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Mission

The mission of Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is to promote environmental stewardship through research, education, and public outreach.

Vision

The vision of Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is to demonstrate leadership in research-based solutions to healthy and sustainable natural resources.

CLEMSON UPDATE
FOUND IN
ANNUAL REPORT
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Swamp Soirée Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

The Academy's prominent yearly fundraiser celebrated its tenth anniversary at the riverside home of gracious hosts Hale and Lelia Barrett on Thursday, June 12. Over 500 guests gathered for a magical evening complete with delicious dinner catered by Bonefish Grill, toe-tapping music provided by the Carl Purdy Bluegrass Band, wildlife demonstrations provided by Charles Murphy of the CSRA Flyfishers' Association and Dr. Lehr Brisbin, Carolina Dog expert and faculty emeritus of the Savannah River Ecology Lab. Swamp Soirée provided an enchanting evening for its patrons, partners, and guests whose generous donations served to perpetuate the Academy's research, education, and outreach programs.

Several Soirée patrons found this year's Swamp Soirée especially pleasant as their names were drawn as winners of the Academy's annual raffle. Jeff Annis won an Acadia II 2-person recreational kayak donated by American Wilderness Outfitters Limited. Randy Colvin won a

Barbour® Dunmoor Fleece donated by Rivers and Glen Trading Company. Niles Brinton won a Giant® ladies' three speed bicycle donated by Andy Jordan's Bicycle Warehouse. Michael Taylor, Jr. won a 4-canoe rental package donated by Broadway Tackle and Canoe Rentals. Dean Boone won a half day, in shore fly-fishing charter with Captain Duane Harris donated by Sea Georgia Adventures. Allen Strickland won an ultimate bird feeding set-up with poles, feeders and seed donated by Wild Birds Unlimited, and Susan Trotter won an original oil painting donated by Sandra Etherington Tucker. Lastly, Anne Barton won a premium daylily collection donated by Shaw's Sunshine Gardens.

The Tenth Anniversary Swamp Soirée was an overwhelming success as a result of the leadership of event co-chairs Jackie Blanchard and Dan Blanton, as well as honorary chair Gene Eidson. Members of the Swamp Soirée volunteer committee Jenny Addie, Lee Ash,



Courtesy Michael E. Johnson

Lelia Barrett, Shell Berry, Sallie Manning, Sandra Norvell, Alice Sanders, Ashley Smith, and Lyn Smith insured that the event was flawless. Special thanks to Hale and Lelia Barrett for their continued generosity as hosts of Swamp Soirée for the past ten years. (See page 2 for additional volunteer thanks.)

View photos from Swamp Soirée by visiting <http://mejphoto.easyphotoview.com>, choosing category "Special Events" and event: "Swamp Soirée."

Our gratitude to Soirée Patrons who enabled the Academy to achieve its fundraising goals. (See page 2. A complete list of Soirée contributors will be published in the 2008 annual report which will be found in the Spring 2009 Academy Notes Newsletter.)

Swamp Stomp 5K and a New Concept: Earth Day Workday



Swamp Stomp 5K, Courtesy Michael E. Johnson

At the sound of a rousing duck call, 150 runners dashed onto Phinizy Swamp Nature Park's constructed wetland trail in order to begin the 7th Annual Swamp Stomp 5K and kick off an important celebration, Earth Day Workday. Dan Welsh, Swamp Stomp overall winner, completed the course with a time of 17:31, and Christine Thomson, female winner, crossed the finish line with a time of 20:00.

In an effort to translate increased awareness into action, the Academy introduced a new Earth Day concept this year: Earth Day Workday. Over fifty

participants experienced hands-on ownership in making efforts toward environmental stewardship by assisting in building a boardwalk and conducting an exotic plant pull around the William Bartram Rain Garden. Volunteers extended the Rain Garden boardwalk by 82.5 feet, and removed five truckloads of exotic Sea Myrtle. This new approach represents environmental stewardship in action and adds to the Academy's continued commitment to Earth Day's ideals of conservation and sustainable resources.



