

From Your New Executive Director: Susan E. Nicholson

Throughout our community's history, water resources have always been important and will continue to play a vital role in how our community grows and prospers. Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is a recognized leader in water resource issues and plays a significant role in protecting that significant natural resource. Our unbiased scientific research data provides the basis on which sound decisions can be made. Years of study have greatly increased our understanding of the river, but the results have led to further questions requiring answers. With community support, the Academy is committed to the pursuit. I am personally very proud to be associated with this unique organization and the



Susan E. Nicholson

people who support it. The Academy is making a differencewe are...simply put...sustaining water through science. I am grateful for the contribution of so many in support of our mission – but more importantly, future generations will reap the rewards of the visionary leadership of so many in sustaining our vital natural resource.....water! I invite all of you to come out to Phinizy Swamp Nature Park – bring your family, bring your pet (on a leash) and enjoy the best Augusta has to offer. And remember..... we will always accept a contribution (small or large) to continue the important work of Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy.

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MISSION

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

VISION

The vision of Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is to be a recognized leader in science-based solutions for healthy, sustainable natural resources with particular emphasis on water quality and quantity.



Science Sustaining Water is the theme for Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy's new Annual Fundraising Campaign. Look for information in your mailbox, email inbox, and social networking sites in 2010 and share with your friends, family, and colleagues.

Swamp Soirée: Eleven Years Strong

Economic uncertainty was not able to overcome the significance and celebration of Swamp Soirée, the Academy's eleventh annual fundraiser, on June 11 at the riverside home of generous hosts Hale and Lelia Barrett. Over 500 guests enjoyed a lively evening complete with delicious dinner catered by Dye's Southern Grill, rousing music provided by the Carl Purdy Bluegrass Band, and fly fishing demonstration provided by Rivers and Glen Trading Company.



As the tradition began its second decade, Swamp Soirée provided a stellar evening for its individual patrons, corporate partners, and guests whose generous donations work to propel the Academy's research, education, and outreach programs into the future.

Several Soirée patrons found this year's Swamp Soirée especially memorable as their names were

drawn as winners of the Academy's annual raffle. Robert Nesbit won a kayak donated by American Wilderness Outfitters Limited. Braye Boardman won an Orvis Fly fishing rod and reel donated by Rivers and Glen Trading Company. Jeff Badke won a Giant® baby jogger donated by Andy Jordan's Bicycle Warehouse. W.T. Hussey won a 4-canoe rental package donated by Broadway Tackle and Canoe Rentals. Chris Stouder won a half day, in shore fly-fishing charter with Captain Duane Harris donated by Sea Georgia Adventures.

Dale Kuehl won an ultimate recycled material bird feeding setup with poles, feeders and seed donated by Wild Birds Unlimited, Diane White won an original oil painting by Sandra Etherington Tucker. Margaret Wernut won a premium daylily collection donated by Shaw's Sunshine Gardens. New this year, Deborah Carter won a premium golf basket donated by Golf de L,

(Continued)

Continued, Swamp Soirée: Eleven Years Strong

and Ray Finney won three copper sidewalk lights and installation donated by Outdoor Lighting Perspectives.

Swamp Soirée 2009 was a great success as a result of the leadership of event co-chairs Shell Berry and Will Rice. Members of the Swamp Soirée volunteer committee Jenny Addie, Lee Ash, Lelia Barrett, Jackie Blanchard, Sallie Manning, Sandra Norvell, Rebecca Rice, Alice Sanders, Ashley Smith, and Lyn Smith insured the event's impeccable

standard. Special thanks to Hale and Lelia Barrett for their continued generosity as hosts of Swamp Soirée for the past eleven years. (See page 4 for additional volunteer thanks.) View photos from Swamp Soirée by visiting <http://mejphoto.easyphotoview.com>, choosing category "Special Events" and event: "Swamp Soirée."

Our deepest gratitude to Soirée Patrons below who enabled the Academy to achieve its fundraising goals.

