a total of 424 volunteers completing 7,401 hours of service at Elachee in a wide variety of capacities.
- Honored several remarkable individuals for their outstanding service to Elachee including:
 - Rick Taylor as the 2011 recipient of the Robbie McCormac Volunteer Service Award for his many hours of service assisting us with technology matters;
 - Mike Whitmire with the Oak Leaf Award for his 17 years of service on our Board of Trustees and Advisory Board; and
 - Awarded Dr. Leonard Geiger (Dr. G.) posthumously with the Ed Dodd Conservation Award for his tireless work on behalf of Elachee's mission and vision.
- Updating our Strategic Plan for 2011-2013 with SWOC (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges) sessions with Board, Advisory Board and Staff.



Finances for Operations

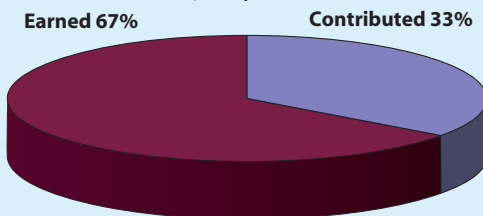
Revenue FYE 2011

Contributed	\$ 258,142
Earned	\$ 513,098
Total	\$ 771,240

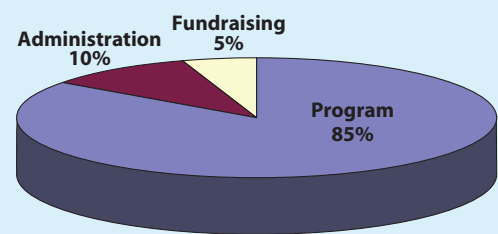
Expenses FYE 2011

Program	\$ 641,211
Administration	\$ 77,115
Fundraising	\$ 36,435
Total	\$ 754,761

Revenue FYE 2011
\$771,240



Expenses FYE 2011
\$754,761



Donors to the Annual Education Fund

We are grateful to the many individuals, businesses and foundations that contribute to our annual campaign which raises operating funds to support our education and conservation work. Your gifts mean more children can learn about nature and how to protect the environment for future generations. Annual gifts also help conserve the natural resources of the incomparable 1,500-acre Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve as an important green space in our community and a unique place where citizens of all ages can learn and enjoy nature. The list represents gifts received during our fiscal year from June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011.

Major Donors

White Oak Circle – Signature Gifts
Eleanor Dunlap

White Oak Circle – Platinum Gifts
Tommy and Chantal Bagwell/American Proteins

John and Mary Franklin Foundation
Jock and Joyce Horner
Jackson EMC Foundation/Operation Roundup

Jackie and Dale Nabb
Richard and Phyllis Leet
Wells Fargo Foundation

White Oak Circle – Gold Gifts
James Baugh
Bright Wings Foundation
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Bobbie & Dallas Gay
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White Oak Circle – Silver Gifts
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Charles and Donna Collins
Ralph and Mary Cleveland Foundation
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Gainesville First United Methodist Church
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Toni and Lane Hurst
Hall County Master Gardeners
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White Oak Circle – Bronze Gifts
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Cynthia and Strother Randolph
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Rotary Club of Gainesville
Tipton Construction Company
United Community Bank
Nell Wiegand

White Oak Circle – Pewter Gifts
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Friends' Gifts to the Annual Education Fund

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Emily Bagwell
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Coca Cola Foundation
Margie Berman and Ed Cook
Bill and Meg Bohn
Charles and Jane Bradley
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Regina and Austin Edmondson
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Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Eure
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Janice and Daryl Fincher
James Alec Gelin
Ann George



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 Anne B. Martin
 Frank and Shantha McDonald
 Garry and Margaret McGlaun

Brenda and Robert Mead
 Joe Meadows
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 Bob and Dee Milledge
 Liane Miller
 Gladys and Ned Mynatt
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 Stephen and Joris O'Malley
 Helen Outler
 Alice and Tom Paris
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 Betsy and Durward Pennington
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 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
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 Linda Reid
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 Ricky Watford
 Richard Wernick
 Dave Westfall
 Mike Whitmire
 Brian Willman

We strive to provide complete and accurate lists. If a correction is in order please call our development office at 770-535-1976.

We are also grateful to the many Elachee members, community partners, in-kind donors, volunteers, event sponsors, and fundraising event committee members numbering over 850 who support us in our work in a variety of ways. Due to space limitations and our efforts to reduce the amount of paper we produce and keep expenses lower, we regret that we cannot list them all in this report. Know that we are grateful to all our supporters for your time, talents, and friendship.

Elachee continues to "go green" by reducing the amount of paper we produce. We encourage you to join us in this effort by utilizing our webpage at www.elachee.org for more information on our programs and events. You can sign up to receive our bi-monthly e-newsletter via our website, email us at elachee@elachee.org, or call us at 770/535-1976.

Now you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter

