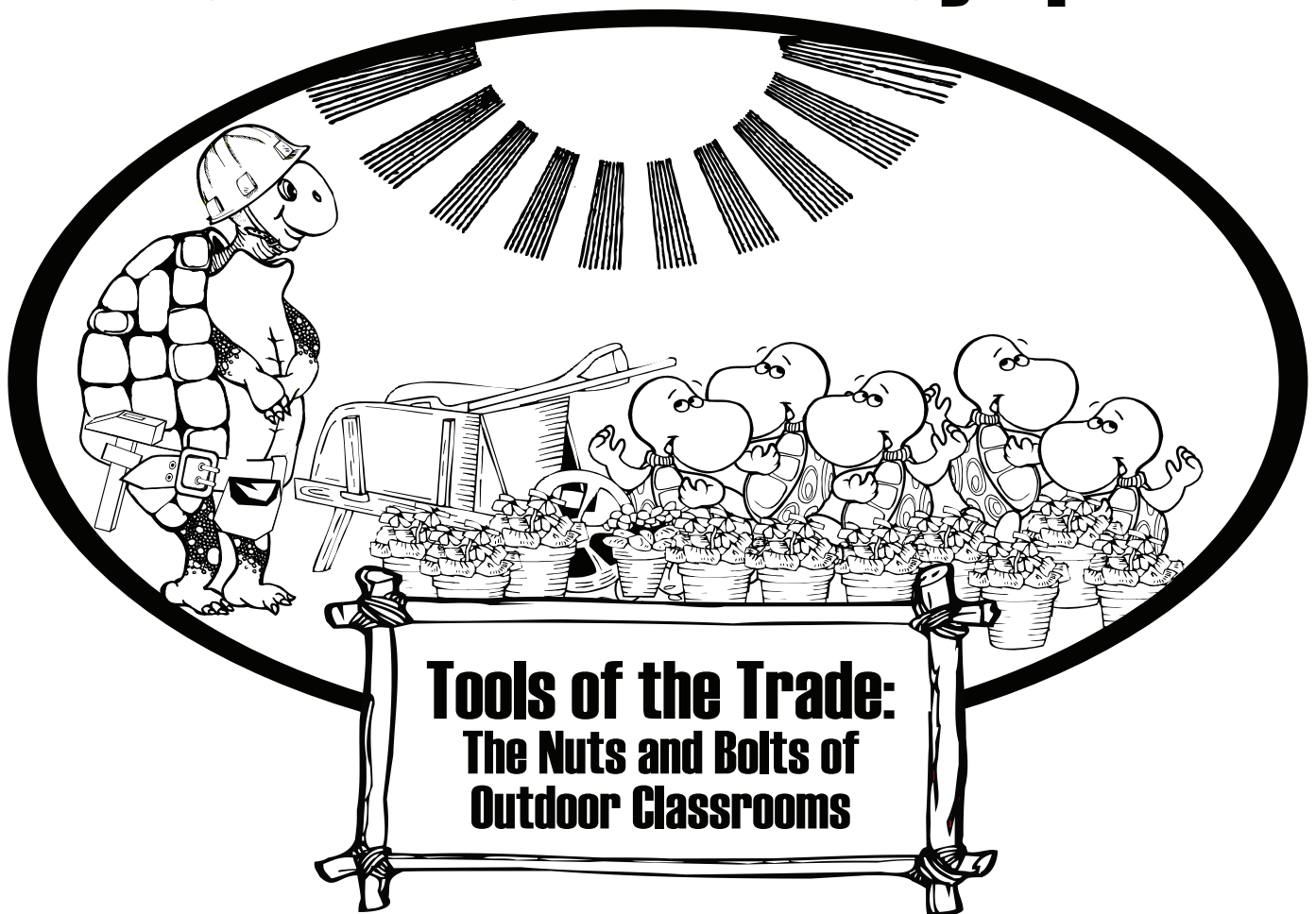


# 2007 Outdoor Classroom Symposium



## Resource Guide

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**Fernbank Science Center  
Atlanta, GA**

**October 12, 2007**

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# Presenter Information

**Becky Blades** - As a life time Master Gardener, Becky Blades enjoys sharing her love of gardening with Georgians young and old. She has coordinated the horticultural therapy program at WellStar Cobb Hospital since 1993 and this will be her 6th year teaching a Junior Master Gardener class. Special gardening interests include growing organic vegetables, native plants and gardening for wildlife.