Lowe's employees donating time for Earth Day

Swamp Soirée Patrons

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Bonefish Grill, Jackie Blanchard, Phoenix Printers

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Potash Corp

BENEFACTOR (\$2,500)

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pany of Augusta, Georgia Pacific, Georgia Power Company, Hull Storey Gibson Companies, Kilpatrick Stockton, Macuch Steel Products, Inc., MAU, Inc., Monsanto Company, Olin Corporation, Osborn & Associates, Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, Patricia S. McGee Foundation, Portable Services, Ranco Tent Rentals, Sig Cox Heating and Air Conditioning, Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC, Storey Foundation, Inc., Tile Center, Wild Birds Unlimited, Wooden Features

SUPPORTER (\$500)

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& Steel Works, Augusta Regional Airport, Augusta-Richmond County Commission, Bridgestone Firestone Aiken County Facility, Broadway Tackle & Canoe Rentals, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland LLP, Dixie Ice & Coal, Doc Savage Heating & Air Conditioning, GIW Industries, Inc., Green Thumb West, Michael E. Johnson Photography, Mossy Oak Properties of Augusta, National Mail Services of the CSRA, PQ Corporation, Rivers & Glen Trading Co., Sandra Etherington Tucker, Sea Georgia Adventures, Shaw's Sunshine Gardens, SunTrust Bank Augusta, N.A., US Equipment, The Village Deli, VoiceConnect Inc., Wachovia Bank, ZEL Engineers

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Earth Day Workday Thanks (Cont'd...)

Earth Day was a success thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of many. The Academy extends sincere appreciation to the following: **Volunteer Committee:** Jackie Blanchard, Rick Herring, Bob Kogel, and Gordon Johnson; **Earth Day Partners:** Lowes, Monsanto, Aiken Junior Woman's Club, *The Augusta Chronicle*, Augusta-Richmond County Recreation and Parks Department, WNRN Newsradio 1230, Comcast, WRDW News 12, Michael E. Johnson Photography, Club Car, and Earthfare; and **Swamp Stomp 5K sponsors:** All Things Running, MCG Sports Medicine, Food Lion, Green Thumb West, Shaw's Sunshine Gardens, and Sports Authority.

Volunteer Thanks

Many dedicated volunteers worked countless hours during the Academy's busy spring and summer seasons. From Eco-Meet to field trips to Earth Day, Swamp Soirée, and beyond, the Academy is grateful for all that our volunteers help us to accomplish! Special thanks to the following: Brian Adams, Jenny Addie, Anita Aguirre, Marcus Allen, Melanie Anderson, Leah Arrigo, Lee Ash, Jeinnie Avera, Morgana Bach, Julie Badger, Rhonda Banks, Bill and Mary Barnard, Roy Beck, Ed Belinski, Laura Beltran, Polly Berseth, Ryan and Heath Bickford, Joyce Billue, Susan Birt, Jackie Blanchard, Anna Susan Boykin, Margaret Brackett, Tracey Brady, Sara Jo Braid, John Brenneka, Sherri Brown, Vanice Cahoon, Gloria Canevari, Jane Cashin, Happy and Surinder Chahal, Chris Chalker, Tamika Chambers, Shaun and Dennis Coates, Rob Cohen, Mary Cumber, Trish Darlington, Rachel deAzevedo, Jacqueline Delash, Elizabeth Donsbach, Carrie Dudley, Debby and Derek Dugan, Lisa Dunn, Crystal Eskola, Mary Everitt, Suzanne Fowler-Tutt, Tammy Freeman, Francisco Galvan, Dennis Garman, Stephen Garrison, Sarah Graham, Theo Greene, Marsha Hamlin, Annette Harlan, Mahalah Harrison, Kyla Hartley, Rebekah Henry, Rick Herring, Nadya Higgs, Michael Hodos, David Hofmeier, Williams Honeycutt, Anne Hull, Harriet Jager, Timmy James, Bill Jeffrey, LizAnne and Gordon Johnson, Mike Keske, Bob and Jessica Kogel, Isabel Leucoua, Julie Lewis, Lloyd Lewis, Sallie Manning, Dick Manning, Anna Marks, Anthony Martin, Mark Mathias, David McGhee, Marilyn McLeod, Sue Metcalf, Cathy Minor, Mary Moretz, Maggie Motes, Debbie Myers, Tim Nelken, Bob and Dot Neugebauer, Donna Newman, Jessica Nicks, Minta Nixon, Sandra Norvell, Susan Opfer, Shantel Parker, Laurie Peacock, Bob Purdy, Janice and Charles Putnam, J.P. Quibeul, Jim Rasmusson, Jeremy Robinson, Alice Sanders, Sheena Savage, Dane Scarff, Bill Sealey, Sarah Simkins, Sally Simkins, Terry Sisk, Lynne Smith, Lyn Smith, Ashley Smith, Brooke, Bekka, Ian, and Emma Smith, Rosie Speer, Lois Stacey, Todd Stanford, Erica Stanley, Jeanne Stewart, Steven Telford, Laura Tilt, Carol Tucker, Julia Vagovic, Tina Vinson, Patty Waggy, Jennifer Wagner, Chris Walker, Marty Walker, Grace Waters, Bill Waters, Anne Waters, Alice Webber, Scott Webster, Bill Wellnitz, Lucy and Ross Whitehorne, Tad Whiteside, Mike Woolard, Anita Wylds, and Jean Yarsawich

