

# 2016 By the Numbers

HIGHLIGHTS

## School Programs



**156,780** minutes campers spent this summer hiking the trails of Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve.

**95,020** hours of accredited nature-related instruction children received that complemented their classroom studies.

**33,936** PreK through college age students benefiting from Elachee's STEAM-based environmental education.

**10,281** hours visitors spent participating in Elachee's seasonal/monthly public environmental education programs.

**5,606** miles Naturalists have driven to teach *Elachee in Your Classroom* outreach programs.

## Camp Elachee



**3,150** hours each Elachee Nature Academy student spends outdoors in nature-based discovery and learning.

**871** camper weeks that got PreK, Elementary and Middle Schoolers unplugged and outside during school breaks.

**633** school programs taught, serving students in 276 schools from 29 school systems in 27 Georgia counties.

**88** percent of Elachee's annual budget allocated to nature education and conservation programming with only 12 percent used for fundraising and administration.

**20** native and pollinator-friendly tree species offered for sale at Elachee's inaugural North Georgia Tree Festival.

## Nature Center



**7** year stream bank restoration project concluded fulfilling Phase One of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve.

**5** trail enhancements completed by Elachee's volunteer trail crew, including one that was an Eagle Scout project.

**2.75** miles of trail and 1.5 acres upon which volunteer trail crews removed invasive and non-invasive plants.

**1** new permanent exhibit has been installed: *The Pollinator Pass* and demonstration bee hives.

**1** Nature Academy academic program expansion with the launch of an accredited Kindergarten-1st Grade class.

## Nature Academy



## Conservation



## Public Programs







# 2016 Headlines

HIGHLIGHTS

## ► Here We Grow Again! Elachee Adds Kindergarten-1st Grade to Accredited Nature School

Thanks to demand from parents for a quality education choice for their young children, Elachee announced in early May that Elachee Nature Academy would expand the accredited nature-based learning environment to offer a new Kindergarten-1st Grade program to build upon the instructional philosophies of the successful Nature Preschool. Started in August 2016, this expansion was made possible through donor support of a *Fund the Need* appeal that raised start-up funding for the program.



## ► Elachee's National Conservation Role

Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve is part of a national reconnaissance effort by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) to determine if a newly identified fungus harmful to amphibian populations in Europe has been introduced to the Western Hemisphere. The USGS identified the Preserve as one of 30 Georgia wetlands to conduct a one-time capture, swab and release of the animals – specifically Eastern Newts found in Chicopee Lake.



## Traveling Museum Exhibit Turns Bat Myths Upside Down

Elachee welcomed its first traveling exhibit in more than a decade, for a six-month showing thanks to annual corporate sponsor Murrayville Veterinary Clinic. Elachee expanded hours of operation at its Visitor Center to seven days a week and offered three related public education events so all ages could enjoy the interactive experience, *Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats*.

## ► McGlaun and Harkins Named Elachee Volunteers of the Year

The symbolism of their age difference has underscored the value of wisdom and youth joining forces to aid Elachee in "Educating for Today...Preserving for Tomorrow." Garry McGlaun's unique expertise as Elachee's beekeeper gives students and visitors a peek inside the wonders of a working beehive, part of a newly installed *Pollinator Pass* exhibit. Camp Elachee alum, Nick Harkins turned his attention to creating unique experiences for young Elachee campers as a counselor-in-training. His Eagle Scout project to rebuild a bridge across Elachee Creek was a hit with campers this summer.



## ► Jackson EMC Foundation Awards Elachee \$15,000 Grant for Student Science Education

This funding enables Elachee Nature Science Center to serve even more PreK-12 students in the cooperative's 10-county service area through STEAM-based field trips and outreach programs through discounted fees for designated Title One schools.