**Dr. Bill Witherspoon**, one of the geologists at Fernbank Science Center, enjoys revealing to teachers and students alike the stories told by the rocks in their backyard. He has conducted numerous workshops for K-12 teachers, nearly all of them with a strong outdoor component. He is planning a repeat next summer of his geology trip for teachers to the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, Sunset Volcano, and other features of northern Arizona.

**Contact: 678-874-7150 • witherspoonb@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us • Fernbank Science Center**

**Bobby L. Wilson** is currently serving as Program Director for The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension/Atlanta Urban Gardening Program (AUGP); offering gardening instruction and support to some two hundred gardens located at public housing complexes, shelters, schools, churches and elder care facilities in metro Atlanta.

Bobby has experienced twenty years of professional development and service promoting, developing and sustaining the work of gardening and greening. He has served two consecutive terms on the board of the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA), and was appointed by the president of ACGA to co-chair the 25th anniversary of this organization.

Bobby's high standards of professionalism and his ideals attract local, regional national and international notice in that he serves on many boards and committees; frequently speaks to civic, business and church groups and has received a plethora of awards and commendations. Bobby's leadership in issues of research, food security, and volunteerism all have practical expression in such activities as developing demonstration gardens, increasing production in community gardens to provide for donations to shelters and large community feeding programs, facilitating formal training of gardeners at the University of Georgia Food Science Department and the development of nutrition education sequels with school gardeners and the members of the AUGP Leadership Development Association.

Bobby is ambitious, for his continued personal and professional development. He has a vision for comprehensive response to issues facing Atlanta Urban Gardening Program and Cooperative Extension as public serving entity. Creative program development and funding, staff development, viable local, regional and national partnerships and curriculum development and participatory planning are challenges that he identifies and desires opportunity to address.

Bobby is married, living in Atlanta, Georgia where he is a husband, father and proud grandfather.

**Contact: 404-762-4087 • bobbyw@uga.edu • Fulton County Cooperative Extension**

**Brooke Carney** is the Director for Keep Bulloch Beautiful and has served in this capacity for two years. Her previous positions include Education Coordinator at Georgia Southern Botanical Garden and Conservation Organizer for Sierra Club, Appalachian Region. She holds two degrees, a Master's of Public Administration as well as a Bachelor's of Science in Biology, from Georgia Southern University (Go Eagles!). Brooke also serves on the Board of Directors for Georgia Southern Botanical Garden and is on the executive board for Professional Women of Statesboro. She and her husband, Wynn, live in Statesboro.

**Charlie Monroe** – Charlie Monroe is a program specialist with the University of Georgia DeKalb Extension. He enjoys working with educators and youth alike and sharing with them the awesome resources offered to enhance career selection with a focus on Agriculture & Environmental Sciences. He is also a certified arborist, Master Gardener and “die-hard” Bulldawg fan.

**Contact: 404-298-4072 • monroezi@uga.edu • University of Georgia**

**Claire Waggenspack Hayes** helped develop the award-winning School Master Gardener program of the DeKalb Cooperative Extension office. This special schedule and curriculum meets all Georgia requirements for Master Gardeners. Participants complete their classroom instruction during the summer, and their required volunteer service on their school campuses. With a solid foundation in horticulture, School MG's design sustainable outdoor classrooms, and with the educational materials provided, their students meet GPS standards. Community partners make these great outdoor learning settings possible!

**Contact: 770-394-3322 • claire@dunwoodynature.org • Dunwoody Nature Center**

**Connie Gray** is Special Project Coordinator for Trees Atlanta. She oversees the Forest Restoration and Neighborhood Arboretum and assists with several other programs, including education. She has worked with plants for over 30 years and specializes in the restoration and management of natural areas, particularly in urban areas. Connie serves as President of the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council, an organization devoted to finding solutions to the problem of invasive non-native plants in Georgia.

**Contact: 404-522-4097 • connie@treesatlanta.org • Trees Atlanta**

**Christie Hill** is the Naturalist Coordinator at Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, Georgia. She has been a teacher (naturalist) at the Center for the last 7 years, and works with all of the education staff to train and supply them with the tools they need.

“With a BA in English / Education I was somehow stubbornly determined not to be a teacher. I worked my way through many jobs, including PR for the Academy Theatre, editing for a banking magazine and printing promotional photographic pieces for models and actors.

“When the world around me started to seem too artificial to bear, I looked for a way to get back to basics--in touch with nature. After I observed my first school program at Chattahoochee Nature Center, I never looked back.