SWAMP SOIRÉE: PATRONS CORPORATE

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SPONSOR (\$5,000)

Pollock Company 09, Potash Corp 08-09

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Congressman John Barrow Visits Academy

On the eve of Earth Day, Congressman John Barrow took time out of his busy schedule to visit Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy at its Phinizy Swamp Nature Park Campus. After touring storm damaged areas in Richmond County, Barrow learned about Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy's river research and its vision for future research projects. The Academy's Research Director, Dr. Oscar Flite outlined endeavors including research-based solutions to local and global water issues, greenhouse gas emissions, and US-based sustainable energy and biofuels research.



Congressman
John Barrow

Dr. Flite expounded on the creation of a Center for Basic and Applied Biological Research to focus on constructed wetlands, and he shared the Academy's vision involving water quantity and quality issues along the Savannah. He elaborated on plans to alleviate the Savannah River's three main areas of concern:

- low dissolved oxygen concentrations in Savannah Harbor,
- decreased spawning habitat for several fish species
- water shortage resulting from extended southeastern drought.

In addition, Dr. Flite envisioned the Academy conducting feasibility studies for water reuse between various local industries and municipalities, ultimately decreasing the amount of water needed to be withdrawn from the Savannah River.

Congressman Barrow also learned about Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy's involvement in Augusta's Constructed Wetlands Complex for tertiary municipal wastewater treatment. In response to his Academy experience at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, Congressman Barrow stated, "I want to thank the folks from the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy of Augusta for taking the time to meet with me and give me a tour of their facilities. They're working on the science that's going to increase our energy independence and keep our planet clean. As a member of the Energy and Commerce committee, I know how important their work is, and seeing what they're doing firsthand reinforces that."

Academy's Spring: Decidedly Green

In March, Earthfare partnered with the Academy for "*Spring Fever: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Revitalize.*" Academy Educators led interactive exhibits on water quality, the water cycle, and animals found at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, and shoppers led themselves around Earthfare on the Academy's "eco-hunt" for organic, earthfriendly products. Earthfare donated 5% of the day's sales to the Academy's education, research, and outreach programs.

In April, nearly 200 runners sprinted along Phinizy Swamp Nature Park's constructed wetland and and beaver dam trails for the 8th Annual Swamp Stomp 5K. Clay Holton, Swamp Stomp overall winner, completed the course with a time of 18:27, and Jennifer Weiksner, female winner, crossed the finish line with a time of 22:42. The Swamp Stomp 5K coupled with the December Dash 10K continue to be the Academy's most successful outreach events.

After the race, over fifty volunteers joined the Academy's commitment to stewardship of natural resources by participating in Earth Day workday. This year's theme was "Save the Swamp—Eliminate the Aliens!" Volunteers participated in an exotic plant pull to improve habitat for native plants and animals at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. After only three hours, volunteers removed

over fifteen truckloads of exotic baccharis, hybrid pear, privet, and honeysuckle. Earth Day workday was a success thanks to its Earth Day Partners: Lowes, Monsanto, WNRR Newsradio 1230, WAGT, and Earthfare; and Swamp Stomp 5K sponsors: MCG Sports Medicine, Food Lion, Green Thum West, Shaw's Sunshine Gardens, and Sports Authority.

In May, the Academy hosted the grand opening of its William Bartram Rain Garden boardwalk. The Academy recognized Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation and Augusta Utilities Department for their significant donations of \$25,000 each, as well as other donors involved in this large scale project: U.S. Fish and Wildlife, George Thurmond Memorial, Wal-Mart (Bobby Jones Expressway), and Monsanto. In honor of the Grand Opening, all Swamp Saturday Hikes began from the Rain Garden Boardwalk. The William Bartram Rain Garden serves as a microcosm of an upper coastal plain swamp and showcases flora and fauna as seen by William Bartram during his travels through the area. The Rain Garden boardwalk provides a setting for students to safely explore swamp ecology in a supervised context. The rain garden also provides a venue for nature park visitors to experience the developing habitat.



8th Annual Swamp Stomp 5K



William Bartram Rain Garden
Grand Opening



Volunteers extend the William Bartram
Rain Garden Boardwalk

New Research Project: Shortnose Sturgeon

The Research division has been extremely busy over the past several months. In March, scientists performed a study to monitor the migration and spawning of the shortnose sturgeon in the Savannah River. The shortnose sturgeon is anadromous, a fisheries term indicating it spends most of its time in saltwater, but migrates upstream in freshwater rivers to spawn. Populations are found all along the Atlantic coast from the St. John River in Canada to the St. John's River in Florida.

