This, That and the Other

New! Look for quarterly mailed newsletters in November, February, May and August, in addition to our monthly enewletters. Plus, visit us at elachee.org or on social media for timely Elachee news. Stay connected. Sign up to receive email updates at elachee@elachee.org or call 770-535-1976.

Gathering of Like Minds

Elachee will host a series of Science Nights at Recess Southern Gastro-Pub the second Tuesday of September, October and November. Arrive early to purchase your meal, then join the discussion at 6:30 p.m.

Where’s the Buzz?

University of North Georgia Professor Dr. Evan Lampert kicks off this environmental public programming on September 11, 2018. He will provide expert analysis on insect populations, why we need them and what is happening to them.

DETAILS: elachee.org/public-programs/lifelong-learning

Evangel Lampert pictured with daughter Claire, a student in Elachee Nature Academy’s Preschool. He is a frequent guest presenter at Elachee’s seasonal lifelong learning programs, and recently delighted children during the Mad Science Mayhem week at Camp Elachee 2018, where Claire was his “bug” helper.

Touch a Snake!

Encounter creatures that slither and crawl at Elachee’s 26th Annual Snake Day on Saturday, September 8. This nature education festival is a family-friendly favorite!

A Festival of All Things Reptilian

Snake Day showcases nearly two dozen herpetological experts who will entertain audiences with live exotic species of snakes, alligator, lizards, turtles, tortoises, toads and frogs at this action-packed festival. Make crafts, buy souvenirs, eat yummy food and hike, too!

DETAILS: elachee.org/snake-day

Clint Eller, with Those Reptile Guys, will return as an exhibitor at Snake Day 2018 to delight Elachee visitors with live reptile encounters.

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Snake Day

September 8, 2018
10 AM to 3 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION
$10 Per Person
(Ages 2 and up)

ELACHEE MEMBERS
$5 Per Person

FREE Shuttles to/from
Designated Parking Areas

LOCATION
Elachee Visitor Center
2125 Elachee Drive
Gainesville, GA 30504
770-535-1976
elachee.org/snake-day

PRESENTED BY

Membership Rewards

Elachee annual membership is $100. Membership includes two (2) named adults and up to four (4) of their children and/or grandchildren. In addition to valuable discounts (admission, Camp Elachee and nature education programs), you get a 12-month Chicopee Woods Conservation Area parking pass!

DETAILS: elachee.org/membership
Spring Fundraiser Hits Its Mark

The 2018 Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction raised $112,676 at the May 5 event. This supports program expenses and percent of Elachee’s annual operations budget.

Hosted by the Elachee Board of Trustees, this popular fundraiser on the Nature Center’s outdoor patio is Elachee’s primary annual fundraising benefit focusing the region’s children, families and nature lovers. Money raised provides critical funding for educational programming and conservation initiatives.

Not only was Flights a sold-out event, a record number joined Elachee as sponsors this year! We are also grateful to the scores of auction donors for a fabulous selection of eclectic nature related art and outdoor entertaining items and excursions.

This event is possible thanks to our volunteer steering committee’s creativity, dedication, time and energy: Ginny Barber, Beth Bell, Jennie Clayton, Cathy Cob, Allyson Everett, Cindy Gay, Sybil Mal Beheler, Jock Horron, Debbie McCarron, Gal McBennick, Abby Murray, Amanda Norton, Sally Oliver, Brandi Paul, Amanda Watkins, Jane White and Morgan Wood.

Fund the Need Response Helps Young Students

More than $26,000 of the total amount raised at Flights of Fancy was in response to the event’s Fund the Need appeal. Our guests’ generosity helped Elachee reach 70 percent of the $37,000 annual need to award financial aid to qualifying students enrolled in the on-campus Elachee Nature Academy Preschool and Kindergarten-1st Grade programs for the 2018-19 school year. LEARN MORE: ElacheeNatureAcademy.org

Save the Date: 2019 Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction is Saturday, April 27, 2019. DETAILS: elachee.org/flights-of-fancy

Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs DETAILS: elachee.org/calendar

Aug. 11, 2018 … "Stars Above Elachee at Chippokes Lake MOONLITE" (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)