“Now my job, my passion is to teach others about conservation, and finding their own connection with the Natural World.”

**Contact: 770-992-2055 • c.hill@chattnaturecenter.com • Chattahoochee Nature Center**

**Daniel Parson** is the garden manager at Gaia Gardens, a certified organic 1.5 acre garden at East Lake Commons Co-Housing community. The garden markets through a CSA program and local markets, including the Morningside Market. Parson hosts educational tours of children and adults at the gardens.

**Contact: 404-452-4321 • danielparson@mac.com • Georgia Organics**

**David Boyd** is the owner of the Wild Bird Center of Dunwoody. The Wild Bird Center stores specialize in backyard bird feeding and housing. Prior to opening the store in September of 2004, David taught High School Social Studies for ten years in both Pittsburgh and Atlanta. Now he gets to educate the community of proper bird feeding and housing.

**Contact: 770-396-3353 • wbcunwoody@gmail.com • Wild Bird Center of Dunwoody**

**Jerry Hightower** has been gardening in the North Metropolitan Atlanta Area for five decades. His efforts have enhanced homes and schools throughout the area. As a volunteer with the Georgia and National Wildlife Federations, Jerry pioneered providing assistance to and in presenting workshops to homeowners and schools on the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. Jerry began a pilot program in developing campus habitats and certifying Georgia schools with the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. As a result of the success of these efforts, Georgia is the number one state in the nation for schools certified with the National Wildlife Federation. Jerry has presented workshops, trained educators, and assisted homeowners and schools throughout the southeast. The success achieved through this program has been featured in magazines, newspapers, and public television.

Jerry Hightower has been on the front lines to protect and conserve the environment and wild places since the mid-sixties. He, along with many other notable activists, has worked with top natural scientists, federal land management agency leaders, governors, members of Congress, and even a President to insure that future generations; that he will never know; might enjoy a healthy environment and special, wild places. Currently Jerry is a volunteer with the Georgia Conservancy, Georgia PTA, Wildlife Federation, area nature centers, Atlanta Audubon, Outdoor Classroom Council, and the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. In his spare time he has been a U.S. National Park Service Naturalist and Environmental Education Coordinator at the Chattahoochee River for the last 30 years.

In addition to many other awards; he received the 75th Anniversary Outstanding Ranger Award, SE Region from the National Park Service; The Eugene Odum Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence and leadership from the Environmental Education Alliance; Lifetime Service Award, Georgia PTA; Presidential Citation for Environmental Protection Services; and an Outstanding Services Award from the National Water Education for Teachers Project (Project WET).

**Contact: 678-538-1245 • jerry\_hightower@nps.gov • National Park Service**

**Joe Dirnberger** is a professor of biology at Kennesaw State University. He is always trying to keep his feet wet, leading his students into the field in his ecology, invertebrate zoology, freshwater biology, and oceanography classes.

**Contact: 770-423-6158 • jdirnber@kennesaw.edu • Kennesaw State University**

**Joey Giunta** (June-tah) is the Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. He enjoys canoeing, hiking and reading. “I think most students learn better outdoors than they do inside. Inside or out, students do best when the teacher is engaging and prepared. My background is in marketing. If I can learn to teach outdoors, then I think all of our teachers can!”

**Contact: 770-992-2055, x 246 • j.giunta@chattnaturecenter.com • Chattahoochee Nature Center**

**Karen Garland** – For the past 7 1/2 years Karen Garland has been the environmental education senior manager for the Georgia Conservancy where her duties range from teaching workshops for classroom teachers, informal educators, youth groups to the general public. She is passionate about inspiring citizens to become better stewards of our state's natural “treasures.” She is also a Georgia Master Gardener, beekeeper, and mother of one son. She has authored two curricula for classroom use, Georgia's Native Seasons and Georgia's Native Waters and is also editor of several newsletters.

**Contact: 404.876-2900 x 113 • kgarland@gaconservancy.org • The Georgia Conservancy**

**Kyla Zaro-Moore** is Education and Program Coordinator at Oakhurst Community Garden Project in Decatur, GA. She runs 12 programs a year with the City Schools of Decatur, the Decatur Recreation Department, the Samuel Jones Boys and Girls Club, Gaia Gardens, and Refugee Family Services, working with youth ages 2-18, encouraging them to have fun while getting their hands dirty.