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The impressive list below includes corporations, foundations, and civic groups who have partnered with the Academy since 2006. Partners are listed in their highest year's giving level among the current year and the two years prior. Please call 706-828-2109 if your company or civic group would like to get involved.

* inkind partner, + new partner

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The Augusta Chronicle*

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Cherokee Rose Garden Club
Greenbrier Garden Club
Historic Augusta, Inc.

Recent Grant Awards

\$25,000

Lowes Charitable and Educational Grant Foundation
Funds will be used on building materials to extend the William Bartram Rain Garden Boardwalk

\$10,000

Community Foundation of the CSRA
Funds will be used to equip and enhance K-12 Academy Kids' Club After-school learning experiences

\$3000

Monsanto
Funds will be used to extend the William Bartram Rain Garden Boardwalk

\$2500

Walmart, Bobby Jones Exp.
Funds will be used to extend the William Bartram Rain Garden Boardwalk



Pictured: Mark Mathias, Shannon Lamb, and Susan Birt (Monsanto), and Dana Putnam (SNSA)

Membership

The Academy is careful to list donations so they reflect which area of support gifts were intended. This list includes donations specified as membership. (New and renewed 01/01/08 through 07/16/08.) See envelope insert for membership benefits.

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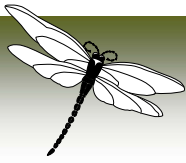
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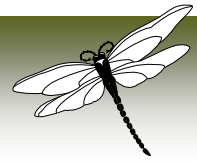
CATTAIL KIDS
E. Jason Cagle*
Sam Decker*

* renewal



Academy Events

August 2008-December 2008



To register for events or for more information, call 706-828-2109.

Kids Clubs

Cattail Kids

K - 2nd grade

Membership fee: \$40

Dates: 9/9, 10/14, 11/11

Time: 4:30-5:45pm

8 meetings a year, nature topics and walks, ecological arts and crafts, newsletter, T-shirt

Gator Gang

3rd - 5th grade

Membership fee: \$45

Dates: 8/26, 9/23, 10/28, 11/25

Time: 4:30-6:00pm

10 meetings a year, ecological topics, games, craft projects, newsletter, T-shirt

Muskrateers

6th - 8th grade

Membership fee: \$50

Dates: 9/2, 10/7, 11/4

Time: 4:30-6:00pm

10 meetings a year, a hands-on learning approach to wetlands and watershed ecology, T-shirt, newsletter

Creek Freaks

8th - 12th grade

Membership fee: \$60

Dates: 9/16, 10/21, 11/8 (10a-2p), 11/18

Time: 4:30-6:00pm

16 meetings a year, conducting chemical and biological stream monitoring, T-shirt, newsletter

Eagle Eyes Birding Club

Ages 7-16

Membership fee: \$50*, \$60**

Dates: 9/9, 10/11 (8a-1p), 10/14, 11/11, 12/9

Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm

12 meetings a year, field trips and bird counts, participation in Georgia Youth Birding Competition, T-shirt, newsletter

Family Discovery Series: Midsummer's Night Hike Thursday, August 21, 7:30pm

Join Academy staff as we hike through Phinizy Swamp Nature Park's constructed wetlands in hopes of hearing a frog chorus serenading the arrival of night. Enjoy the beautiful display of light from the setting sun and catch a glimpse of some of the animals that call the park home. The Pfizer Pavilion will be open at 6:30pm for those that would like to bring a picnic dinner. The program begins at 7:30pm. **\$3 donation per family suggested.**

Volunteer Educator Training Thursday, August 28, 10a-2p

Learn how you can play an important role in Academy weekday school field trips at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. Free of charge; lunch provided. RSVP by: August 25.

