



Board of Directors

Edith Hollander, *President*
Chris Enders, *Vice-President*
Roger Nielsen, *Secretary*
Peter Sengson, *Treasurer*
Shannon Caldwell
Emily Carr
Andrew Crain
Gary Crider
Terri Martin-Yates
Mary Lou Neuhauser
Halley Page
Mark Ralston
Blake Schneider

Staff

Emily Bailey,
Operations Coordinator

Members - 244

*Benefactor - 1
*Sponsor - 3
*Patron - 7
*Sustaining - 12
*Contributing - 27
*Family - 158
*Individual - 32
*Lifetime - 4



ACC Liaisons

Randy Smith
Facility Supervisor
Sandy Creek Nature Center

Alex Bond, *Interim Director*
ACC Leisure Services

Jace Besold, *Nature Division Administrator*
ACC Leisure Services

Ex-Officio Members

Mike Hamby, *ACC District 10 Commissioner*

Bynum Boley, *Assistant Professor*
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA



Corporate Sponsors

Colonial Pipeline
Classic Race Services
Hawthorne Animal Hospital
Jackson EMC
Wild Birds Unlimited
Five Points Eye Care
Law Offices of Adam M. Cain
Oconee Rivers Audubon Society
Jack G. Newman, DMD Family Dentistry
New Urban Forestry
Grail Bra Specialists
Best Home Services
Tallassee Highlands
Flagpole
Jittery Joes

Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc.

2025 Annual Report



**To support, promote and protect
the environmental education
and preservation efforts of
Sandy Creek Nature Center**

2024-2025 Year in Review



From the President, Edith Hollander

We will not actually change the name from Sandy Creek Nature Center Inc.; it still works for business purposes like taxes and licenses. But as an "identity" for the community to support and engage with, it is lacking, so we decided to add Friends of Sandy Creek Nature Center to our official name. Friends of Sandy Creek Nature Center will represent you, the people of the community that support us through annual memberships, donations and corporate sponsorships.

Look for more concrete details in the months to come, along with a new Friends logo and new opportunities to engage with the nature center and the organization. We hope to see more of you volunteering at fun events like the Jack-O'-Lantern Jog and Frog Hop races, the birdseed sale, and volunteer workdays, as well as ACC-sponsored events like Snake Day. We hope to open up our committee structure to give you a chance to do more. And if you want to be involved in the leadership, there is room on the board. Go to our website or speak with a board member today to learn more.



Welcome to Sandy Creek Nature Center and to the annual meeting of the membership for Sandy Creek Nature Center Inc. Once a year, we come together for an afternoon of fun, with a little bit of "business" thrown in so that you, our members and supporters, can see what we have accomplished. Compared to some years, this one was quieter, no huge projects started but some important ones completed (outside public restroom) and some projects ongoing (renovations to the Coastal and Wetland exhibits and the Claypit Pond Exploration Station.) Please see the status updates on these projects, all done in partnership with Athens-Clarke County and the outstanding staff at Sandy Creek Nature Center.

One note about one of these projects: the renovation of the outdoor restroom and water station took much longer to complete than expected, but it came in under budget! It was funded through a grant to SCNC Inc from the Riverview Foundation, which graciously allowed us to use the rest of the funds to install another water station down near Walker Hall and install some much-needed trail fencing. This was a \$68,000 grant that was well spent!

But Sandy Creek Nature Center Inc. is not just about the money we raise to support the nature center we all love. Much time was spent this past year discussing the future of the organization now that it is past 50. One action item to come out of those discussions was the concept of a possible name change for the organization.

Did you know Sandy Creek Nature Center Inc is actually the second name for the founding organization? It started out as the Northeast Georgia Nature Center Inc., with the intent to populate northeast Georgia with a number of nature centers under this umbrella organization. However, our founding members determined the work of building and supporting just one nature center needed to be its priority and so the name was changed in 1990.



As part of the Board's mission to promote and protect the environmental education and preservation efforts of Sandy Creek Nature Center, we watch what happens to the property and surrounding areas. To this end, we continue to monitor the potential sale of land adjacent to the nature center at the entrance of Commerce Road. While we don't have the funds to purchase this land, the Board and staff will continue to monitor this situation and work to seek out possible solutions and partnerships to protect this land from incompatible development.

We hope this Annual Report helps you see how your support contributes to Sandy Creek Nature Center and what the Board does on your behalf. Enjoy this day. Let us know what is important to you. And, above all, celebrate this outstanding nature center and the support you, as a member, volunteer and/or corporate sponsor have given for over 50 years. You are the lifeblood of this organization, and WE THANK YOU!

INCOME - \$57,224.51

- *Memberships - \$21,245.00
- *Donations - \$8,876.00
- *Corporate Sponsors - \$2,600.00
- *Birdseed Sale - \$3,014.55
- *Frog Hop & JOL races - \$3,383.54
- *Gift Shop - \$12,131.34
- *Silent Auction - \$3,146.00
- *Interest Income - \$2,824.70

EXPENSES - \$42,650.59

- *Administration - \$24,268.86
- *Materials/Supplies - \$531.97
- *Contributions to SCNC - \$4,968.81
- *Contracted services - \$1,075.00
- *Insurance - \$2,417.00
- *General Operations - \$9,388.95

**Does not reflect grant funds spent to renovate outdoor restroom, install water station near Walker Hall and provide additional fencing on greenway.*

**An additional \$30,000 in restricted funds was donated to ACC in September 2025 for the Wetland and Coastal exhibitions renovations.*