The shortnose sturgeon was listed as endangered in 1967 due to its dwindling population as a result of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss. Although populations of shortnose sturgeon in other rivers appear to be recovering, the Savannah River population remains small despite efforts by biologists to stock hatchery-reared fish between 1984 and 1992.

In the Savannah River, shortnose sturgeon migrate upstream in the spring, typically between February and April. These fish require clean gravel and cobble substrate on which to deposit their eggs. Although this habitat is plentiful in the shoals section of the Savannah River, access to this preferred habitat is blocked by New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam (NSBLD). As a result, spawning habitat is thought to be limited to only a few gravel shoals in the River downstream of this dam.

Through a study funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Academy scientists monitored the migration and spawning of shortnose sturgeon in the Savannah River this past spring. To monitor migration, they used an acoustic tag and receiver system. Working with commercial shad fishermen, SCDNR implanted acoustic tags in close to 20 shortnose sturgeon.



Shortnose Sturgeon

These tags emit a coded acoustic signal that can be detected by underwater receivers, which were placed near potentially important habitat locations between Jackson, SC and NSBLD.

On March 5, a tagged sturgeon was detected at our most downstream receiver, approximately 20 miles below NSBLD.

According to SCDNR data, this fish, an egg-laden female almost three feet long and weighing 16 pounds, was tagged in the Savannah estuary on February 13. Seven days later, this fish was detected at the most upstream receiver,

located adjacent to the gravel shoal immediately below NSBLD. This shortnose sturgeon remained at this location for six days, then migrated back downstream past the lowermost receiver on March 18.

To assess the spawning success of the shortnose sturgeon, Academy scientists deployed egg mats near the gravel bars. Since shortnose sturgeon eggs are highly adhesive, they hoped that some eggs might stick to the egg mats and provide verification that spawning was successful. Academy Scientists checked the egg mats for eight weeks and did find some fish eggs; however, none of the eggs collected were from shortnose sturgeon.

Although Academy Research division was not successful in collecting sturgeon eggs, the tracking data for this tagged fish is consistent with typical spawning behavior for this species. SNSA scientists will use this information to refine study techniques for next year's migration. In the meantime, through a contract with TNC, Academy scientists are currently tracking shortnose sturgeon habitat use in the Savannah estuary using the same acoustic tag and receiver



Volunteer Spotlight: Bob Purdy

Originally from Indiana, Bob Purdy arrived in Aiken after retiring as an Oral Surgeon. Also a former college math and science professor, Bob discovered the Academy on a Swamp Saturday hike with his grandson and son-in-law. He was drawn in by educational opportunities offered to local students. Bob has a special talent for assisting middle school and high school field trips as a Volunteer Educator. He also volunteers in the Nature Park Visitor Center, the Academy Office, leading Swamp Saturday hikes, and delivering field trip loan boxes. A travel and photography enthusiast, Bob shares the Academy's goals to help students gain an understanding about water and its impact on their lives, and the value of natural and manmade wetlands. Bob touts the Academy's research endeavors on sustainability of the Savannah River. In addition to generously donating his time and energy to the Academy, Bob is a Board member of the Savannah River

