



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AND LOOKING AHEAD

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**





# Letter From the CEO

This year, Chattahoochee Nature Center welcomed 150,000 visitors and worked closely with our Board, staff, and community partners to chart a bold new path forward. The result is a three-year strategic plan positioning CNC as both a beloved local destination and a regional leader in environmental education and storytelling along the Chattahoochee River.

As we prepare for our 50th anniversary in 2026, we're focused on building a strong foundation for the future—enhancing financial sustainability, aligning operations, and increasing our visibility and impact. Our Growing Tomorrow's Nature Enthusiasts Capital Campaign has reached 88% of its \$9.8 million goal, thanks to the generosity of supporters including Tony and Eileen Parker, whose gift of Parker House—our new volunteer operations center—enhances the Unity Garden and greenhouse for volunteers and staff.

Exciting progress also continues with the future Chattahoochee River Welcome Center, supported by our river partners and a SCAD SERVE scholarship that will fund a 10-week collaborative design project with SCAD students. CNC was honored as the Greater North Fulton Chamber's Non-Profit of the Year, with support from Fulton County Arts and Culture—a recognition of our community's shared dedication and passion.

As we approach 50 years of connecting people with nature, CNC remains steadfast in its mission to inspire curiosity, foster connection, and nurture environmental stewardship for generations to come.

*Natasha B. Rice*



**Natasha Rice**  
President/CEO

# Letter From the Board Chair

As I reflect on the past year, I'm filled with pride and gratitude—for our growth and for the people who make it possible. Chattahoochee Nature Center has always been close to my heart. I grew up just miles away, first visiting at age four, attending Camp Kingfisher, running Possum Trots, and now watching my own children enjoy the same trails and river views.

That personal bond reflects what so many in our community feel—a shared connection to nature and each other. This year, the Board of Trustees worked with staff and partners to launch a new three-year strategic plan, positioning CNC as both a beloved local destination and a regional leader in environmental education, conservation, and storytelling.

The Growing Tomorrow's Nature Enthusiasts Capital Campaign is nearing completion, thanks to the generosity of donors and partners. We've strengthened our finances, expanded community ties, and were honored as the Greater North Fulton Chamber's Non-Profit of the Year.

As we approach CNC's 50th anniversary in 2026, we look ahead with optimism. In a time of growing disconnection from nature, CNC continues to spark curiosity, stewardship, and leadership.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your support and belief in the power of nature to transform lives—for the next fifty years and beyond.

*Nick Diluzo*



**Nick Diluzo**  
Board Chair



## Mission

Connecting People with Nature





# 2025 Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Chattahoochee Nature Center plays a vital leadership role in shaping the organization's vision and impact. Composed of passionate and experienced individuals, the Board provides strategic guidance, oversight, and support to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of our mission.

Joel Blanchard

Sandi Buttram, CPA

Kelly Comstock

Nick DiLuzio, Chair

Jeffery Dingle

Todd Dolson, Secretary

Dutch Earle

Sacha Goodson

Robert Hagan

Ben Haislip

Glen Hasling

Richard Hirsekorn

Craig Hodges

Harriette Hoyt

Lisa Hyde, Treasurer

Allison Laird, CPA

Beth Lehman

Gary Ludi, M.D.

Jon McKee

Aaron Mitchell

John Mulcahy

Charlotte Martin Pugh,  
Vice Chair

Michael Rieman

Chris Smith

James Stokes

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Ramona Walsh

Bob Williams

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*I believe it's vital to connect with nature—exploring the river, learning about local wildlife, and teaching my grandsons to appreciate and care for the environment. CNC is the perfect place for that! My daughters were Camp Kingfisher counselors, my grandsons attend camp, and we love visiting for programs like the owl demos and butterfly exhibit.*

