



February 3, 2012  
For Immediate Release:  
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## **“It is amazing how an experience with Nature can Mold the Character of Kids!”**

**[Roswell]** An experience in nature can be transformative. We see that first hand when observing the difference in kids after they participate in Camp Kingfisher, here at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Alexander Williams, a former camper, said it best, “A good percentage of young adults can fondly reflect on memories of joyful summers past, yet few people are able to articulate exactly why these recollections hold so much value. While summer camp is synonymous with childhood freedom and happiness, there is a deeper and much more profound meaning behind the camp experience.

Before moving to Georgia in 2004, I was never much of a summer camp person. Then we moved to the Peach State, where my parents signed me up for a full summer of Camp Kingfisher in an attempt to broaden my horizons. So almost eight years ago, I took my first steps into the Camp Kingfisher gymnasium.

Right off the bat, I felt that warm, comfortable atmosphere that I have come to associate with the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Kids of all ages, backgrounds and personality types were gathered in one room and even more impressively, they were all getting along. I was never the most social child, but I found it easy to connect with virtually everyone and every activity in my small group. Things that had seemed childish before, like recycling or nature hikes, suddenly seemed downright enjoyable. Before Camp K, I didn’t know a single camp song, take a single lunchbox to school, or care about the natural sciences in the slightest. Now I could recite volumes, have used the same lunchbox for seven years and am applying to colleges with biological interests.

But there’s somehow even more. Camp K taught me to be conscientious of my environment and the people in it, certainly, but it also taught me to be completely accepting of everything I encountered there. Camp taught me not only to enjoy hot summer days, but also to fill those days with as much adventure as possible. Most of all, Camp K taught me how to grow up acquiring as much knowledge as possible, while still being 100% a kid at heart. That’s why the Nature Center’s summer programs will always hold a place in my brain and certainly my heart, and why I take my Camp Kingfisher experiences with me wherever I go.”

A mother of one of our campers, Elysa G. related her story; “Our 7-year-old son, Ian, had always been interested in doing the right thing for the Earth. His knowledge on the subject was limited before he attended Camp Kingfisher, but after his very first day at Camp K his eco-friendly ways blossomed into what they are today. Ian came home that first day at camp and asked me if he could rummage through our recycle bin. About an hour later he emerged with a cityscape in his hands. He was beaming! He

showed me all the buildings, wires, roads, and parks that were in his recycled city. I was so impressed! He took it to camp the next day where it was made known to him how special that city was. Now Ian is the kid at school who will collect everyone else's plastic at the lunch table to make sure it's not tossed in the garbage. We have always strived to do zero-impact packed lunches in our home, but the challenge was even more exciting for Ian when this was rewarded with recognition at camp. It is terrific how the things we try to do in our home are reinforced at the Nature Center. We feel so blessed to have such a gem in our backyard!"

***"We know that the camp experience can change hearts and minds and develop leaders in our community" said Ann Bergstrom, Executive Director for the Chattahoochee Nature Center. She continued, "I'm proud to announce that some fresh new faces will be leading Camp Kingfisher this year."*** **TIM REIDY** of John's Creek has been appointed as the Director of Camp Kingfisher after serving in the interim position last summer. Tim said, "I am thrilled to be a part of the Chattahoochee Nature Center as Director of Camp Kingfisher. Camp has been an important part of my life since I started as a counselor for middle school students in 2008. A graduate of Centennial High School in Roswell, he continued, "After graduating from the University of Georgia (UGA), I started working full-time at the Chattahoochee Nature Center and have loved every minute of it. When I'm not at camp, I enjoy music, Frisbee, and trying new cooking recipes. As Camp Director, I am excited to be a part of the camp I love and witness all the excitement it will bring!"

Tim is joined by **DEBBY HEAD** of Marietta who has been hired as Camp Coordinator, serving as the assistant to the Camp Director. Debby said, "CNC's been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. At the age of 4, I attended Camp Kingfisher and looked forward to each summer. I started volunteering at CNC when I was 14 and have worn many different hats; camp counselor, canoe specialist, wildlife volunteer, and lead visitor service associate. I'm so excited to work with such amazing and dedicated people and hope to provide campers with an incredible camp experience. I recently graduated from Kennesaw State University and in my spare time I love being out on the river and spending time with my dog, Meeka."

