



# GEORGIA AUDUBON

## Georgia Urban Ecologists (GUE) 2023-24: Atlanta Cohort 2

Sessions occur one Saturday per month from 10 AM-1 PM, unless otherwise noted. Atlanta Cohort 2 is open to students across metro-Atlanta counties who have participated in Cohort 1 and are returning for a second year or more.

### Calendar:

#### **Sunday, September 17-- Orientation with Georgia Audubon via Zoom, 4:00-5:00 PM**

#### **October 21--Nature Journaling and Science Illustration 2:00-5:00 PM\*** (Rain date October 22)

*\*Please note this session takes place in the afternoon.* In this session, we'll learn the fascinating process of combining art and science illustration from an award-winning naturalist illustrator. After a nature hike for inspiration, we'll learn the steps from creating a field journal entry to the line illustration and printed page. We'll learn techniques in graphite, water color, watercolor pencil and ink.

**Meeting location, Chastain Park, Chastain Park Ave, Atlanta, GA**

#### **November 11--Fabulous Fungi!** (rain date November 12)

Mushrooms are neither plant nor animal, and scientists are still learning about the huge role that fungi played in the evolution of life on earth. For this session, we'll join state-certified wild mushroom forager Rose Guerra for a foray and ID workshop. We will discuss common mushrooms, from edible deadly, and the basics of mushroom identification. We'll also collect mushrooms and identify what we can using appearance, spore color and shape, and chemical reactivity.

**Meeting location: Big Trees Forest Preserve, 7645 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA**

#### **December 9--Sunset Birding, 3:30-6:30 PM\*** (Rain date 12/10)

*\*Please note this is an evening session.* Clayton County Water Authority is a leader in the water industry for its environmentally sound approach to wastewater treatment. The county's constructed treatment wetlands are one of metro-Atlanta's best birding hotspots. At this session, we'll visit a restricted-access site where numerous waterfowl and wading birds spend the winter. The highlight of our field trip will be watching thousands of wintering blackbirds, starlings, robins, and grackles flying in to roost in the wetlands at dusk.

**Meeting location: Newman Wetlands Center, 2755 Freeman Rd, Hampton, GA**

#### **January 20--A Day in the Life of a Herp Keeper**

In this session with our friends at The Amphibian Foundation, we'll learn about the importance of captive collections and what's involved in the care of reptiles and amphibians. Students will get an up close look at several animals in their collection and get some hands-on experience maintaining an enclosure.

**Meeting location: Blue Heron Nature Preserve, 4055 Roswell Rd, Atlanta, GA**

#### **February 10--Exploring Natural History Collections**

Natural history collections have been used in the discovery of both new and extinct species and have been instrumental in scientists' understanding of evolution. For example, the study of anatomy and fossils has furthered our understanding of the evolution of birds from dinosaurs. In this session, we'll

explore the natural history collections at Fernbank and learn how they play an important role in scientific discovery. If time allows, we'll also enjoy the current show in Fernbank's planetarium.

**Meeting Location: Fernbank Science Center, 156 Heaton Park Dr NE, Atlanta, GA**

**March 9–Managing Urban Deer Populations and Archery Practice** (Rain date March 10)

A healthy white-tailed deer population provides wildlife viewing opportunities and hunting license revenues for the state of Georgia, but maintaining a sustainable population within appropriate ecological and societal limits presents a number of management challenges. In this session, we'll join the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to learn about deer biology, how overpopulation can create problems, and how hunting can be used as a management tool. We'll also get a chance to try our hands at archery!

**Meeting location: Panola Mountain State Park (tentative)**

**April 13–Touring the Living Kendeda Building at Georgia Tech** (Rain date April 14)

The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design is the first building in Georgia to earn Living Building Challenge certification, the world's most ambitious and holistic green building achievement. The building is net-positive energy and water over the course of each year. During this session, we'll get a tour of this incredible building, learning about the unique elements included in the design. As a special treat, we'll get a chance to visit the building's apiary!

**Meeting Location: 422 Ferst Drive NW, Atlanta GA\***

\*NOTE: Apple Maps does not provide an accurate location. Please use Google Maps

**May 11–Aquatic Study with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and Pizza Party** (Rain date May 12)

Lake Lanier is the most visited lake in Georgia. It provides drinking water to almost half of Georgia's residents and recreational and sporting opportunities to many people. In addition, over 200 species of birds, dozens of game fish, and a variety of mammals call this lake home. This important resource is also at the center of a dispute between three states that depend on its water and that of the Chattahoochee River system. In this session, students will explore the lake aboard the Chota Princess II, a floating classroom provided by Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. We'll also celebrate the end of a great year with a picnic in River Forks Park!

**Meeting location: Lake Lanier Aquatic Learning Center, 3500 Keith Bridge Rd, Gainesville, GA**

***Thank you to our partners who make this program possible:***

*Clayton County Water Authority, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Elachee Nature Science Center, The Amphibian Foundation, Georgia Tech, Fernbank Science Center*



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