



# The Outdoor Classroom Symposium Celebrates 10 Years!

The Outdoor Classroom Council (OCC) will be celebrating 10 years of taking teaching outdoors this fall! Its annual symposium will be held on Friday, October 26, 2007 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center's new conference center. This year's theme, "Leaping into Green and Healthy Learning" will have you hoping to attend the celebration.

The Outdoor Classroom Council is a committee of the Environmental Education Alliance and a coalition of organizations and individuals who share an interest in the design, development, maintenance and use of outdoor classrooms. Symposium participants include teachers, parents, principals, community volunteers and nonformal educators. The event offers hands-on training sessions, classroom resources, and informative exhibits prepared by program providers and outdoor classroom experts. Teachers can receive one professional learning unit (PLU) for attending either the Thursday evening or Saturday workshop in addition to the Friday Symposium.

For the 10-year anniversary, OCC will not only continue its great tradition of assisting with outdoor learning, but will also introduce participants to the *Georgia Green & Healthy Schools* program, a new collaborative initiative to assist and support all public and private K-12 schools in understanding and practicing environmentally sound

principles. Green and healthy schools use assessment tools and problem-solving skills to complete school-based investigations. This rewarding program helps create and maintain healthy school environments for successful teaching and learning.

**An outdoor classroom usually consists of a garden or wildlife habitat where educators may lead cross-curricular activities and students find inspiration, greater motivation to learn, and a stronger connection to the environment.**

For more information or to download the registration brochure visit [www.eealliance.org](http://www.eealliance.org) after August 7, 2006.

In honor of its 10th birthday, the Outdoor Classroom Council asked educators... "Why do students need outdoor classrooms?" Here are the top 10 answers, as to why students need outdoor classrooms.

#10 To grow inquisitive minds and active bodies!

#9 So they will appreciate all disciplines by learning practical reasons for the knowledge they gain.

#8 To be responsible citizens for the world around them.

#7 So they know that learning, knowing and growing can and should happen everywhere!

#6 To expose them to the Earth's multitude of amazing life forms and physical processes.

#5 Because people only save what they experience.

#4 To expose them to the natural world and it's wonders.

#3 To become better stewards of our environment.

#2 To understand their connection to the world.

#1 To expand their minds and sights beyond the four walls of their small classroom world.



## Current Status of the Environmental Education Certification Program Georgia Project for Excellence in Environmental Education

Recently the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA) has been contacted regarding the status of the Georgia Project for Excellence in Environmental Education headed by Mr. Richard Osorio. The leadership of EEA has spoken with Mr. Osorio, regarding the status of this program. It is our understanding that there will not be any classes offered this summer and Mr. Osorio is currently seeking a new partnership for the program. He hopes to see the program revitalized this fall.

EEA does not have a formal agreement with Georgia Project for Excellence in Environmental Education and we regret the confusion and frustration some EEA members and participants of the program have had in regards to this initiative. EEA will re-evaluate the status of the Georgia Project for Excellence in Environmental Education in December of 2006. For more information regarding this program please contact Richard at [rosorio@uga.edu](mailto:rosorio@uga.edu).

EEA Executive Board

# Is Your Garden MAG Certified?

## The Monarchs Across Georgia Pollinator Habitat Certification Program

Do you enjoy watching and studying caterpillars on their host plants; searching for chrysalides hidden from predators; observing butterflies and hummingbirds flitting from flower to flower? Does your schoolyard or backyard have bushes, trees, and flowers that provide host plants, nectar, and protection for butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators? Is there a source of water/puddling areas for thirsty butterflies? Are there places for them to roost at night? Then you might want to look into registering your backyard/schoolyard habitat with *Monarchs Across Georgia's Pollinator Habitat Program*. The first program in the country created that certifies pollinator gardens!

### *What Do You Need to Provide?*

*Water* is essential for life, and your winged friends are no exception. A shallow pan of water or a puddling area is much appreciated.

*Food* is critical for the growth and development of the

caterpillars and also provides energy for the adult butterfly, bees, and hummingbirds.

*Shelter or cover* to hide from predators, a place to nestle down at night, or a place to regulate their body temperatures is also important.

*Earth-friendly gardening*

with the avoidance of chemical pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides, along with a naturalized habitat will need to be practiced.