– CNC Member

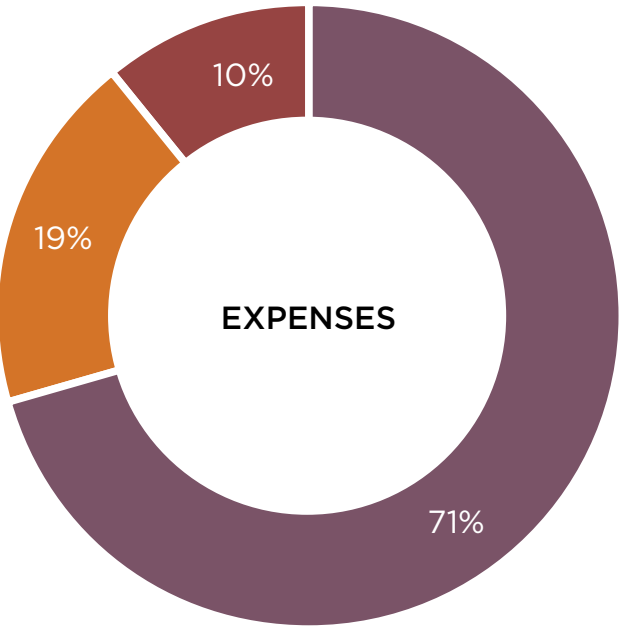
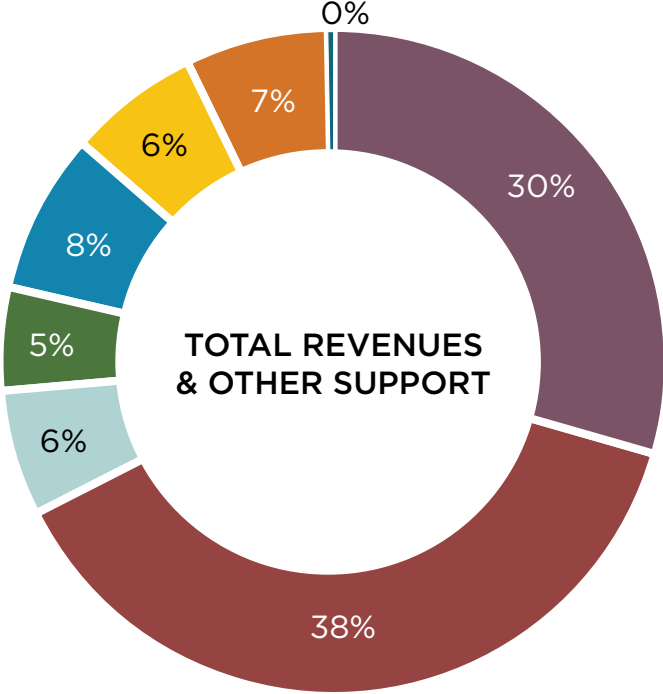




# Financials

Revenues, Gains and Other Support

Contributions and Grants	\$1,622,105
Program Revenues	\$2,070,522
In-Kind Contributions	\$338,685
Retail Sales	\$266,749
Admissions	\$430,302
Membership	\$352,855
Special Events/Rentals	\$373,803
Other Income	\$11,982
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,467,003</b>



