

# Nature Mixed In

Quarterly News from Elachee Nature Science Center • November 2019



## With Appreciation...for You!

*Message from Andrea Timponi, Elachee President/CEO*

As we wrap up another great year at Elachee and reflect on many successes, all of us here recognize these *could not be accomplished* without the generous support of the many individuals and businesses contributing their work, wealth and wisdom to this organization. *Every contribution* is vitally important, furthering Elachee's mission

to promote environmental understanding through education and conservation. This holiday season, please consider a financial gift to Elachee – a gift that will benefit thousands of children, nature lovers and the Chicopee Woods in 2020.

I hope you enjoy seeing examples of these successes in the enclosed report, *Elachee 2019 Annual Highlights: By the Numbers*. We have compiled a summary revealing the results of our efforts to support and grow Elachee's work-in-progress.

Elachee's team of dedicated school teachers, environmental educators, trustees, volunteers and administrators strive every day to educate and inspire young people, as well as visitors to the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, to explore, respect and protect our natural world. Together with you, we look forward to continuing this most important work in 2020. **MAKE A GIFT:** [elachee.org/donate](http://elachee.org/donate)

## New Digs for Our 'Teaching Residents'

### ADOPT AN ELACHEE ANIMAL FRIEND



Have you visited Elachee's newly renovated live animal exhibit? There are 25 different animal species living here. They reside in curated habitats as part of the interpretive exhibits for all visitors to enjoy. Elachee animal friends are also teaching assistants, helping our environmental educators give students and nature lovers a better appreciation for these and other creatures.

If you are looking for a seasonal gift, birthday present or a 'just because' reason to honor someone close to you, make an 'adoption' donation of \$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100 to become an *Elachee Animal Friend Sponsor*. Your gift will help defray the cost for food, habitat supplies and residents' veterinary care at the Nature Center. We will acknowledge this gift for one year with a nameplate located near the animal's home in the exhibit. Plus, you'll get some Elachee goodies to give, including an adoption certificate! **LEARN MORE:** [elachee.org/animal-adoption](http://elachee.org/animal-adoption)

## In This Issue

- 1...Message from Elachee's President/CEO
- 1... Adopt an Animal Friend
- 1... ENA New Student Enrollment
- 1...2020 Raptor Fest
- 1... 2020 Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction
- 2... Winter Solstice Elementary Day Camp
- 2... Camp Elachee: Spring Break Day Camp
- 2... Camp Elachee: Summer Day Camps
- 3... Elachee's Honor Roll of Donors
- 4... Volunteer Profile: Mandi Whiting
- 4... 2020 Trillium Trek Trail Run & Walk
- 4... Hiking Trails' Bridge Replacement

### SPECIAL 'ANNUAL REPORT' INSERT

*Elachee 2019 Highlights: By the Numbers*

## Growing Up Naturally



## Elachee Nature Academy

PRESCHOOL • KINDERGARTEN - 1st GRADE

**Enrollment Opens January 13 for  
2020-2021 Academic Year**

**DETAILS:** [ElacheeNatureAcademy.org](http://ElacheeNatureAcademy.org)



## Raptor Fest

**MARCH 21, 2020**

**EVENT DETAILS:**  
[elachee.org/raptor-fest](http://elachee.org/raptor-fest)

*Special Thanks to 2020  
PRESENTING SPONSOR*

**NORTHSIDE  
HOSPITAL**

20th ANNUAL

## Flights of Fancy

BENEFIT & AUCTION

**Saturday Evening • April 25, 2020**

[elachee.org/flights-of-fancy](http://elachee.org/flights-of-fancy)

Sponsorships \$300 up to \$2,500





# CAMP ELACHEE

## School Break Adventures

### Winter Solstice Elementary Day Camp

**CAMP DATE:** Friday, December 20, 2019

Current Kindergarten–5th Graders, join us for one fun-filled, ‘out of this world’ day of celestial camp activities.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:** [elachee.org/camp-elachee](http://elachee.org/camp-elachee)

### Spring Break 2020: 1-Week Day Camp

**CAMP DATES:** April 6-10, 2020

Pre-Kindergarten and elementary-age campers get a taste of summer fun planned for Camp Elachee 2020.