Volunteer Thanks

Many dedicated volunteers work countless hours during the Academy's busy spring and summer seasons. The Academy is grateful for the time, talent, and dedication donated by the following individuals: Jenny Addie, Anita Aguirre, Felica Allen, Lee Ash, Winter Atkinson, Rhonda Banks, Bill and Mary Barnard, Lelia and Hale Barrett, Paul Beck, Ed Belinski, Laura Beltran, Shell Berry, Joyce Billue, Susan Birt, Jackie Blanchard, Anna Susan Boykin, Margaret Brackett, Sherri Brown, Vanice Cahoon, Steve Capps, Bill & Jane Cashin, Chris Chalker, Rob Cohen, Mary Cumber, Tanner and Brianna Davis, Elizabeth Donsbach, Carrie Dudley, Elanco employees, Crystal Eskola, Pam Fall, Willie Forster, Suzanne Fowler-Tutt, Sean Frantom, Alice Frick, Dennis Garman, Brand Gracey, Annette Harlan, Rick Herring, Anne Hull, Teresa Ingram, Harriet Jager, LizAnne and Gordon Johnson, Andy Jordan, Jessica and Bob Kogel, Mignon and Mike Konesky, Isabel Lecuona, Willie Malpass, Dick Manning, Sallie Manning, Anna Marks, Jackie Maryak, Lauren Matthews, Kathleen McDonnell, David McGhee, Marilyn McLeod, Sue Metcalf, Cathy Minor, Mary Moretz, Debbie Myers, Bob and Dot Neugebauer, Minta Nixon, Sandra Norvell, Bob Purdy, Charles and Janice Putnam, Jim Rasmusson, Rebecca and Will Rice, Alice Sanders, Joe Savage, Sheena Savage, Dane Scarff, Brittany Schaffer, Sally Simkins, Sarah Simkins, Bettie Simpkins, Ashley Smith, Lynne Smith, Lyn Smith, Rosie Speer, Lois Stacey, Jeanne Stewart, Laura Tilt, Denise Torterere, Carol Tucker, Julia Vagovic, Tina Vinson, Paul Visintainer, Paul Voss, Chris Walker, Anne Waters, Grace Waters, Alice Webber, Bill Wellnitz, Lucy and Ross Whitehorne, Mike Woolard, Anita Wylds, and Jean Yarsawich.



Elanco employees volunteer their time on the William Bartram Rain Garden.

Hands-on Environmental Education: Too Vital to Lose

The Academy has been very busy leaving no stone unturned in pursuit of grant and foundation support for its educational programs. With greater competition for shrinking funds, the Academy recognizes the significance of its educational programs locally and regionally and has become more aggressive in “making the case” to any and all suitable funders. Academy education programs are vital to students in the CSRA and beyond.

Since 1998, the Academy has educated over 52,000 K-12 students in CSRA through field trips at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. These field trip programs are aligned with South Carolina and Georgia education standards and equip students with priceless academic and stewardship skills. Close to 50% of the Academy’s programs focus on middle school and high school students, a demographic often underserved by natural resources organizations. The Academy believes in the importance of making its environmental science education programs accessible to all students in the CSRA. During the 2009-2010 school year, we expect 52% of field trip students to be from Title I, economically disadvantaged schools. Many of these students will have few opportunities to explore natural habitats and learn the importance of protecting the environment by experiencing nature first-hand. The Academy’s education programs continue to bridge the divide between indoor educational and recreational activities and the natural environment while providing educational enrichment.

Today’s students spend the majority of their recreational and educational time indoors. They are aware of global threats to the environment, but their physical contact with nature is limited, creating a troubling disconnect from the natural environment. It is necessary for students to have a connection to and an understanding of ecology and the environment in order to make critical decisions regarding waterways, natural areas, energy needs and production in the future. The Academy’s interactive, inquiry-based approach to outdoor science education fosters interest, understanding, appreciation and promotion of environmental stewardship in the local environment and beyond.

The United States faces unprecedented competition from other countries on the frontiers of scientific discovery. Through the Academy’s education programs, students actively participate in searching for scientific solutions to environmental problems, transforming dry scientific theory into hands-on reality

– the catalyst for realizing a competitive edge in producing the researchers and innovators of tomorrow. It is quite impressive that the Academy’s education programs equip students with valuable skills necessary to succeed in a variety of academic subjects,



Students learn about dissolved oxygen in Academy field trip.

including Physical Science, Chemistry, Biology, Ecology, Mathematics, Earth Science, and Geology. Physical Science, Chemistry, and Biology are explored through experimental design, use of dichotomous keys, and use of biological and chemical monitoring equipment. Ecology is made relevant through explorations of Georgia’s native habitats, learning about adaptations and limiting factors of animal and plant populations, and human impacts (both positive and negative) to natural habitats.

Mathematics is made applicable through population sampling, investigating geometry, calculating volume of stream flow, using conversions between measurement units, basic orienteering, and use of graphs and charts. Earth Science and Geology come alive through students investigating soil permeability rates, classifying soils by texture, investigating rock formation, and exploring hydric soils.