**Contact: 404.371.1920 • ocgp@bellsouth.net • Oakhurst Community Garden Project**

**LaVonne McPherson** has a degree in biology and AMS (American Montessori Society) certification for 6-12 year olds. She has taught as an elementary science specialist in Washington D.C. public schools and taught biology and general science for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malaysia.

She and her husband Warren founded the Athens Montessori School in 1978. LaVonne has taught 9-12 year olds (4th, 5th, and 6th grades) for 26 years. Currently she trains teachers for three Montessori training institutes and serves as course director for the Athens Montessori Institute in Athens, Georgia.

**Contact: 706-549-8490 • Athens Montessori School**

**Mary Terry** has served Ecologist, Naturalist, Interpretive Park Ranger and Supervisor for Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve for 14 years. As the first and only employee of the Preserve for 11 years, she has protected the endangered plant species and rock outcrop ecosystems, monitored spotted and marbled salamander species, written curriculum, enforced regulation, provided educational experiences to the public and schools, created interpretive signage, created trails, and established an on-site nature center and much more. She worked with Community and Service groups to provide educational programs at the Preserve and to create Outdoor Classrooms and trails.

Ms. Terry served on the Environmental Education Alliance (EEA) Executive Board and General Board for several years. Ms. Terry is a facilitator for Project Wet, Project Wild, Monarchs Across Georgia (MAG) and Project Learning Tree. She and Anne Shenk Co-Chaired MAG during the start-up and first years. Ms. Terry still serves on the MAG Steering Committee. She has taught teacher workshops for all the before mentioned curriculum. She also served as a presenter at several conferences. One of her favorite topics to teach is salamanders.

She has been instrumental in creating the video “Discover Arabia Mountain” and the GPB featuring Arabia, Panola and Stone Mountains.

Prior to coming to Georgia, Ms. Terry worked on a guest ranch in Wyoming. The NC Museum of Natural Sciences was home for 4 years while she served as a volunteer, an Outreach Coordinator, Naturalist Camp Assistant Director, Public Program and School Program Coordinator and more.

Earlier, she opened and was Manager of the first nature park in Fauquier County, Virginia, and was Assistant Manager of San-Lee Environmental Education Park in Lee County, North Carolina. It was at San-Lee Park where she was trained in Ropes Course Facilitation, Whitewater Rafting, rock climbing and other adventure/outdoor types of recreation. She also started and operated a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center for birds-of-prey and small mammals.

**Contact: 770-484-3060 • mjterry@co.dekalb.ga.us • Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve**

**Mindy Edelson** – After graduating from Emory University 2 years ago with a degree in environmental studies, Mindy Edelson went on to work at a variety of environmental education facilities in different parts of the country. Now back in Atlanta, Mindy works for Zoo Atlanta and the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Her passion for both photography and science stems from her father (a chemist by occupation and a photographer by hobby), who encouraged her to explore the natural world from a very young age. She hopes to eventually pursue her PhD in ecological conservation, and is trying to find a way to incorporate photography into that degree program.

**Contact: 770-992-2055, x249 • mindy.edelson@gmail.com • Chattahoochee Nature Center**

**Nan Huebner** has worked as a geologist at Fernbank Science Center since 1989, supporting K-12 earth science education and teacher development for the DeKalb County School System. Her current area of focus is the geology and paleontology of the southeast.

**Contact: 404-929-6312 • n.huebner@fernbank.edu • Fernbank Science Center**

**Natalie White** – Stormwater Outreach Coordinator for Athens-Clarke County. Her job is to educate the Athens community about stormwater, focusing on stormwater pollution prevention and best management practices for managing stormwater runoff. Her outreach program emphasizes childhood education and community workshops. Visit [www.acstormwater.com](http://www.acstormwater.com) for information on Athens-Clarke County’s stormwater management program.

**Contact: 706-613-3440, x 383 • nataliewhite@co.clarke.ga.us • Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Department**

**Sarah Visser** – Sarah Visser has worked with Keep Georgia Beautiful in a variety of capacities over the past seven years. In her current position as education coordinator, she oversees the organization’s educational programs for K-Adult, including Winning Water, a children’s water festival. Previously, Sarah has coordinated Keep Georgia Beautiful’s Christmas Tree Recycling and Great American Cleanup programs. Since 2001 she has served on the board of the Georgia Urban Forest Council, and is President for 2007. Prior to joining KGB, she received a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Georgia with a concentration in human services administration.