### *Certifying is Easy!*

Whether you are limited to a small patio or have an acre of land, Monarchs Across Georgia would like to acknowledge your efforts in welcoming not only butterflies, but also other pollinators to your



garden. The *Pollinator Habitat Certification Program* was initiated to recognize the hard work of Georgians in meeting the habitat needs of pollinators.

To download the application visit [www.monarchsacrossga.org](http://www.monarchsacrossga.org). Receive the certification, certificate, and the beautiful metal sign for your garden for \$38.00 or just the certification and certificate for \$10.00.

# Jekyll Island 4-H Center Celebrates 20 Years of Environmental Education and 25 Years as a Summer Camping Facility

## Save the Date...

EEA conference '07 will  
be Friday March 30 through  
Sunday April 1 at the  
Jekyll Island Conference Center.



"Now", 'Jekyll 4H Center'; "Then", 'The Dolphin Club Motor Hotel'

As Jekyll 4-H celebrates its silver anniversary during the 2006-07 school year, we also celebrate the incredible history of the property before it was 4-H. Originally built in the late 1950's as an African American hotel, the Dolphin Club and Motor Hotel was open from 1959 until 1966. The Dolphin Club Lounge and Restaurant was located across from the hotel and was an entertainment mecca bringing in such popular artists as B.B. King, Clarence Carter, Tyrone Davis, and Percy Sledge. The auditorium located near the hotel was originally built to maintain "separate but equal" facilities and was used for dances and reunions, and it even housed an Otis Redding concert. The Beach House was built as a pavilion for beachgoers even before the hotel was built. Of course, each of these facilities would later become the Jekyll Island 4-H Center. The Georgia 4-H Program first leased the property in the summer of 1983 to expand its summer camping program. School year environmental education programs were added in 1987, and as they say, "the rest is history." Since its inception as a 4-H Center, Jekyll has served over 165,000 people through both the summer 4-H camping program and the environmental education program. As we reflect upon the last 25 years

and celebrate the accomplishments of the 4-H Center, it is a perfect time to revisit the Georgia 4-H mission, vision, and environmental education objectives. This mission is fulfilled at each of our five 4-H Centers across the state. Visit any of our centers: Wahsega 4-H Center in the mountains of Dahlonega, Fortson 4-H Center in Hampton, Rock Eagle 4-H Center in the piedmont of Eatonton, Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island, and Jekyll Island 4-H Center in the Golden Isles of our coast.

### Georgia 4-H Mission Statement:

To assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing citizens.

Georgia 4-H Vision: A world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change.

### Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Objectives:

- To develop an awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the environment
- To cultivate curiosity, critical reasoning and evaluation
- To develop positive relationships among students and teachers
- To make the school program more



"Jekyll 4H Center dining hall"



"The Pavilion where lots of great musicians performed at one time."

meaningful by applying knowledge & skills acquired in the classroom to real life situations

-To provide experiences in using scientific processes, such as observing, measuring, and classifying

-To develop self-confidence and physical fitness

-To develop appreciation for the local and natural history of an area

*Historic photos of Jekyll Island 4-H Center hotel, dining hall, and pavilion are courtesy of the Jekyll Island Museum.*

## EE Articles that Make a Difference

The Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) has commissioned a series of articles on key initiatives in environmental education (EE). Each article highlights work by EETAP, its partners, and others in related areas in EE. The articles are written in popular style to inform EE practitioners and other educators about trends in EE and their significance to the field.

EETAP's four newest articles include:

- ❖ *Leading the Way to Environmental Literacy and Quality: National Guidelines for Environmental Education*
- ❖ *EE Certification: Making Best Practice Standard Practice*
- ❖ *Distance Education: A User Friendly Learning Option*
- ❖ *The Roots of Environmental Education: How the Past Supports the Future*

To download these and other articles visit [www.eetap.org](http://www.eetap.org).

# The Next Generation of Birders: Georgia's first Youth Birding Competition

By Tim Keyes



Winning team with new binoculars

At 33 years old, I had long complained of being the youngest active member in my local Audubon chapter. Where were the young enthusiastic birders hitting the fields and forests in search of birds and adventure? My fear is that they were stuck inside, in front of televisions and computer screens. It took my participation in the New Jersey "World Series of Birding" competition to get an idea to draw children back outside, away from the artificial reality of home electronics. This 24 hour event drew about 100 teams, and to my amazement, there were more than 20 kid's teams competing, and many of them were composed of experienced and passionate birders.