**REGISTRATION OPENS:** February 1, 2020

### Camp Elachee 2020: 9 Themed Weekly Summer Day Camps

**CAMP DATES:** June 1 through July 31, 2020

Pre-K, elementary and middle school campers will trek through our 1,440-acre woodland, explore creeks for critters, make crafts, sing silly camp songs and forge lasting friendships! **REGISTRATION OPENS:** February 1, 2020

[elachee.org/camp-elachee](http://elachee.org/camp-elachee)

Apply for **Camp Counselor jobs** and **Counselors-in-Training leadership opportunities** starting February 1, 2020.

CAMP ELACHEE  
PRESENTED BY



## Partnering with Elachee is a Sound Investment

Leverage your annual 2020 marketing and/or community outreach spend by making an effective, single investment with Elachee.

1. Become an Annual Sponsor. Choose the investment level with the benefits package most relevant to you. Or,
2. Select seasonal Event Sponsorships to gain visibility for your business or organization (*Flights of Fancy, Raptor Fest, Trillium Trek Trail Run, Snake Day, Elachee Science Nights*).

Achieve your 2020 marketing and/or philanthropic goals while engaging with your community and customers!

Call Kim Marks, 770-535-1976 ext. 226 or email [kim@elachee.org](mailto:kim@elachee.org) to discuss.

**GET DETAILS:** [elachee.org/support](http://elachee.org/support)



#### \$50,000 and Up

James & Eleanor Dunlap Charitable Trust  
\*\*Northside Hospital  
The Estate of Catherine O. Sale and Susan J. Rogers

#### \$20,000 to \$49,999

Boatwright Legacy Foundation Fund  
\*\*Cargill, Inc.  
\*\*McCormac, Mike and Robbie  
Robert G. & Gloria S. Molloy Foundation

#### \$15,000 to \$19,999

Jackson EMC Foundation, Inc.  
\*\*Tipton Construction Company

#### \$10,000 to \$14,999

\*\*Chattahoochee Marketing Group  
\*\*Fieldale Farms Corporation  
Gay, Dallas and Bobbie  
John and Mary Franklin Foundation  
\*\*McKibbon, Steve and Gale  
\*\*Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Inc.  
REI Co-op

#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

Browne, Diana  
Cobb, Will and Cathy  
Elizabeth Johnson Estate  
EarthShare of Georgia  
\*\*Gainesville Flooring  
Gay, Jeff and Cindy  
\*\*Jackson EMC  
\*\*James A. Walters Management Co.  
Lanier, Louis  
Loan South Finance Corporation  
\*\*Smith, Gilliam, Williams & Miles, PA  
Walton Electric Trust, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
\*\*Willis Investment Counsel, Inc.  
ZF Gainesville, LLC

#### \$2,500 to \$4,999

Brand Properties, LLC  
Chester Family Investments  
Chester, David and Gail  
Chestnut Mountain Logistics  
Girardeau, John and Judy  
Mar-Jac Poultry, Inc.  
Oliver, Tom and Sally  
Roy C. Moore Foundation  
Turner, Wood & Smith Insurance Co.  
University of North Georgia

#### \$1,000 to \$2,499

Alexander, Almand & Bangs, LLP  
Armstrong, Carol Ann  
Bagwell, Emily and Ben Kastner  
Bagwell, Tommy and Chantal  
Barber, Steve and Ginny  
Calkins, Tom and Maria  
Cromartie, John and Julia  
Dr. Hart Joiner Endowment for Children and Youth/Rotary Club of Gainesville  
Eisner, David and Adrienne Lloyd  
Evans, Julie  
Fockele, Mark and Mildred  
Fowler, Linda  
Frazier, Don and Frankie  
Fritchley, Ron and Martha  
Georgia Power Foundation  
Gilliam, Steve and Susan  
\*Gram, John