**Contact: 404-679-4853 • svisser@dca.state.ga.us • Department of Community Affairs**

**Dr. Steve Burnett** – Dr. Steve Burnett received his BA in Biology in 1992 from Carleton College in Minnesota, and earned a Masters (1997) and PhD (2001) from the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at Ohio State University (studying bat echolocation and the possibility that bats might use their echolocation signals to communicate as well as navigate). He started teaching in the Department of Natural Sciences at Clayton State University in 2001. He has been presenting bat talks since 1996, and usually gives 10-15 presentations per year. Dr. Burnett is also the vice-president of Basically Bats Wildlife Conservation Society, an Atlanta based bat conservation organization. Since moving to Atlanta, he has given presentations in Georgia, South Carolina, and Arkansas.

**Contact: 678-466-4774 • sburnett@clayton.edu • Clayton State University**



**Suki Janssen** – Suki Janssen is the Waste Reduction Administrator for Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Her duties include the contract management of the public/private recycling facility in Athens-Clarke County and a variety of waste reduction programs and events. Prior to her position in Athens-Clarke County, she was a Program Coordinator for the Keep Georgia Beautiful program within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. She was responsible for the coordination of Winning Water: Children's Water Festival, Waste in Place teacher workshops and a variety of education initiatives for the KGB program. She is a certified middle grades teacher, wife and mother to many furry and scaly creatures.  
**Contact: 706-613-3512 • [suki@acc-recycle.org](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org) • Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division**

**Susan Meyers** – My name is Susan Meyers. I have a BS in Microbiology and a MS in Environmental Science. I have long been a proponent of environmental education and have used lessons from Project Learning Tree, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), Project WILD and Monarchs in the Classroom in my volunteer work with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, PTA, youth camps and schools. I am employed part-time by Stone Mountain Memorial Association to teach a variety of environmental education classes to K-12 students in Stone Mountain Park and currently serve as co-chair for the steering committee of Monarchs Across Georgia (MAG) with Trecia Neal.

How did my interest in Monarchs begin? It all started back in March of 2002 when I attended a workshop at the annual Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA) Conference. There I met Kim Bailey who had just returned from a trip with Dr. Bill Calvert and was oozing with enthusiasm about the trip and Monarchs. I called Bill that weekend and was able to slip into one of his trips in March 2003 with a wonderful group of teachers from New Jersey. I was so impressed with Bill, those teachers (and, of course, the Monarchs) that I made arrangements before I even left Mexico to reserve a week in 2004 for Georgia educators. It has become an annual migration for me!

I continue to learn about and be fascinated by the magic and mysteries of the Monarch and am looking forward to sharing the experience of the overwintering Monarchs with you.

**Contact: 770-925-0672 • [smmeyers@bellsouth.net](mailto:smmeyers@bellsouth.net) • Monarchs Across Georgia**

**Theresa Schrum** – She is also an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist (<http://www.isa-arbor.com/home.aspx>). Theresa writes for Georgia Gardening Magazine (<http://www.georgiagardening.com/>), the bi-weekly Georgia Gardener Newsletter ([http://www.walterreeves.com/how\\_to/article.phtml?cat=26&id=498](http://www.walterreeves.com/how_to/article.phtml?cat=26&id=498)) and Atlanta Home Improvement Magazine (<http://www.homeimprovementmag.com/>). Theresa is also a member of the following organizations: The Georgia Botanical Society (<http://www.gabotsoc.org/>), The Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council (<http://www.gaepcc.org/>), The California Native Plant Society (<http://www.cnps.org>), The Montana Native Plant Society (<http://www.umt.edu/mnps/>), The International Society of Arboriculture (<http://www.isa-arbor.com/home.aspx>), The Georgia Arborist Association (<http://www.georgiaarborist.org/>), The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (<http://www.gawp.org/>), The Garden Writer's Association (<http://www.gardenwriters.org/>), The Gwinnett County Tree Advisory Committee (<http://www.co.gwinnett.ga.us/cgi-bin/bvgwin/egov/page.jsp?aolFX=y&pm=Departments%7CPlanning+%26+Development%7CDevelopment+Division&sm=Tree+Advisory+Committee>).

**Contact: 770-814-2071 • [etic@ecoterrallandscape.com](mailto:etic@ecoterrallandscape.com) • Eco-Terra Landscape Consultants**

**Dr. Tom Howick**, Senior Education Director at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Tom's background includes his work as a University Professor for over 15 years at the University of Southern Maine, Kennesaw State University and The University of the South (Environmental Science, Science Education and Oceanography). He also was a Science Teacher in the Upper School at Woodward Academy in the 80's. His accomplishments include numerous publications (for example):

Dirnberger, J.M., McCullagh, S. & Howick, T.S. (January 2005). Writing and Drawing in the Naturalist's Journal. *The Science Teacher*, 72, (1), 38-42.