Inspired by New Jersey's young birders, I determined to offer a similar event for kids in Georgia. Thanks to the generous grant from T.E.R.N. (The Environmental Resources Network) a date was set. April 23<sup>rd</sup> was the day, and Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center was the finish line. Starting at midnight on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, teams could bird anywhere in the state they wanted, as long as they arrived at Charlie Elliott by 6PM for the banquet and awards ceremony. Plagued by fears that we wouldn't generate enough interest to have meaningful competition, my excitement grew as April 23<sup>rd</sup>

approached and the teams started to grow. Ultimately, 16 teams composed of 67 kids, ranging from 7 to 17 years old took part. Teams included the Thunderbirders, Ravenclaw, the Homeschool Hummers and Vacillating Vireos.

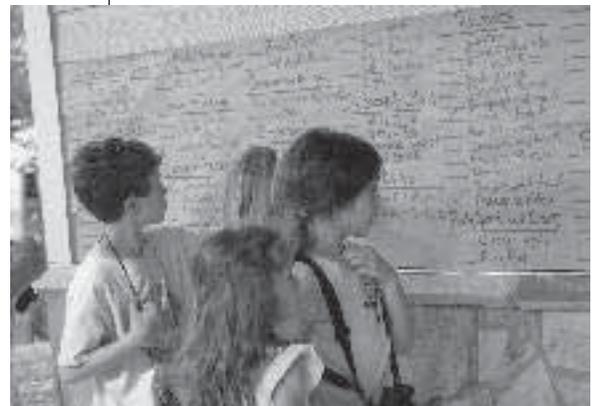
Many teams started at midnight checking off the owls and nightjars. I bumped into the Thunderbirders before breakfast, and they had already tallied 31 species. As 6 PM approached the excitement grew. Teams started arriving that had started in the north Georgia Mountains; others had started on the Georgia coast. From Peregrine Falcons in Atlanta, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in McDonough, Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Piedmont NWR, to Black-necked Stilts on the coast these kids had canvassed the state. A 20 foot long checklist rapidly filled up as each arriving team checked off the species they found. Ultimately, the cumulative list reached 180 species!

The banquet itself was a riotous affair. The crowd swelled to 130 people as parents and friends of competitors arrived. You can't even imagine the electricity in the room unless you witnessed it! Teams received prizes for most birds seen in each age group, as well as the amount of money they raised for conservation efforts. Two teams (The Nerdy Birders and Savannah Sparrows) tied for first place, each seeing 100 species. The Homeschool Hummers won the elementary school division with 92 species, many identified by ear after months of studying bird song CD's.

For me there were two highlights. First, a whole bunch of kids who had never birded before, studied, practiced and enjoyed their first birding event. A new world is open to them. Secondly, kids who have been birding for years were able to shine, and get the spot-light they deserve. They were able to hear a room erupt in applause as they accepted their hard-earned awards. I have never seen broader smiles! They set the bar high for next year!

Following up with kids and parents has been wonderful as well. Several said it was the best day of their lives, and it would change their lives! Third graders complained of dreaming about bird songs. Several teams are already working on their strategy for winning next year. A middle school competitor has since taught a group of 30 4-H kids about birds. I can begin to imagine the day when I feel old at an Audubon meeting.

For more information about the Youth Birding Competition, and updates for next years event, please visit [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com), and select the "Nongame animal and plant" link. Also visit the Colonial Coast Birding Festival, where special trips and activities will be designed for young birders.



Participants check the day's life list.

# "Women in the Outdoors" Workshop Teaches Outdoor Skills

More than ever, women are becoming involved in outdoor activities such as shooting sports, fishing and camping, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD). Women can learn and/or improve upon their outdoor skills by attending the "Women in the Outdoors" (WITO) workshop at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2006. The Roswell Spurs Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and WRD are sponsoring this event.

"WITO events allow women to come together, learn together, make new friends, meet inspiring women, and have a lot of fun," says WITO Event Coordinator Rosanna Beebe. "For many, these events help women overcome a fear or distrust of firearms or pick up an empowering skill like self-defense or archery."

WITO provides hands-on, educational outdoor opportunities for women (age 14 or older) from all walks of life. These events are designed to be non-competitive and fun for women of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels.