## Promoting Environmental Understanding through Education and Conservation

*Financial Gifts and Sponsorships by Donor Received During Reporting Period: June 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019*

Herdener, Tony and Cathy  
Hornor, Jock and Joyce  
Hurst, Lane and Toni  
Jones, Janice  
Junior League of Gainesville-Hall County  
Lanier Tent Rental  
Mangus, Doug and Diane  
McDonald's, NEGA Inc.  
Miles, Kelly and Mandy Smith  
Milton Martin Honda  
Milton Martin Toyota  
Nesbitt, Pete and Martha  
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.  
Purple House Gallery and Framing  
Ralph and Mary Cleveland Foundation  
Ratowt, Sylwester and Ryan Fogg  
Schrader, Ed and Myra  
Shores, Douglas and Deborah  
Smithgall, Lessie  
Stewart, Melvin & Frost, LLP  
Syfan Logistics  
Truelove, Dixie and Michael Smith  
United Community Bank  
Walmart Supercenter #510  
Westfall, Dave and Faye  
Whisenhunt, Kelvin and Anu  
White, Jane and Joe Amerling  
Whitehead Die Casting  
Wood, Trey and Morgan

#### \$500 to \$999

Bagwell Insurance Group  
Bell, Beth  
Branch Banking & Trust Company  
Brenau University  
Burzotta, James and Paula  
Bush, Phillip and Judith  
Camping World-Oakwood  
Chattahoochee Country Club  
Cotton Calf Kitchen  
Cox, Carlyle and Bernice  
Cutler, Bruce and Margaret Pate  
Dodd, Rosemary  
Dorsey, Sage and Lynne  
Ferguson, Robert and Julie  
Fockele Garden Company  
Gainesville Urology  
Gohman, Carole  
Goodrich, Jane  
Gordon, Peter and Stephanie  
Howard Brothers  
Irminger, Beatrice  
Johnston, Ann-Margaret  
Kiwanis Club of Gainesville  
McLendon, Scott and Sonja  
Meadows, Joe and Donna  
Memorial Park Funeral Homes and Cemeteries  
Murray, Alma  
Nix, Ken and Cathy  
Nordholz, Kary and Katie  
Oates, Richard and Kathy  
Paul, Brandi  
Rauch, Sam and Pat  
Rhoads, Bill and Sarah  
Rives, William and Elizabeth  
RMS Associates, Inc.  
Rushton & Company  
Sauret, Tom and Belinda  
Schrage, Lorry and Sherrie  
Schwartz, Perry and Valerie

Shirley Family Foundation, The  
Simone, Jean and James Bell  
Sisk, Odis and Rachel  
Smith, Louis and June  
Sommer, Eula  
Status Home  
Tisinger, Robert and Marian  
Tracy Tesmer Design/Remodeling  
Trembley, Al and Mary Beth  
UNG Foundation  
Vlasz, Barbara  
Walker, Chris  
Williams, Lea and Claudia  
Wynn, Jack

#### \$100 to \$499

Adler, Judy  
Affordable Trophies and Awards  
Allied Mechanical  
Askew, Danny and Lynda  
Bagwell, Sarah  
Bales, Kevin and Tracey  
Barton, Mark and Rose  
Bell, Robert  
Bixler, Robert and Cynthia Carlisle  
Bonelli, Phil and Lindsay  
Brodie, Jean  
Brown, Paul and Barbara  
Bryson, Homer and Lisa  
Buford Lanier Woman's Club  
Burch, Madge  
Burd, Jack and Pat  
Burgess, John and Denise  
Burnette, Greg and Alison  
Caldwell, Dale  
Carpenter, Craig and Judy  
Centers, Jeanine  
Ceska, Patrick and Jennifer  
Chestnut Mountain Elementary PTO  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
Clancey, Kevin and Carolyn  
Collin, John and Ann  
Collins, Jonathan  
Copper, Robert and Charlotte  
Corrosion Specialties, Inc.  
Creative Arts Study Club  
Darden, John and Sally  
DeRoche, Debby  
Dillon, Vic and Terri  
Donaldson, John and Laura  
Drymalski, Geri  
Dunlap, Kit  
Dwyer, Eleanor  
Dyarmett, Chuck and Betty  
Ewing, Jim and Ellen  
Foote, Rick and Carolyn  
Freeman, Richard and Rosemary  
Friend, Jayne  
Frozen Frenzee LLC  
Full Media  
Gainesville Eye Associates/Lori Lebow MD  
Gainesville Motorsports  
Gardner, Lance and Kelly  
George, Anne  
Glenn, Steven and Tamra  
Gohman, Kevin and Valerie  
Goodman, Ken and Faith  
Grist, David and Sharon  
Gurley, Henry and Elizabeth  
Guzman, Anna  
Hamby, Nathan