Through Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy’s field trip programs, students learn environmental stewardship. They explore methods for assessing stream health, including chemical analyses (using dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, nutrient levels, turbidity, and pH), biological sampling and classification of aquatic macroinvertebrates, and physical data collection including bank structure, stream flow, watershed land use, and substrate type. Students learn types and values of wetlands and wetland delineation methods focusing on plants, soils, and the hydric regime. Students understand the full cycle of water in an urban watershed: from the river, to the drinking water facility, to homes, schools, and businesses, to the wastewater treatment facility, and lastly returning to the river. Most importantly, they become aware of human impacts to watersheds including point and non-point sources of pollution and possible solutions to water quality and water shortage issues within their communities.

Please consider going to the next level with your Academy membership, introducing your company as a new corporate partner, or referring grant and foundation opportunities to the Academy Office so that Academy Educators can continue making a difference to as many students as possible.

Nature Park News

Thanks to partnerships with many volunteer groups, the grounds at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park received several enhancements in 2009. The Academy is grateful for volunteers, civic groups, scout troops, and Eagle Scouts. As a result of their time and dedication, Phinizy Swamp Nature Park continues to be an urban jewel.

Two of our dedicated Creek Freaks took the Eagle Scout challenge by completing Nature Park projects in 2009. In January, Clark Dickson, a founding member of the Eagle Eyes Youth Birding Team, built a cover over a bench in the Constructed Wetlands. This bench creates a shady respite from the summer sun and a wonderful vantage point for spotting wading birds. Fellow Troop #777 member Andrew Emery completed a ramp and boardwalk addition to the Cattail Trail. The additional boardwalk improves the trail approaching the silos in the front parking area.

In February 2009, Eagle Scout Jamie Doyle of Troop #413 built a cover over the bench in the front parking area near the kiosk. This cover has provided much needed shade for visitors awaiting park functions.

On August 28, fifty-three volunteers from the sophomore class at Augusta Prep came to the park for a work day for the eighth year in a row! They split into teams and went to work setting Soiree Stones (for the 4th year in a row), repairing campus rock gardens and the Blue-Green Trail boardwalk, removing fallen trees and vegetation from the Beaver Dam Trail and the Rain Garden boardwalk. Thanks for 8 years Augusta Prep!

Looking for a project? We have plenty more projects perfect for Eagle Scouts or other civic groups. Please contact the Education staff at 706-796-7707 if you or someone you know is considering a project at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park.

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 10/14/08-10/14/09.) See envelope insert for membership benefits. * renewal

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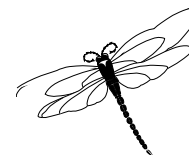
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Ms. Jody J. Bancroft

Stewart Phinizy Family

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Ann Boardman, Jackie Blanchard, & Catherine Boardman

Mr. Clayton P. Boardman III

In Memory of...

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Crawford Investment Counsel



WELCOME: BOBBIE JO GAINEY

Bobbie Jo Gainey is the Academy's Office and Events Manager. A native of Enterprise, Alabama, Bobbie Jo received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Troy University. Her background includes sales, marketing, and public relations. In her spare time, Bobbie Jo enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her family.



BOARD SPOTLIGHT: JERRY WOODS

Originally from North Carolina, Jerry moved to Augusta in 1978 to join staff at the Medical College of Georgia. His interest in conservation drew him to the Academy, where he provided pro bono legal services and served on several committees before becoming chair of the Board of Directors, the position he currently holds. Jerry considers himself a firm believer in the responsibility of each

person to give something back to the community in which they live. When asked about the Academy's most significant aspect, Jerry replied in triplicate, "Its research related to water quality in the Savannah River, the work with the wastewater treatment cells in Phinizy Swamp, and its ability to support reasonable economic development that is consistent with conservation of resources."

RECENT GRANT AWARDS:

- Knox Foundation \$15,000
- Staples Foundation for Learning \$10,000
- Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation \$10,000

WISH LIST:

- Truck
- Electric Golf car
- Video Camera
- Flat Screen TV
- Spotting Scopes
- Binoculars
- Native Taxidermy Items
- Hip Waders
- Overhead Projector
- Commercial Ice Maker

INTERESTED IN NAMING OPPORTUNITIES?

