



Acorn to Oak

legacy profile



Tilden Carpenter – for the Love of Elachee

Meet this Elachee Living Legacy. Tilden has spent each summer since Kindergarten participating in Camp Elachee – as a camper and in recent years, as a Counselor-in-Training (CIT). Tilden is a senior at Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology. This school year he will also fulfill an internship at Elachee for an immersion experience that will help him better understand how the Nature Center runs.

“As a CIT, it’s been great to see kids who are more reserved come out of their shells once they start having fun enjoying camp activities, like me. When I first started coming to camp I wasn’t a very vocal kid,” recalls Tilden. “I was here every week at camp, but the other kids changed so I got to practice talking to others, making new friends throughout the summer.”

“It’s a full circle moment; different but still the same being a CIT instead of a camper,” Tilden confides. “For campers who may not get to come as often as I did, I want them to leave with good memories.” He remembers having fun in the creek and playing games.

“This year I witnessed a lot of really great moments at the creek,” Tilden shares. “It was fascinating to watch campers form their own hierarchy by taking charge of their games. We didn’t direct them; their leadership skills emerged as a natural progression.”

Tilden’s exposure to Elachee has primarily been through Camp Elachee, although he came on a school field trip in 2nd grade. “I remember learning a lot more than what I thought I knew from camp.” That experience stuck with him because for some reason, his class did not go on any other field trips that year.

For Elachee supporters, Tilden has this message, “If you collaborate with Elachee, you are fostering growth among a new generation, future leaders who need to care about the Earth. It’s important that kids get the opportunity to participate in activities, like Camp Elachee, where they will also gain social and cognitive skills as a part of this experience.”

WE PUT YOUR GIFTS TO WORK. VISIT www.elachee.org/support TO LEARN HOW.

Speak out! FOR THE LOVE OF ELACHEE

“This was our first ‘big kid’ week and my daughter absolutely loved it! She is shy by nature so to see her blossom and come home excited every day was a wonderful experience – beyond our expectations.” – 2023 Camp Elachee Parent

“This was the best week of my life! I want to come back.” – 2023 Camper

“This was such an amazing experience for my son. He has had a hard time adapting to anything that is not home. I did cry because he felt part of something! Thank you guys from the bottom of our hearts. See you next year!”

– 2023 Camp Elachee Parent

“Our students in Gainesville City thrive when given new experiences. We are proud to partner with Elachee. Our long-standing partnership allows our students to experience hands-on environmental education each year.”

*– Jeremy Williams, Ed.D., Superintendent,
Gainesville City School System*

“Elachee has been and continues to be a tremendous partner of the Hall County School District. By providing quality educational experiences with nature, Elachee continues to enrich the lives of our students by enhancing their understanding of the environment and our very own community. Elachee has consistently displayed a flexibility to meet the needs of Hall County students by serving diverse schools on a myriad of topics in multiple settings. Kudos to the Elachee Nature Science Center team!”

*– Kevin Bales, Deputy Superintendent,
Hall County Schools*

“Elachee is important to us as a family and in my professional life. At school, we love sending students on field trips to Elachee and when Elachee comes to [our] school. These are great opportunities for our students to learn and experience science and nature. I love Elachee so much that as a parent I’ve sent my son to summer camp since he was five. Elachee is an amazing place and it’s a great asset to our community.”

*– Dr. Betsy Aisworth, Principal, Chestnut Mountain
Creative School of Inquiry in Hall County*



Why Should Kids Have All the Fun?

With your input, we have re-imagined our annual gathering to be a FUN-draiser!



Camp Elachee for Adults

Saturday • October 21, 2023

5-8pm, for Ages 18+

GROWN-UP ADVENTURES

Archery • Axe Throwing • Tree Climbing • Bat Rave Cave
Ghost Story Hikes • Naughty Starlab • Live Music on Patio
S'Mores Stations • Camp Site Photo Booth
Drastic Aztec Food Truck • TapIt! Beer/Wine Truck
Silent Auction: Adventures, Outdoor Living, Nature Art



BECOME A SPONSOR
or BUY TICKETS

DETAILS

www.elachee.org/adult-camp
Annual FUN-draiser Benefiting Elachee Nature Science Center

Concert Package for 2

Valued at \$1,800



Eagles –The Long Goodbye Final Tour

November 2, 2023 • State Farm Arena, Atlanta

- Eagles Hot Ticket Package and SWAG
Section 108, Row DD Seats 11 and 12
- Overnight: Atlanta Marriott Buckhead
- Plus UBER and VISA Gift Cards



RAFFLE TICKETS \$50 each

SCAN
TO BUY
TICKET

discover learn play

Answering the Elachee, 'So What?'

At Elachee, we strive to fulfill the mission of promoting environmental understanding through education and conservation by getting children outside, by creating bridges between people and nature, and by caring for Chicopee Woods so that it is accessible to the community now and in the future.

Our goal is to build a community of people who appreciate nature and their role in protecting it. With our core values of Discovery, Learning and Play, the Elachee team works to bring these concepts to life each day. How?

When we value discovery, we create inquiry-based opportunities in nature. When we value learning, we meet people where they are in their knowledge of the natural world. When we value play, we create space for free expression and fun.

We do this *alongside you*, the Elachee family of supporters!

Transitioning from Summer Programming to Autumn Opportunities

Happy Birthday, Elachee! We will kick-off our anniversary celebrations in November and will reveal more details in Elachee's future newsletters, special mailings, social media and our web site, www.elachee.org.



I am pleased to share that the Camp Elachee 2023 eight-week summer day camp season was amazing with over 1,100 registrations. Of those, more than 200 children attended at no or low cost thanks to generous funding partnerships, grant awards and Elachee annual sponsors.