**Tim** is passionate about how important the camp experience is to kids' development. He said, "Let your kids play and make new friends! Don't let them sit indoors playing on electronic devices, sign them up for Camp Kingfisher so that they can get outside to explore, hike, learn, and discover. Spring and summer camps are the perfect times for adventures. Your kids will enjoy, canoeing, nature hikes, live native animal presentations, science exploration activities; swimming, creating crafts and having lots of good ole' camp fun like making up silly skits and singing funny songs. So don't let them miss out, this is the best adventure day camp deal around; we've had no price increase for three years running." Camp Kingfisher day camp really is a flexible choice for working families, with one and two week options and both full and half day sessions available. Supervised pre and post-camp care is included in the price of camp and can extend a day from 8am to 6:15 pm. To learn more about opportunities at Camp Kingfisher, please visit our website at [www.chattnaturecenter.org](http://www.chattnaturecenter.org). For frequently asked questions, available session dates, sample schedules and times call (770)992-2055 ext 222. Your kids will thank you!

#### Additional Information

Camp Kingfisher at CNC is all about outdoor adventures combined with traditional camp activities, blended with happy traditions, songs, skits and of course, environmental education. This camp has all the elements of an old-fashioned sleep-away camp and provides kids with the opportunity to play outdoors, enjoy freedom from their hectic school schedules and get dirty. Without them even realizing

it, this camp actually teaches kids about sustainability, ecology, nature and the environment. We call this 'edu-tainment'. It is about letting nature teach through the sounds and experiences of a walk in the woods, experiences that are all too rare for children today. Activities at Camp Kingfisher are numerous, and the pool located on the property is always staffed with certified lifeguards. With a staff to camper ratio of 6:1, campers get plenty of individual attention. Each group has at least one staff member who has completed a minimum of one year of college and has environmental science experience. Our daily programming is designed to meet the specific interests, needs and development levels of each camper. This unique camp will increase your child's awareness and understanding of nature in a fun, safe and stimulating environment.

### **Register Now for Camp Kingfisher Summer Camp 2012**

**May 29-August 10<sup>th</sup> with one and two week sessions for Ages 5 - 17**

**Enjoy new themed-sessions and your old favorites!** Come and be a part of our unforgettable summer adventure. Each session focuses on a specific topic and is full of hands-on nature activities:

- Forest Homes and Hideaways
- Rolling on the River
- Scales, Slime, and Stingers
- Planet Protectors
- Fast Flyers and Mighty Mammals
- Nature in a Nutshell

**Explore. Learn. Play!** (Kindergarten – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade) We have Canoeing, Swimming, arts and crafts, nature hikes, science exploration activities, and live native animal encounters!

#### **Travel Program (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grades)**

Are you ready for a challenge? Your students will enjoy day trips to national parks, extended river trips, outdoor adventures, and an overnight at CNC.

#### **Leadership Training (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades)**

Join the Leadership and Naturalist Training Program for experience in handling animals, leading hikes, and canoeing with our younger campers.

Call: (770) 992-2055, ext. 232 or email: [campkingfisher@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:campkingfisher@chattnaturecenter.org). You can register online or download registration forms: <http://www.chattnaturecenter.org/camp-registration.html> ! We also have Free Extended Care from 8-9 am & 4-6:15 pm.

Camp Kingfisher has spaces for students from K-9<sup>th</sup> grade. One and two week sessions are available for rising Kindergarten-7<sup>th</sup> Graders for our onsite programs and 8-9th Graders for our Travel Program.

Groups are divided by ages:

- Screech Owls (campers entering K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades)
- Barn Owls (campers entering 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)
- Barred Owls (campers entering 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Great Horned Owls (campers entering 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Travel Program (campers entering 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades)

Sessions take a closer look at the natural world through ecological and environmental science education. Campers participate in exciting activities such as pond studies, water science experiments and insect

identification. All sessions also feature time-honored camp activities including swimming, canoeing, arts & crafts, hiking, games and much more. Throw in elective skills classes, live animal demonstrations, and 127 acres of natural woodlands and trails and you have a summer your child will never forget!

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**Registration opens February 13<sup>th</sup> for our Spring Break Camp Scheduled for April 2-5, 2012  
Kindergarten-7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Does school have your children craving some outdoor time? Do they want to revisit their favorite camp games and friends? Head out to CNC for a fun spring break!

Here are just a few new spring break camp activities:

- Create a cardboard city
- Camper-led closing campfire circles including skits, songs and flag ceremony
- Canoeing on CNC ponds, weather permitting

For more information, call: (770) 992-2055, ext. 232

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