Harper, Simon and Kourtney  
Hasbrouck, Peter and Catherine  
Healan, Michael and Melissa  
Hemmer, John and Jane  
Herrero, Diego  
Hudson, Bill and Nancy  
Hunt, Richard and Sandra  
Hyslop, Natalie  
Jackson, Bill and Helen Outler  
Johnston, Brian  
Jones, Ellza  
Jones, George and Starlet  
Kannapell, Henry and Cecily  
Kiehl, Johanna and Karen Wilson Porter  
Kilroy, Jay and Amy  
Lane, Don and Sandra  
Langston, Buddy and Evie  
Law, Lillian  
Lebor, Andrew and Juliette  
Left Nut Brewing Company  
Loutzenheiser Family  
Mall, Tom and Mary Anne  
Marks, Roger and Kim  
Martin, Anne B.  
McArtor, Robert  
McGlaun, Garry and Margaret  
McMillan, Grace  
Mincey Marble Manufacturing  
Moore, Nancy  
Moraitakis, Pete  
Morris, Robert and Catherine  
Motes, Nolie  
Mundy Mill HOA  
Mundy, Tom and Alice Ann  
Murray, Randall and Dottie  
Norton, Mark and Cindy  
Nott, Roger  
O'Connor, Carol  
O'Malley, Stephen and Jorie  
Padgham, Julia  
Penrose, Margaret  
Pinson, Ronnie  
Poolos, Nell  
Rehm, Timothy  
Reid, Linda  
Riverbend Elementary PTO  
Scharld, Nicholas and Tamra  
Shields, Robert  
Silcox, Hal and Caroline  
Simmons, Ron and Katie  
Sowers, Carol  
Sparks, James  
St. Pierre, Bryan and Judy  
Stone, Brent and Brooke  
Stonepoint LLC  
Synergy Wellness  
Taylor, Zachary and Joanie

Tilden, Daniel  
Tilden, Linda  
Timberlake, Cotten and Bhushan Bahree  
Unnold, Lloyd and Bonnie  
VanLanen, Sue  
Vardeman, John and Peggy  
Volino, Steven J.  
Washburn, Maureen  
Wells Fargo  
Wheelabrator  
Whiting, Adam and Mandi  
Williams, Christopher and Christa

#### Up to \$99

Cleveland, John and Cathy  
Adams, Kimberly  
Applebaum, Stanley  
Bagwell, Susan  
Bain, Walter  
Baker, Christine  
Barclay, Bill  
Becker, Lisa  
Benfield, Janice  
Bowers, Donna  
Bradford, Amy  
Braff, Margie  
Brinson, George and Carolyn  
Brooks, Leta  
Bruce, Catherine  
Bruner, Nick and Amanda  
Burnett, Dannella  
Cape, John and Luanne  
Carlough, Sarah  
Casey, Olivia  
Clay, Brooks and Juli  
Cook, Ed and Marjie Berman  
Cook, Walter  
Corner, Max and Patricia  
Cunningham, Lola  
Cunningham, Ruth  
Dunwoody Woman's Club  
Durisch, Lawrence  
English, Bill  
Enns, Kevin and Kimberly  
Everett, Jason and Allyson  
Finfrock, Don and Marne  
Fitzsimons, Jennifer  
Formato, Joseph and Jean  
Forrester, Louise Hendrix  
Fulmer, Eric  
Gelin, James Alec  
Gill, Greg and Martha  
Gilleland, John  
Golden, Giovanna  
Grooms, Paul  
Harbuck, Hiram and Rosalyn  
Hayden, Ryan