Call the Academy Office At 706-828-2109 for information on Park Benches, Adopt-a-Trees, and Kiosks

Become a Member or Corporate Partner Today!

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND CIVIC PARTNERS

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. **Bold:** recently donated, * inkind partner, + new partner

SUSTAINING PARTNER (\$100,000+)

Augusta-Richmond County

PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$20,000-99,999)

- Kennecott Minerals
- Augusta Utilities Dept.
- Clemson University Found.
- Columbia County
- Ford Dealer Alliance*
- Georgia Power Foundation
- Kilpatrick Stockton LLP*
- Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation
- Morris Communications
- Pine South, Inc.
- U.S. EPA
- WCHZ 95 Rock*

GOLD SPONSOR (\$10,000-4,999)

- Bonefish Grill*
- Augusta Metropolitan CVB
- Cherry, Bekaert & Holland*
- City of North Augusta
- Columbia County BOE
- Community Foundation
- Creel Foundation
- Georgia Bank & Trust
- Google, Inc.*
- Knox Foundation
- Merry Land Investment Co.
- OMI
- Phoenix Printers*
- Porter Fleming Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House
- Staples Foundation for Learning +
- SunTrust Bank Augusta
- Wachovia Bank N.A.
- Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation*

SPONSOR (\$5,000-9,999)

- AGL Resources Foundation
- Blanchard & Callhoun Real Estate

Dial Cordy and Assoc.*

- DSM Chemicals
- E-Z-GO*
- First Bank of Georgia
- GA DNR
- Insights*
- International Paper
- Lanier Worldwide, Inc.*
- Meybohm Realty, Inc.
- Monsanto Fund
- North Augusta Riverfront
- Osbon and Associates
- Pollock Company**
- Potash Corp
- Procter & Gamble
- Richmond County BOE
- The Augusta Chronicle*
- WRDW-TV News 12

BENEFACTOR (\$2500-4,999)

- A. B. Beverage Co., Inc.
- Augusta First Bank & Trust
- Beasley Broadcasting*
- Boral Bricks*
- Caris Foundation
- The Carpet Shop*
- Comcast Communications*
- Cytec Specialty Chemicals
- John Deere*
- The NutraSweet Company
- Storey Foundation, Inc.
- Wal-Mart Foundation
- WNRR News Radio 1230*
- Wooden Features*

PATRON (\$1000-2499)

- Arby's
- Advanced Services*
- American Wilderness Outfitters Ltd.*
- ATC Development
- Augusta State University
- Bank of America
- Center for Pediatric Dentistry

Club Car, Inc.

- CSRA Brochure Dist.*
- Edward Jones
- Fairway Ford
- Georgia Power Company
- Georgia-Pacific Foundation
- Howard Lumber Company
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- Ranco Tent Rentals*
- Sand Hills Garden Club
- Sig Cox, Inc.
- Solvay Advanced Polymers
- The Boston Foundation
- Tile Center*
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SUPPORTER (\$500-999)

- AFB&T
- Aiken Junior Woman's Club
- Alternative Construction & Environmental Solutions**
- American Audio Visual*
- Andy Jordan's Bicycles*
- Augusta IT*
- Augusta Iron & Steel Works
- Augusta Marriott*
- Augusta Presstech*
- Barrett Tree Company*
- Bricko Farms
- Bridgestone/Firestone
- Broadway Tackle*
- Conyers Animal Clinic*
- CSRA Girl Scouts
- Dixie Ice & Coal, Inc.*

Doc Savage Heating & Air*

- ETV Endowment of S.C.
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- General Chemical
- GIW Industries, Inc.
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- Google Earth Outreach*
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- Jim Hudson Lexus
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- National Mail Services*
- Nicholson Revell LLP*
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- PQ Corporation
- Queensborough Natl Bank
- R. W. Allen, LLC
- Rae's Coastal Cafe*
- Red Wolf, Inc.*
- Regions Bank
- Rhodes Financial Services
- Rivers and Glen*
- Savannah River Ecology Lab*
- Sea Georgia Adventures*
- Shaw's Sunshine Gardens*
- Stafford Nut and Bolt +
- Stanton L. Cassels, CPA
- Tastefully Yours*
- The Village Deli
- Trophy & Gift Center
- United Way of the CSRA
- VoiceConnect, Inc.
- ZEL Engineers