The September WITO event in Mansfield will be held at Charlie Elliott's Conference Center. The cost of the workshop is just \$175, which covers lodging and all meals, instructional sessions, program materials, use of all equipment, WITO t-shirt, membership in the NWTf, and a one-year subscription to the WITO magazine. Women who live nearby and would rather commute to the 3-day weekend event can register for a reduced rate of \$125.

Participants can pick six 2-hour classes to attend during the workshop. Choices include: Aquatic Ecology, Archery, Backpacking/Hiking, Backyard Wildlife Basics, Basic Firearms Safety, Basic Outdoor Cooking, Beyond Basic Outdoor Cooking, Birdwatching, Camping Basics, Canoeing, Car Care, Crafty Crafts, Dragonflies, Dutch Oven Cooking, Fly-fishing Basics, Fly-tying Basics, Freshwater Fishing, Gun Cleaning, Hunting - Deer, Hunting - Turkey, Photography, Rifle Basics, RV'ing, Self Defense, T-shirt Beading, Wildlife Identification, Wildlife Live. Other highlights include a wildlife supper, storytelling, a fashion show and a silent auction.

For more information about the upcoming WITO event visit [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com), select "General Information" and then "Women in the Outdoors". For information and a printable registration form contact WITO Event Coordinator Rosanna Beebe with the Roswell Spurs Chapter of NWTf at (770) 432-9933 or [cre8tdir@bellsouth.net](mailto:cre8tdir@bellsouth.net). For more info on the WITO program, visit [www.womenintheoutdoors.org](http://www.womenintheoutdoors.org). For more information about NWTf, visit [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org) or call 1-800-THE-NWTF.

**Time to renew your EEA membership? Check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.**

## EEA MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Become a Member Today!*

*Fill out this form and mail it along with a check made out to "EEA" to P.O. Box 286, Mansfield, GA 30055.*

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- **Quarterly Newsletter** - Provides educational resources, legislative updates, notice of workshops and events, grant opportunities, and much more.
- **Annual Spring Conference and Fall Symposium** - Held at different sites throughout Georgia with guest speakers, workshops and field trips. A great opportunity to meet people and share.
- **Sharing and Exchanging Resources** - The opportunity to find and exchange ideas with member organizations.
- **Discount to Events** - Attend the annual conference and the Outdoor Classroom Symposium at a discounted rate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

- Membership Category:  Individual \$25  
 Organizational\* \$100  
 Corporate\* \$150

*\*Please Note: organizations and businesses can list up to five representatives to receive EEA mailings and information.*

Please check the category of your affiliation so that we may serve you better:

- Community Outreach  Private and/or Non-Profit  
 Government Agency  Business and Industry  
 Environmental Education Center  
 Formal Post Secondary Education  
 Formal Education, Pre-k through 6  
 Formal Education, 7 through 12

# 2005 Award-Winning Georgia Environmental Educators

Excellence in environmental education... That's what comes to mind when the Environmental Education Alliance recognizes its annual award winners. This year's winners were acknowledged at the March 2006 conference at Simpsonwood Retreat and Conference Center in Norcross.

The Dr. Eugene Odum Outstanding Lifetime Service Award was presented to one of Georgia's most dedicated educators. Margaret Olsen is an Education Specialist for the SouthEast Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence (SECOSEE). She has taught oceanography, geology, coastal ecology, and Earth science in both middle school (15 years) and high school (16 years). She has also coordinated the development of many marine-related curricula and helped create the Science Teachers Training Teachers program in Georgia.

The EEA Outstanding Service Award is divided into two categories. The award recognizes individuals who have contributed in significant and meaningful ways to the advancement of the field of EE through dedicated and exemplary teaching, research and/or public service.

Sheila Humphry of Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area has worked with teachers, students, and her community to facilitate their learning through direct instruction as both a classroom teacher and Georgia DNR educator.

Mickey Feltus, recognized for his exemplary service and tireless dedication to education, works for US EPA/Region 4 Wetlands. He has provided support, encouragement, and knowledge to many.

Additional awards were given to two of EEA's committees.



Susan Meyers is well deserving of the Monarchs Across Georgia Service Award. She has passionately pursued engaging schools, teachers, students, and families into learning more about monarch butterflies, both here in Georgia and in Mexico.