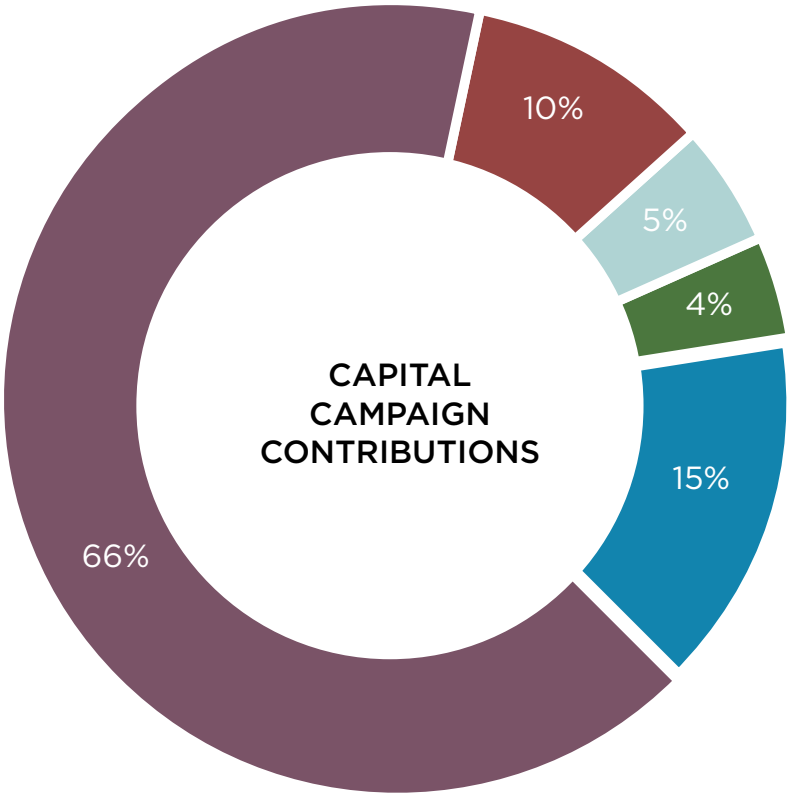
Expenses

Program	\$3,743,578
General and administrative	\$990,466
Fundraising	\$571,495
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,305,539</b>
<i>Change in Net Assets</i>	<i>\$161,464</i>

# Capital Campaign Campus Improvements

In June, three vibrant butterfly sculptures—crafted from upcycled metal by Colorado artists Ken & Janine Cable—were added to CNC’s Pollinator Gardens, celebrating pollinators and providing year-round color. Special thanks to Brown & Caldwell for sponsoring these inspiring additions.

In August, a special sculpture was installed by artist William Massey III. The piece is inspired by the love of bald eagles and features found objects and upcycled metals, as well as beloved rocks from CNC’s campus. This piece was made possible by an anonymous gift to CNC’s capital campaign in memory of James M Montgomery.



Foundations	\$6,400,000
Individuals	\$1,000,000
Public Funds	\$500,000
Corporations	\$400,000
<i>Remaining to be Raised</i>	<i>\$1,500,000</i>



# Operations

In 2025, CNC strengthened its role as a leader in **wildlife rehabilitation, horticulture, and native plant conservation**.

## WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Our Wildlife Rehabilitation team treated **800+ injured and orphaned animals** representing 49 species, providing expert medical care and recovery support. Of the patients that survived their critical first 24 hours, **88% of reptiles, 69% of raptors, and 80% of amphibians** were successfully released back into their natural habitats. Cases ranged from trauma due to vehicle collisions and habitat loss to injuries from gunshots, with **seven raptors and one turtle confirmed as shooting victims**. Highlighted cases included a juvenile **Great Horned Owl** safely reunited with its family after three weeks of intensive treatment, and a **non-releasable Black Vulture** who now serves as an ambassador at Zoo Atlanta, inspiring thousands through educational programs and social media. CNC also collaborated with the **UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital** on five critical cases requiring specialized care before transfer to CNC for rehabilitation.



With patients arriving not just from metro Atlanta but across the state, these efforts reflect CNC's reputation as a trusted regional resource for wildlife care and conservation leadership.



## HORTICULTURE

**Horticulture** also had a standout year, expanding access to native plants, advancing conservation work, and offering a wide range of educational opportunities. With two new online events added to its in-person native plant sales, CNC-propagated plants now thrive in homes and greenspaces statewide. Volunteers and Eagle Scouts completed a two-year Unity Garden refresh, funded by the Roswell Woman's Club, rebuilding 1,300+ feet of raised beds that produced 7,000+ pounds of food and 110+

varieties of vegetables, herbs, and mushrooms for the North Fulton Community Food Bank. Outreach efforts engaged audiences through container gardening workshops, terrarium gardening, and the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, making citizen science accessible to all. The 4th Annual Go Wild with Your Gardening Symposium sold out for the second consecutive year, drawing attendees from across Georgia, with 80% coming from outside CNC's membership.

## NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION

The horticulture team also strengthened native plant conservation efforts, partnering with the **Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance** and Georgia DNR to propagate 12 threatened and protected species for reintroduction. Dedicated weekly crews and monthly Habitat Restoration volunteers focused heavily on invasive plant removal across CNC's gardens, trails, and wild spaces, steadily restoring habitat quality, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring CNC's 127 acres remain a refuge for native plants and wildlife.

After 39 years of dedicated service, Henning von Schmeling retired, marking the end of an era for the CNC team. A founding member of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA), von Schmeling played an integral role in conservation efforts across the state. In recognition of his decades-long contributions, he has been honored with the 2025 Tom Patrick Award by the GPCA.







*Our naturalist was fantastic! The students learned so much and left curious for more. Even the hesitant ones touched the snake thanks to her encouragement. We always love CNC visits—they're fun, engaging, and full of smiles!*

- Atlanta Public Schools teacher

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**58,000**  
PARTICIPANTS REACHED



**350+**  
SCHOOLS  
& ORGANIZATIONS



**20,000**  
TITLE I STUDENTS



**\$350,000**  
GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS



**300+**  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



**1,600+**  
PADDLERS



## CAMPUS & VISITOR EXPERIENCE

**59,000**  
MEMBER VISITORS



**22,000**  
BUTTERFLY ENCOUNTER GUESTS



**4,000**  
LIBRARY PASS VISITORS



**7,838**  
COMMUNITY EVENT PARTICIPANTS



**3,444**  
MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS



2024-2025 IMPACT



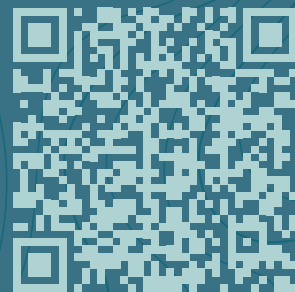
# Impact Story

## CAMP KINGFISHER'S IMPACT THROUGH GENERATIONS

Each summer, Camp Kingfisher welcomes hundreds of children eager to explore, make friends, and create lasting memories through hikes, canoe trips, and animal encounters. Its impact now spans generations—former campers and staff are returning as parents, sharing the camp magic with their own children. This year, the Shipp family made history with our first third-generation camper, five-year-old Braxton, whose grandfather attended Camp Chattahoochee in the 1960s and whose mother, Jennifer, credits camp for sparking her lifelong love of nature. For Braxton, every moment—from meeting screech owls to swimming in the pool—was “his favorite.” Stories like theirs remind us that Camp Kingfisher is more than a summer camp—it’s a legacy of curiosity, confidence, and connection to the natural world. Scan the QR code to read their full story.



READ THE FULL STORY



# Development

**A Night Out With Nature and Corporate Eco Challenge** raised **\$300,000** to support our mission to connect people with nature. These events are led by our Board of Trustees and provide vital funding for our operations.





# Thank You to Our Sponsors

Our corporate partnerships come in all shapes and sizes. From Board service to volunteering and philanthropic giving, these organizations play a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission to connect people with nature. We are truly grateful for these partnerships.

Aprio<sup>®</sup>



NORTHSIDE  
HOSPITAL



# Volunteer Highlight

CNC celebrates our partnership with Cox Enterprises. 115 Cox Employees volunteered 384 hours doing various projects across our campus this past year.

*Volunteer projects at Chattahoochee Nature Center are always a hit with our employees. The size and scope of the organization allow them to participate in all kinds of projects that have a tangible impact on the mission at CNC. From harvesting produce in the Unity Garden to beautifying the grounds in preparation for a signature event, Cox volunteers are proud to roll up their sleeves and support community partners like Chattahoochee Nature Center.*

— Max Koptik, Senior Impact Coordinator,  
CSR and Environmental Sustainability  
at Cox Enterprises







50  
YEAR  
*Anniversary*  
1976-2026

SAVE THE DATE  
**50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
CELEBRATION  
**JUNE 24, 25, & 28, 2026**