Howick, T.S. & Dirnberger, J.M. (2003). Reviving the Naturalist's Journal. *Current: The Journal of Marine Education*, 18 (4), 2-6.

**Trecia Neal** – My name is Trecia Neal. I have a BS and MS degree in Biology, with an emphasis in Animal Behavior and Science Education. I have been a biologist at Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta, GA since 1990. Before I came to Fernbank, I taught High School biology for 3 years. Fernbank is operated by the DeKalb County School System, one of the largest school systems in the state. We have a planetarium, a small museum, and an undisturbed 68-acre remnant forest with a staff of about 35 scientists that are responsible for teaching all areas of science to PreK-12 students in DeKalb County. We also serve the public and out-of-county students. A large part of our mission is staff development. Several years ago I became interested in Monarchs while I was attending an Outdoor Classroom Symposium workshop at Zoo Atlanta given by Kim Bailey. If you've never been to one of these, and you are a teacher in Georgia, be sure to ask me about this Symposium, as it is absolutely wonderful for teachers that incorporate environmental education into their lessons. My areas of expertise are ornithology, and environmental education, and establishing outdoor classrooms and gardens at schools. For the last 3 years I have been teaching students and teachers about the wonders of Monarchs. This will be my fifth year to go to Mexico with Susan. Needless to say, it is the highlight of my year, and I feel that helping to get teachers to Mexico and to incorporate Monarchs into their curriculum is a very important part of what my mission is as a teacher and a scientist. After returning from Mexico the first year, Susan and I became the co-chairs of Monarchs Across Georgia, and have been busy working with this group of individuals to spread the word about Monarchs across the state to teachers as well as the public. I am very excited about returning as a co-leader to Mexico, and learning more about the Monarch's ecology and developing more resources for teachers. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and networking with all of you!

**Contact: [t.neal@fernbank.edu](mailto:t.neal@fernbank.edu) • Monarchs Across Georgia**

**Walter Bready** is the Georgia Trails Education Specialist, a position funded by a Recreational Trails Program grant. He retired after 24 years in the computer service business, and is currently the Events Director for the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association. He has been working with natural surface trails, studying sustainable trail design and volunteer crew leadership for over 10 years. Walter lives in Woodstock and teaches a 4-day trail school, geared for volunteer organizations, at Gainesville State College.

**Contact: 404.423.7257 • [wbready@gsc.edu](mailto:wbready@gsc.edu) • Gainesville State College**

**Warren McPherson** has a BA in English Literature from Cornell University and a MA in Early Childhood Education from Kennesaw State University. He has been a Montessori Educator for 35 years. He serves as teacher, school director, and teacher trainer at Athens Montessori School. Additionally, he holds positions on multiple boards of directors for several national Montessori organizations.

**Contact: 706-549-8490 • Athens Montessori School**

**Z GANAWAY** has a BS degree in Early Childhood Education. She taught elementary school in DeKalb county in the 70's. She has been a member of the Garden Club of Georgia since 1972. After 4 years of study & courses she has attained her certification as a National Garden Club Environmental Consultant.

Z has been achieving her goals and the goals of The Garden Club of Georgia Beautification-Conservation-Education, by giving talks all over the state of Georgia. She speaks to schools at no charge and the fees for her presentations for Garden Clubs and Civic organizations go into the preservation of the Monarch Butterfly and saving our Hemlocks from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Z is currently the Roadside Beautification Chairman/South for the GCG. She is working closely with the GDOT in enhancing the Georgia Wildflower program and would like to see milkweed planted in all seven districts for the Monarchs.

Z's special interests are with Butterflies, Wildflowers, Wildlife and Insects. A major focus point at the present time is the HWA. (Hemlock Woolly Adelgid) and the endangered plant species of Georgia.

Z is an active member of Evergreen Garden Club of Greater Atlanta, DeKalb Federation, Environmental Education Alliance, Monarchs Across Georgia, GEPSN, National Wildlife Federation, Georgia Conservancy, & The Nature Conservancy. She currently serves on the Garden Club of Georgia State Board and the EEA board. She is a Life member of National Garden Club, The Garden Club of Georgia, The DeKalb Federation and the African Violet Society of America.

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