ASSOCIATE (\$100-499)

- Andy Watson Landscaping
- Augusta Metro Federal
- Credit Union
- Augusta-Aiken Audubon
- Barberitos*
- Bizz Books
- Central Savannah River Land Trust

- Coca Cola Bottling Co*
- Columbia County Retired Educators
- Cool Delights
- Dippin' Dots*
- EarthFare*
- ET Industrial Supply Co.*
- Eulalie Salley & Co.
- FastSigns*
- Fidelis Theta of ADK
- Food Lion*
- GE Foundation
- GA Academy of Massage*
- Ghann's Cricket Farm
- Golden Ray Farms*
- Golf de L
- Heavenly Ham*
- Majestic Sportswear*
- Mary Pauline Gallery*
- MCG Sports Medicine*
- Modern Welding of GA*
- Monkey Joe's
- Outdoor Equipment*
- Palmetto Industries
- Publix Supermarkets*
- Sparkling Image*
- Sports Authority*
- Starbucks*
- Sticky Fingers Catering*
- Vagovic Heating & Air
- Vogtle Electric Plant*

NONPROFIT (\$50)

- Aiken Horticulture Club
- All Seasons Garden Club
- AmeriCorps Force Program*
- Cherokee Rose Garden Club
- City of Aiken
- Green Court Garden Club
- Greenbrier Garden Club
- Historic Augusta, Inc.
- McCormick Garden Club

ACADEMY EVENTS

December 2009-January 2010

KIDS CLUBS

CATTAIL KIDS K - 2nd grade

Membership fee: \$40

Dates: 2/09, 3/09

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: 11/24, 1/26, 2/23, 3/23

Time: 4:30-6:00pm

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

MUSKRATERS 6th - 8th grade

Membership fee: \$50

Dates: 12/01, 2/02, 3/02

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: 12/15, 1/19, 2/16,

2/20 (10a-2p), 3/16

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: 11/10, 12/08, 1/12,

1/18 (8a-6p), 2/09, 3/09

Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm

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

December Dash

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:00am

Don't miss the fourth 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. 10, 5:30pm

Academy volunteers, bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or holiday sweet for an evening of sharing and socializing. RSVP by Dec. 8 to 706-828-2109.

Geminids Meteor Hike

Sunday, Dec. 13, 9:00pm

Join Academy staff as we watch the Geminids Meteor Shower at the Nature Park. Experts say that viewers may see up to 100 meteors per hour during this exciting winter event. The experience includes a guided hike to a remote seating area, viewing of area constellations, and a front-row seat for the meteor shower. Space is limited. All participants must register by Wednesday, December 9. Contribution: \$8 Academy members, \$10 nonmembers.

Nature Photography: The Digital Difference

Saturday, Jan. 9, 9:00am

Did you get a digital camera over the holiday break? Interested learning how to use it to create dazzling

nature photos? Ed Belinski will help you discover the digital differences that produce better photographs, and Phinizy Swamp creates a breathtaking backdrop for any composition. Bring your digital camera, lenses, and a tripod (if available). Register by: January 7. Cost: \$5 Academy members, \$8 nonmembers. Class size is limited.

Waterfowl Walk

Saturday, Jan. 23, 9:00am

Come to Phinizy Swamp Nature Park to see who's flown south for the winter! Enjoy a walking/driving field trip through Phinizy Swamp's constructed wetlands in search of some of the Nature Park's many wintering waterfowl. Delight in sightings of Green and Bluewinged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Pied Billed Grebe, Cormorant, and more! Cost: \$3 Academy members, \$5 nonmembers. Register by: Jan 21.

Full Moon Hike

Saturday, Jan. 30, 9:00pm

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park comes alive by the light of the full moon! Join Academy staff in search of animals such as owls, frogs, beavers, and bats by nature's brightest night light. The hike lasts two hours and may cover up to 2½ miles. Cost: \$6 Academy members, \$10 nonmembers. Register by: January 27.

*members, **nonmembers

SWAMP SATURDAYS at 9:30am

December 5, January 2, February 6, March 6, April 3

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.

TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL 706-828-2109 OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.THESNSA.ORG

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