\*Deceased

\*\*Elachee Annual Sponsor

Haydn, Daniel and Erin  
Hayes, Abb  
Herrin, Kay  
Hess, Bill and Cheryl  
Hill, Ann Brodie  
Hillis, Amy  
Hopkins, Benjie and Marsha  
Hosford, Susan  
Howard, Cindy  
Irminger, Charles  
Jacobs, Martha  
Jardine, Mary  
Johnson, Albert and Asden  
Johnson, Donald and Ferdie  
Jones, William T.  
Kennedy, Anne and William  
Kennedy, Kaitlyn  
Krauss, Mimi  
Kroger Community Rewards  
Lawler, Tara  
Ledford, Bruce and Laura  
Lee, David and Rose Mary  
Livingston, Betty  
McLeod, John and Virginia  
Meeks, Ashton  
National Business Institute, Inc.  
North Hall Lions Club, Inc.  
O'Neal, Liza  
Porter, Jean  
Proctor, Charlotte and Wendy  
Glasbrenner  
Rawlins, Shannon and Jennifer  
Reed, Sonrisa  
Sapp, Jim  
Schuetze, Robert and Karen  
Seaton, Jenn  
Seywerd, Katerine  
Smith, John and Margie  
Smith, Samuel  
Southerland, Jim and Regina  
Starke, Lydia  
Strawn, Marley  
Stroud, Ann  
Tallant, Meredith  
Tanguay, Pierre  
Taylor, Susan  
Tebbe, Jessica  
Thompson, Ashley  
Thompson, James Martin  
Trotter, Anne  
Tucker, Lindsey  
Tucker, Zolly  
Walch, Kevin  
Waller, John and Elaine  
Watkins, John and Fran  
Wernick, Richard and Cristi  
Wheeler, Cheryl

## January-May Elachee Seasonal Events & Public Programs

**DETAILS:** [elachee.org/calendar](http://elachee.org/calendar)

Jan. 4, 2020 ... *Stars Over Elachee*  
Jan. 14, 2020 ... *Elachee Science Night*  
Feb. 1, 2020 ... *Stars Over Elachee*  
Feb. 11, 2020 ... *Elachee Science Night*  
Feb. 15, 2020 ... *Birding Hike at Chicopee Lake*  
Feb. 29, 2020 ... *Stars Over Elachee*  
Mar. 10, 2020 ... *Elachee Science Night*  
**Mar. 21, 2020 ... *Raptor Fest***  
Mar. 28, 2020 ... *Stars Over Elachee*

Apr. 2, 2020 ... *Spring GA Master Naturalist Series Begins*  
Apr. 4, 2020 ... *Stars Over Elachee*  
Apr. 6-10, 2020 ... *Camp Elachee Spring Break Day Camp*  
Apr. 14, 2020 ... *Elachee Science Night*  
**Apr. 18, 2020 ... *Trillium Trek Trail Run & Walk***  
**Apr. 25, 2020 ... *Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction***  
May 2, 2020 ... *Stars Over Elachee*  
May 12, 2020 ... *Elachee Science Night*  
May 30, 2020 ... *Stars Over Elachee*





## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### Mandi Whiting

Introduced to Elachee in 2015 through her job with digital marketing firm Full Media, when the Nature Center launched a new web site, Mandi today has two additional ties here. She chairs Elachee's 2020 *Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction*

volunteer host committee. Plus, Mandi's oldest son attends Elachee Nature Academy (ENA).

