



By the Numbers

2018 Annual Highlights





elachee.org/lifelong-learning

Lifelong Learning

56 hours of tailored ecology instruction and field studies for adult learners in north Georgia, led by environmental experts.

4 Custom Programs in 2018

- **Brown Bag Lecture Series**

Monthly Lunch-and-Learn Presentations

- **Birding Hike at Chicopee Lake**

A real-time, citizen scientist data collection of local wild bird populations, as part of the national Great Backyard Bird Count.

- **Georgia Master Naturalist Series**

An 11-session, spring semester lecture and field study program that explores local habitats and ecosystems.

- **Elachee Science Nights**

A monthly public forum for the community to engage an environmental expert in lively dialogue at Recess Southern Gastro-Pub.

Fascinating Joro Spider

The *Nephila clavata* is an exotic Asian species weaving its web across the region. The suspected ground zero point for its 'invasion' is 13 miles from Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve! Area scientists are keeping track of the Joro spider's ecological impact as it spreads into a new habitat. An Elachee Facebook post hit a nerve in September resulting in the highest social media interaction among our 'friends' since the 2017 web worm phenomenon in north Georgia.

2,667 Reached, **506** Clicks
124 Engagements, **15** Shares
26 Comments



facebook.com/elachee



By the Numbers in 2018

elachee.org/school-programs

32,140 PreK-12 students from **251 schools** took part in relevant and memorable field trip and outreach programs. Educators from **22 school systems** in **23 Georgia counties** chose Elachee for their students' supplemental environmental education.

This represents a **14.5% increase over 2017** in the number of schools participating in field trips and outreach programs. **In Hall County alone, 14,349 students benefited from an Elachee nature program.**

Elachee received an average of **6 school program requests each day** during the academic year.

1.5 hours is the average time visitors spend in Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve.

3 scientific studies in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve are ongoing to evaluate fish population movement, bat populations and pollinator/plant population composition.

4 minnow species were identified in a restored and an unrestored section of Nature Preserve waterways as part of a U.S. Geological Survey study of fish populations in stream mitigation banks (*Creek Chub, Stoneroller, Yellowfin Shiner, Bluehead Chub*).

5 bridges repaired along the hiking trails of the Nature Preserve.



9 environmental experts named to Elachee's Science Advisory Board.

10 percent of Elachee's annual operations budget was raised at the *2018 Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction*.

13 pollinator species observed interacting with 215 individuals of 28 species of pollinator plants at the Chicopee Woods Conservation Meadow at Chicopee Lake, as part of a University of North Georgia bio-blight study.

14 months holds the advance booking record for an Elachee wedding rental.

15 high school students trained, honing leadership skills to become future Camp Elachee counselors.

38 fallen trees removed from across trails along the 12-mile hiking trail system in Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve.

251 trail users interviewed for a Nature Preserve-use study conducted at Elachee's Aquatic Studies Center at Chicopee Lake.

264 items added to the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve infrastructure survey that maps locations of bridges, stairs, fences, waterbars and more.

422 toy snakes sold at *Snake Day 2018*.

573 University of North Georgia-Gainesville Biology Department students conducted labs in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve.

803.5 miles *Trillium Trek Trail Run* participants traveled in Chicopee Woods during this Earth Day event.



965 children ages 3-13 had 'the best summer ever' at Camp Elachee.

1,300 Elachee volunteer hours spent in conservation activities out of the total **2,600 hours** logged.

2,593 sunflower seeds Elachee Nature Academy K-1 students harvested from their Jr. Master Naturalist Garden.

5,220 total miles Elachee Nature Academy students hiked in Chicopee Woods.

16,200 minutes each Elachee Nature Academy student spent hiking in Chicopee Woods.





Elachee Nature Science Center promotes environmental understanding through education and conservation.

Nestled in one of Georgia's largest protected greenspaces, the 1,440-acre Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, Elachee is a private, independently operated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Elachee is the only SACS/AdvancED-accredited nature center in the southeastern United States. For 40 years, this premier regional resource and recreation destination has been instrumental in building environmental literacy for Georgians of all ages.

Elachee serves nearly 70,000 visitors annually through STEAM-based environmental education classes for students in PreK through Grade 12, Camp Elachee summer day camps, natural history and live animal exhibits, 12 miles of pristine hiking trails, and life-long learning and seasonal nature-related programs for the public. The campus is also home to Elachee Nature Academy, an accredited and State-licensed school offering nature-based Preschool and Kindergarten-1st Grade programs.

As conservator in perpetuity for the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, Elachee collaborates with its devoted community partners and volunteer corps to build, maintain and ensure a sustainable legacy for current and future generations to enjoy. Elachee's conservation stewardship work restores and protects the health of this regional treasure – its forest, streams and habitats – deploying natural design principles to promote sustainability, clean water and biodiversity. This work also provides ongoing maintenance of the Nature Preserve's extensive hiking trail system.

The Elachee organization has a proven record of sound fiscal management, relying on earned income and tax-deductible donations, planned gifts, grants and fundraising events to fund operations. Learn more about Elachee's rich history at www.elachee.org.

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