Swamp Saturday Training Saturday, Sept. 6, 9am-1pm

Love sharing nature with others? Looking for an outdoor volunteer opportunity? This four-hour training session will teach you to lead Swamp Saturday hikes through Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. Free. RSVP to 706-828-2109 by Sept. 4.

Nature Photography Saturday, Sept. 6, 9-11am

Don't miss this general workshop on basic nature photography, lens choice, film, and composition hosted by Ed Belinski. Bring any photo equipment you *already* have. The natural setting serves as a unique backdrop for breathtaking photos. **Cost: \$5*, \$8** Register by:** September 4. Class size is limited, sign up today!

Fall Migration Bird Walk Saturday, Sept. 13, 8-11am

Enjoy a crisp fall morning on a walk through the Nature Park as we search for fall migrants as well as arriving winter residents. Many of the birds, known as "confusing warblers," are difficult to identify at this time. Join an experienced birder on an adventurous hunt. **Cost: \$3*, \$5** Register by:** September 10.

Family Discovery Series: Inside Look at Augusta's Water Use Thursday, September 18, 6pm

From drinking water to waste water, Allen Saxon, Augusta's Assistant Utilities Director, presents how we use water in the CSRA. The Pfizer Pavilion will be open at 5pm for those that would like to bring a picnic dinner. The program will begin at 6pm. **\$3 donation per family suggested.**

Family Discovery Series: The Savannah, A Holistic View Thursday, October 16, 6pm

The Academy's own Oscar Flite presents recent research on the total health of the complex Savannah River. The Pfizer Pavilion will be open at 5pm for those that would like to bring a picnic dinner. The program will begin at 6pm. **\$3 donation per family suggested.** Call 706-828-2109 for more information.

Nature Photography: Up Close and Personal Saturday, November 1, 9-11am

You'll see the outdoors with brand new eyes after attending Ed Belinski's workshop on Nature Photography Close Ups. Bring tripod, film, camera, and equipment you *already* have.

Contribution: \$5*, \$8 Registration Deadline:** October 30. Class size is limited, sign up today!

Dawn Walk Saturday, November 8, 5:30am

Experiencing sunrise at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park is beyond comparison. Don't miss the sight of light barely filtering through Spanish moss and the sound of the land coming alive with scampering wildlife, owls and other birds. We know it's early, but you won't regret it! **Contribution: \$3*, \$5** Registration Deadline:** November 6. Call 706-828-2109 to register.

December Dash 10K Saturday, December 6, 9:00am

Don't miss the third annual 10K at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park! It is one of Georgia-Carolina's most scenic races! Course is distinctively different from the 5K! Call 706-828-2109 to sign up, or register online at www.active.com.

Volunteer Holiday Social Thursday, Dec. 11, 5:30pm

Academy volunteers, bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or holiday sweet for an evening of sharing and socializing. RSVP by Dec. 9.

Full Moon Hike Friday, Dec. 12, 9-11pm

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park comes alive by the light of the full moon! Join Academy staff in search of owls, frogs, beavers, and bats by nature's brightest night light. The hike lasts two hours and may cover up to 2½ miles.

Contribution: \$5*, \$8 Registration Deadline:** December 10. Call 706-828-2109 to sign up or for more information.

Holiday Break Bike Tour Sunday, Dec. 14, 2pm-4pm

Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle and experience the quiet beauty of Phinizy Swamp Nature Park's wetlands on a relaxed-pace 11 mile bike ride with Andy Jordan. You will be delighted by nature's majesty on this magical ride! An adult should accompany children under 12. Helmets required. **Cost: \$5*, \$8** Register by** December 11.



*members, **nonmembers

Swamp Saturdays at 9:30am

Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec 6

The Academy's trained volunteers lead free 2½-mile, 1½-hour hikes through the Nature Park every month. Don't miss a walk past wetlands and swamps, over picturesque trails, and scenic outlooks. Please call 706-828-2109 in advance for groups.

1858 Lock & Dam Road, Augusta, GA 30906
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