Mandi and husband, Adam, along with their three children, 5-year-old Brady and 16-month-old twins, Davis and Owen, are now regulars at Elachee. Brady went to Camp Elachee this past summer and was thrilled to play in a creek. In August, he joined ENA's Kindergarten class. Her son's love of Elachee spurred Mandi to serve on the *Flights*' organizing committee last spring, which has evolved into her chairing the 20th annual event, taking place Saturday evening, April 25, 2020.

"Full Media's owner, Kris Nordholz, is very big on giving back to the community, allowing his employees time to volunteer for an organization that they're passionate about. For me, that's Elachee," Mandi explains. "I believe in the importance of Elachee's mission, to educate people about nature and to provide a beautiful place for families to enjoy nature, by preserving the Chicopee Woods."

One of Mandi's goals as the 2020 *Flights of Fancy* volunteer chair is to introduce as many new people as possible to Elachee "so that they can also benefit from this incredible resource."

This fun social event brings together some 250 friends and supporters on Elachee's outdoor patio for a farm-to-table dinner, auction and lively activities. Area businesses and individuals get involved with this annual fundraiser through sponsorships and by donating nature- and outdoor-themed items and experiences.

Brady is a constant reminder to Mandi of Elachee's value. "Every day he's so excited to talk about what he saw and what he did," she shares. "The children are learning what they would in a traditional classroom. What's different is the way the teachers get the students excited by incorporating nature into the lessons. It's genius!"

Brady is also spreading the word. "He tells everyone he meets that he goes to 'nature school,' and how much fun it is," confides this resident of Braselton, Ga. "So many of my friends are amazed when I post pictures on social media of him at Elachee. They'll say, 'Where is that beautiful school? What a cool place!'"

**READ MORE:** [elachee.org/mandi-whiting-volunteer-profile](http://elachee.org/mandi-whiting-volunteer-profile)

*Elachee Nature Academy is an accredited and fully licensed school, offering Preschool and Kindergarten-1st Grade programs. The school is managed and operated by Elachee Nature Science Center and follows the Hall County Schools' academic calendar. Visit [www.ElacheeNatureAcademy.org](http://www.ElacheeNatureAcademy.org) to learn more.*



# Trillium Trek

APRIL 18, 2020 TRAIL RUN & WALK

HALF-MARATHON & 5K RUN/WALK in CHICOPEE WOODS

RACE REGISTRATION: [elachee.org/trillium-trek](http://elachee.org/trillium-trek)

## New Walnut Creek Bridge

If you hiked in Chicopee Woods this summer and early fall, you likely saw piles of wood along the trails. Among recent updates to the hiking trail system is a newly constructed pedestrian bridge across Walnut Creek. This 35-foot bridge, along the Bridge Loop,



replaced a 15-year-old structure that was showing visible signs of stress due to age, wear and pressure from forceful stream flow. Volunteers carried lumber to the construction site, staging it along the way, then reversed the process to remove the old bridge debris from the Nature Preserve.

Some 65,000 hikers and joggers travel across this Walnut Creek Bridge each year. Elachee's Volunteer Trail Crew actively maintained the previous bridge as this pedestrian access point is vital to the hiking trail system. However, earlier this year Elachee's Natural Resources Manager, Lee Irminger, elevated priority to replace it. Thanks to a grant from REI Co-op along with a generous 'gap' donation from an avid Chicopee Woods hiker, bridge replacement and construction began in June.

From a pick-up truck, to an ATV, the trail crew then teamed up to hand-carry each 16-foot board another tenth of a mile along the trails to the construction site. A contractor worked to demolish the old bridge and construct the new bridge. Volunteers from ZF-Gainesville LLC worked alongside the trail crew to haul the old bridge debris out of the Preserve.

"The bridge helps people view a wilderness area in the middle of an urban sprawl," says Trail Crew Volunteer Dave Mc Carroll.

This bridge marks the first of many to be replaced as part of Elachee's ongoing upkeep of the Preserve trails.

**READ FULL STORY:** [elachee.org/new-walnut-creek-bridge](http://elachee.org/new-walnut-creek-bridge)