Beth Gammon and Kevin Smith were awarded the Outdoor Classroom Service Award. They have guided the students at Vickery Creek Elementary School in Forsyth County in the joys of learning outdoors.

## Grant Opportunities

### Applications Invited for National Wildlife Refuge System Preserve America Grant Program

**Deadline: November 1, 2006**

A program of the Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://www.fws.gov>) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (<http://nfwf.org>), the National Wildlife Refuge Preserve America Grant Program seeks to protect historic sites, integrate history into refuge interpretive and education programs, and build partnerships with communities and organizations interested in supporting refuge programs.

The grant program provides competitive grants of \$10,000 to \$15,000 each to help fund national wildlife refuge interpretive and education projects focusing on history and historic sites and how they contribute to the conservation and understanding of natural resources.

Grant proposals must demonstrate national, state, or local partnerships to qualify. Priority will be placed on proposals that effectively blend interpretive or education programs with the Refuge System's mission to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants and that emphasize themes that are important for understanding American history at the national, state, or local levels. Special consideration will be given to proposals that begin new interpretive or education programs on refuges that meet the President's Preserve America's objectives (<http://www.preserveamerica.gov>) or that have the potential to reach new audiences to broaden the public's understanding of and support for the Refuge System's mission (<http://fws.gov/refuges>).

Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations or organizations that have applied for nonprofit status, including Refuge "Friends" organizations, cooperative and interpretive associations, local historical societies, academic institutions, or other citizen support organizations interested in assisting a Refuge or group of Refuges and the Refuge System as a whole.

State, county, and local government agencies are not eligible. Non-Federal matching funds are required on at least a 1:1 basis. Visit the NFWF Web site for complete program and application information.

RFP Link:  
<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10003941/nfwf>

For additional RFPs in Environment, visit:  
[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_environment.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_environment.jhtml)

# DeKalb County Cooperative Extension Environmental Education Center



DeKalb County's Environmental Education Center's Community Garden

provides homeowners with the tools necessary to plan and install landscaping on a budget, hands-on trainings for Master Gardener trainees, and trainings for Advanced Master Gardeners throughout the state. Staff at the

edibles in the landscape, and a vegetable garden. The newest addition to the EEC grounds includes a Community Garden offering gardening space and instruction to DeKalb County residents. Plans for development of the EEC property include interpretive nature trails to the South River, outdoor classrooms, a butterfly garden, a xeriscape garden, and a rain garden. The EEC is typically open during regular business hours, but for more information and to schedule an appointment please call Nicole Martini at 404-244-4881.

In the Southern part of DeKalb County, nestled in 20 acres of pine and hardwood forests is DeKalb County Cooperative Extension's best kept secret, the Environmental Education Center (EEC). The mission of the EEC is to serve the community through horticultural demonstration, environmental education, and to encourage stewardship and a love of gardening. Programs offered through the EEC include training youth in Forestry and Wildlife to compete nationally, a Low-Cost Landscaping Program that

EEC can also put together programs based upon groups' requests and the meeting room (that holds 45 people) can be used by non-profits and other organizations.

On-site demonstration gardens currently include a perennial garden, a native plant garden, an herb garden, a bog garden, a home composting demonstration,



The EEC's Demonstration Garden

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REGISTER ONLINE AT  
**NAAEE.ORG**

**Teacher Tip**  
Never buy graph paper again!  
Here's a web site that has free pdf files  
of graph paper in any style imaginable!  
<http://incompetech.com/beta/plainGraphPaper/>  
Tip submitted by: Henry

P.O. Box 286  
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EEA is a self-governed, non-profit organization that promotes communication and education among professionals in the field of environmental education in Georgia. EEA is an affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education.

## Newsletter Committee

Annette Quinting, Oatland Island Education Center  
Patti Ackermann, Blackburn Elementary School  
Claire Hayes, Dunwoody Nature Center  
Johnna Tuttle, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

A New Dimension Graphic Design & Printing  
Production

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EEA member contributions are encouraged.  
Deadline for articles and news of interest are:

Fall 2006- September 15th  
Winter 2007 December 15th  
Spring 2007 April 15th  
Summer 2007 June 15th

Email your articles and photos/graphics to:  
[annie.quinting@savannah.chatham.k12.ga.us](mailto:annie.quinting@savannah.chatham.k12.ga.us)