We embrace the 2023-2024 school year with a renewed sense of energy. Elachee continues as a regional resource for educators helping children overcome learning losses suffered due to the pandemic. We are on track to meet or exceed the 28,467 PreK-12 students we served last school year via field trips to Elachee Nature Science Center and outreach programming!

Classes for Elachee Nature Academy's Preschool through 2nd Grade have resumed and these young children are blossoming as they participate in non-traditional, inquiry-based learning experiences, thanks to spending 80-percent of their time outdoors.

We have a truly magical season planned at Elachee with varied public programming options available for every age and walk of life. As you read further, I hope you will mark your calendar and plan a visit to this very special place in the Chicopee Woods.

Thank You, Stribling-Whalen and ZF Industries!

We are grateful to area businesses and groups seeking community service or volunteer projects that can be completed in a day or less. Call 770-535-1976 to schedule a project!



PICTURED L-R: Volunteers from Stribling-Whalen Financial Group spent the day cleaning trash and debris from the Nature Preserve (A Avenue). Volunteers from ZF Industries spent the day helping spruce up the Elachee grounds.



Sarah C. Bell
Elachee President/CEO
sarah@elachee.org
770-535-1976 x227

“I’ve been in the Flowery Branch area for over 20 years and discovered Elachee in 2015. I’d been recently laid off from my job, struggling, needing to do something to feel good about myself. My husband said, ‘Hey, there’s this place off Atlanta Highway, we need to go there.’ We were so excited that this place was literally in our backyard! Ever since, I’ve pretty much been coming weekly, often multiple times a week and have brought my children for years. This place is for everyone, from the littlest of littles to the biggest of big kids. There are trails for everybody. Elachee has an awesome [nature] academy for young kids which has developed over the years. I mean this place is phenomenal; I love it! I would be LOST without this place! So, I encourage everyone to check out Elachee in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve because you have no idea what you’re missing.” – *Stephanie Shaw*



“150+ under 2 months and I ‘gots’ the t-shirt to prove it! After being a Hall County native for 4+ decades, I finally discovered the Chicopee woods Trail System back in early April. In that short amount of time, I have interacted with dozens of incredible people. Whether it be fellow hikers or the impressive [Elachee] trail crew that volunteer their time and sweat equity to keep these trails in tremendous condition. I’d be negligent if I didn’t give a big nod to all the wonderful staff at Elachee. These folks do amazing work and are always beaming. If you haven’t checked out the Chicopee trail system or taken advantage of exploring the Elachee Nature Science Center, you are cheating yourself. They have a slew of amazing programs and events for the entire family.” – *Josh McKinney*



Accept the 150-Mile Chicopee Challenge

Track your hikes along the Chicopee Woods hiking trail system. When you reach 150-miles in the same calendar year, submit your log to receive a limited edition t-shirt, just as Josh and Stephanie have! **DOWNLOAD the 2023 HIKING LOG** www.elachee.org/hiking-trails



PICTURED L-R: Angie Pelletier, Leslie Rae Carswell, Jen Kennedy, Katie Skelton, Melissa Reid

Meet the 2023-24 Elachee Nature Academy educators who are teaching our youngest naturalists (hamming it up on their first day of school). School Director **Melissa Reid** has served as an Elachee environmental educator here for many years. **Jen Kennedy** is with us for her second year as Elachee’s Lead Preschool Teacher. **Leslie Rae Carswell** is beginning her teaching career at Elachee as our K-2 Lead Teacher. As Assistant Teacher, **Angie Pelletier** brings her extensive knowledge to the team and we’re excited to welcome **Katie Skelton** to the team this year as Assistant Teacher.



WILDLIFE FESTIVAL 2023

10-2 • Sat • Sept 9

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES AT ELACHEE

Meet and greet reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, exotics and mammals. Enjoy tree climbing, face painting, food truck fare and more!

Admission at the Gate

\$10 Per Person (Ages 3 and Up)

\$5 Per Elachee Member

\$50 Maximum Per Family

Shuttles to/from Parking Areas



PRESENTING SPONSOR



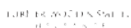
NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL

HOST PROGRAM SPONSOR



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WILDLIFE FESTIVAL SPONSORS



Drs. Kelvin & Anu Whisenhunt



SNEAK PEEK

Community Art Project

Pick up a paintbrush at Wildlife Festival and The Arts Council Octoberfest. You can help paint tree murals, a new interpretive exhibit coming to Elachee, created by Noah Smith.



Master Naturalist LITE and Liquid Learning

Elachee offers adult learning programming options each month, alternating between an abbreviated Master Naturalist program and in-person Science Nights at a local brewery.



It's Time for Field Trips

Fall and spring are popular times for a field trip to Elachee and/or a Lake Lanier Aquatic Studies Center program. Elachee outreach programs are in high demand November to February. Book it!



Attendees at the South Hall Business Coalition enjoyed outdoor experiences to top off this meeting at Elachee.

Gather at Elachee

Elachee is a natural setting for your next get together or meeting. Four areas are available for rental Monday–Friday, 8am to 4pm, or limited Saturday options. Add on an Elachee retreat package for an even more memorable experience during your visit.



Camp Elachee 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Early bird registration opens February 1 for Elachee Patron and Family Adventurer Members. General registration opens March 1. Purchase or renew your membership: www.elachee.org/ecosystem/#Membership



Family Frolics

formerly Mommy & Me

This monthly, one-hour program for young children 18-months to age four has grown in popularity the past year. Moms, dads, grandparents or other family are welcome to participate with your little ones.



www.elachee.org/events