

## Chattahoochee Nature Center

### 2008 Accomplishments

#### EDUCATION

- With the financial support of the Kendeda Fund the *Life Science Exploration* program was offered to all Atlanta Public Schools K-12. This programming included an onsite visit to the Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) and/or an outreach program in the classroom. All programs are aligned with the Georgia state performance standards and provide a high-quality, dynamic learning experience for Atlanta students. For the 2007-2008 school year we saw 3,299 students on grounds at the CNC and 1,575 students in their classrooms. In total, we served 4,874 Atlanta Public School student contacts, exceeding our initial goal by 975 contacts.
- Financial support from the Kendeda Fund was also used to deliver a new pilot program *Nature In Your Neighborhood*. Atlanta Parks and Recreation owns a unique 26 acre neighborhood forest, the Outdoor Activity Center (OAC) located in southwest Atlanta, which is managed by the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA). Through a partnership with WAWA and Atlanta Parks and Rec, the CNC was able to offer programming to third, fourth, fifth, and seventh grade students from three select APS schools. Finch Elementary, Beecher Hills Elementary, and Brown Middle school are all located in the same neighborhood as the OAC property. The programming was mirrored after our Cobb program in that the students would participate in three and five-part programs conducted both in their classrooms and at the OAC property. The program not only supports the Georgia Performance Standards but also builds student understanding over the school year through multiple classroom visits and field experiences allowing the students to understand the natural world around them starting in their own neighborhood. For the 2007-2008 school year we saw 533 students with 2,053 student contacts total for both the three-part and five-part series programs.
- The Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) partnered with the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs to provide the Georgia EcoRegions program onsite at the CNC for all third grade students in the Atlanta Public School System during the 2007-2008 school year. This partnership served approximately 3,224 third grade students.
- The Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) partnered with the Teacher Museum North to provide the Georgia EcoRegions program onsite at the CNC for the 3rd grade students in the Fulton County School system during the 2007-2008 school years.

- The Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) partnered with Girls Inc. of Atlanta to bring 11 underserved girls from Cobb County on Paddle Georgia during the summer of 2008. Three staff from CNC and two staff from Girls Inc. traveled with this group for a week long adventure on the Flint River.
- The Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) has a unique partnership with the Cobb County School District and the Cobb County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department. This partnership program, using the outdoors as an integrating context, offers two, three and five-part, environmental science programs for 3rd and 5th grades implementing the Georgia Performance Standards for science. The program builds student understanding over the year through multiple classroom visits and field experiences. In the 2007-2008 school year 27 Cobb County schools participated. There were 15 schools participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade 2-part program, 12 schools in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade 5-part program, and 14 schools in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade 5-part program.

### **WILDLIFE**

- Since 1 January 2008, the Wildlife Department has taken in more than 400 reptiles, amphibians and birds of prey. Included in this count are several new permanent residents including corn snakes, bullfrogs, a snapping turtle and an Eastern box turtle. Approximately 33 of the animals received were transferred to our community rehabilitation partners, while more than 175 of the animals were released back into their native habitats after receiving treatment at the Wildlife Clinic.
- Eighty-three red-eared sliders (a turtle species not native to GA) were relinquished to the Wildlife Department for treatment and transfer back to their native habitat in the Mississippi River basin.
- Well over 3500 phone calls concerning wildlife issues were handled by the staff and volunteers in the Wildlife Department.
- The Wildlife Department moved into its new 2200 sq. ft. clinic.
- Wildlife staff attended the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association (NWRA) conference in New Jersey.

### **CAMP KINGFISHER**

- We ran a full camp this summer and consequently went above our budgeted income goals.
- In February 2008 we began wait-listing campers for full camp sessions – 2 months earlier than before.
- We began two new specialty programs; Characters of the Watershed, a nature theater camp in partnership with the Georgia Ensemble Theater and a nature day camp for children with autism in partnership with Camp Twin Lakes & the Lionheart School.
- We enhanced our curriculum with the addition of an Environmental Education Specialist during the summer.

### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

- Created partnerships with Atlanta Audubon Society & High Country Outfitters.
- Hosted (and profited from) the first Master Naturalist Certification Course in metro Atlanta
- Produced a quarterly brochure & monthly email for promotions
- Developed a 700 member email list of patrons specifically interested in Adult Programs

### **VOLUNTEERS**

- Volunteer hours for FY 2008 (October 1, 2007 to September 31, 2008) were 16,933. You can leave that they were contributed by more than 500 volunteers.