Sep. 11, 2018 … Science Night at Roscoe

Oct. 6, 2018 … "Spook into the Past" (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)

Oct. 9, 2018 … "Science Night at Roscoe" (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)

Nov. 13, 2018 … Science Night at Roscoe (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)

Feb. 16, 2019 … "Bird Walk at Chippokes Lake" (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)

Mar. 18, 2019 … "Birds of the Eastern Shore" (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)

Apr. 13, 2019 … "Midnight Tennis Tow Fun Run" (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)

Apr. 27, 2019 … "Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction" (See Fall 2018 through Spring 2019: Events and Public Programs)
**DONOR PROFILE**

**Dave and Faye Westfall**

In 1978, Dave Westfall caught wind of an idea about starting a nature center in the area that others in the Gainesville community were tossing around. “I was immediately hooked,” he recalls.

A few months later, Dave and wife Faye were sitting at the kitchen table with Leonard and Becky Geiger talking about these dreams that soon became reality, and the start of Elachee. Now 40 years later, Dave wants others to know what a unique opportunity it is for a community of this size to have the added value of an amenity such as Elachee Nature Science Center and the 1,440-acre Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve.

“We are proud to support the Elachee organization, a good steward of the natural world that we want to be available for our grandchildren who are 8 and 11,” says Dave. “When they get to be our age, Faye and I want them to still have the chance to enjoy places like Elachee and the Chicopee Woods.”

Dave recently had to start taking mandatory retirement fund withdrawals. The Westfalls found that through a Qualified Charitable Distribution, they could support Elachee in an even more tax-friendly way.

“Elachee has been very much a part of our lives and vision for the community,” Dave shares. “We have always financially supported Elachee. It’s never been a question of if, just how.”

As you plan an annual or a legacy gift to Elachee, there are numerous options to consider. We would be honored to meet with you to learn more about your wishes and how Elachee may help meet your philanthropic goals. Please call 770-535-1976.

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**Woods Whisperer**

*Insights from Dave McCarroll*

In his roles as a volunteer Trail Steward and on Elachee’s Trail Crew, Dave McCarroll has seen a lot the past 20 years. He asks, “How do we share and educate newcomers on conservation lessons, share these values of stewardship and instill an appreciation of wild areas?” A visit to one of Georgia’s largest protected green spaces is a first step.

“A fellow who moved to Gainesville from Gwinnett County told me how much he loves seeing so many snakes and other wildlife in Chicopee Woods,” Dave shares. “He compared the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve with other parks that he felt were more sterile, having a more developed and less ‘natural’ feel to them.”

“I appreciate what it takes to keep the Park going, and like knowing Elachee provides order and structure for Chicopee Woods by having an active land manager to function as an authority figure responsible for land management and protection.”

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**School Days Resume**

Last spring Issac, a Kennedy Elementary first-grader wrote this note after his field trip that reads (with corrected spelling), “Thank you for teaching us about plants and animals. I learned that seeds have their own food inside them.”

Teachers all across north Georgia are booking their Elachee field trips and Elachee in Your Classroom programs. The grade-specific and accredited STEAM-based environmental programs for students in grades Pre-K through 12 offer children in our region the chance to experience memorable and meaningful nature encounters.

**2018-19 PROGRAM DETAILS:** elachee.org/school-programs

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**Six Years of ‘Growing Up Naturally’**

In August, Elachee Nature Academy welcomes students for the sixth year to its Nature Preschool and the third year for the innovative Nature Kindergarten-1st Grade program.

“I look forward to seeing my students make new discoveries while learning new things,” says K-1 teacher Melissa Miner. “We have a plethora of outdoor teaching spaces that I cannot wait to utilize such as the amphitheater, hiking trails and gardens.”

LEARN MORE: elacheenatureacademy.org or call 770-535-1976

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**Incredible Camp Elachee**

*Mad Science Mayhem, Creature Feature and Space Camp* are among the nine weekly summer day camps that 943 children enjoyed at Camp Elachee 2018. We’ve captured highlights!

READ CAMP ELACHEE 2018 BLOGS: elachee.org/blog