



# Living With Wild Neighbors



**Linda May, Outreach Coordinator  
GA DNR Urban Wildlife Program  
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**GA Tree Council - Campus Tree Conference  
University of North Georgia - Gainesville**

# GA DNR Structure



# GA DNR Wildlife Resources Division

- Game Management
- Fisheries Management
- **Wildlife Conservation**
  - Conserves & protects the **95% of wildlife species that are NOT hunted or fished for**, as well as native plants and their habitats
  - Research, wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration, public education, partnerships with agencies/organizations



# Georgia's Rich Species Diversity

**MAMMALS:** 110 species

**BIRDS:** 425 species

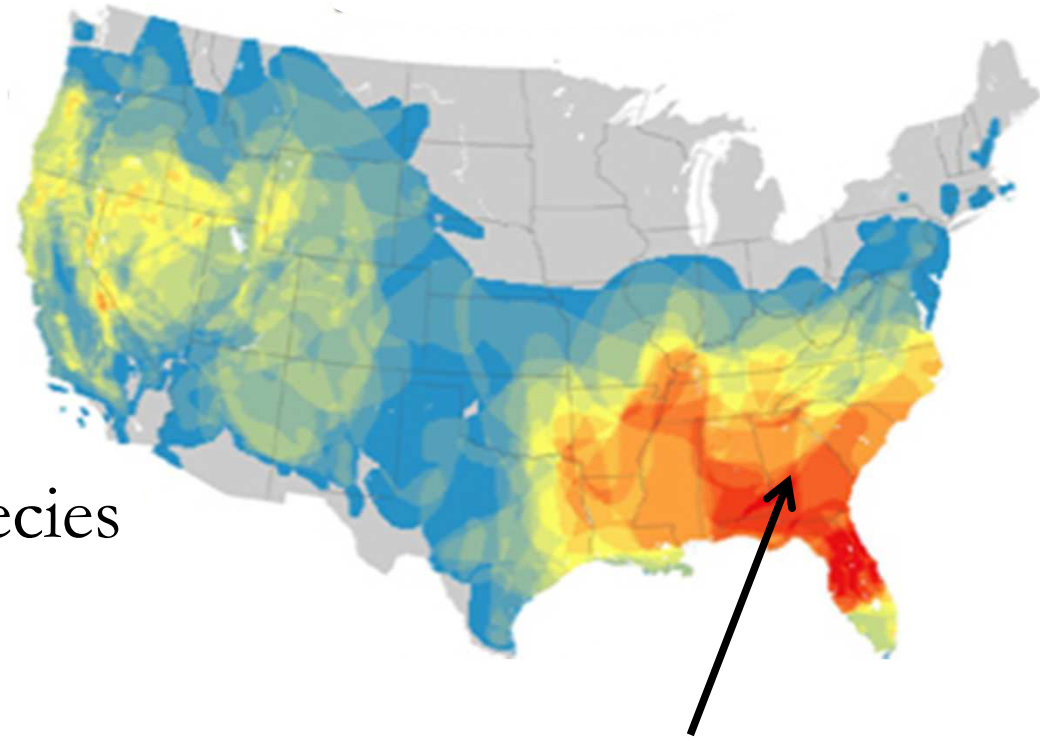
**AMPHIBIANS:** 80 species

**REPTILES:** 90 species

**FRESHWATER FISH:** 325 species

**INVERTEBRATES:**

THOUSANDS of species, more  
than all vertebrate classes combined



**Biodiversity Hotspot!**

[www.georgiabiodiversity.org](http://www.georgiabiodiversity.org)

# Georgia's 6 Ecoregions Contribute to Biodiversity

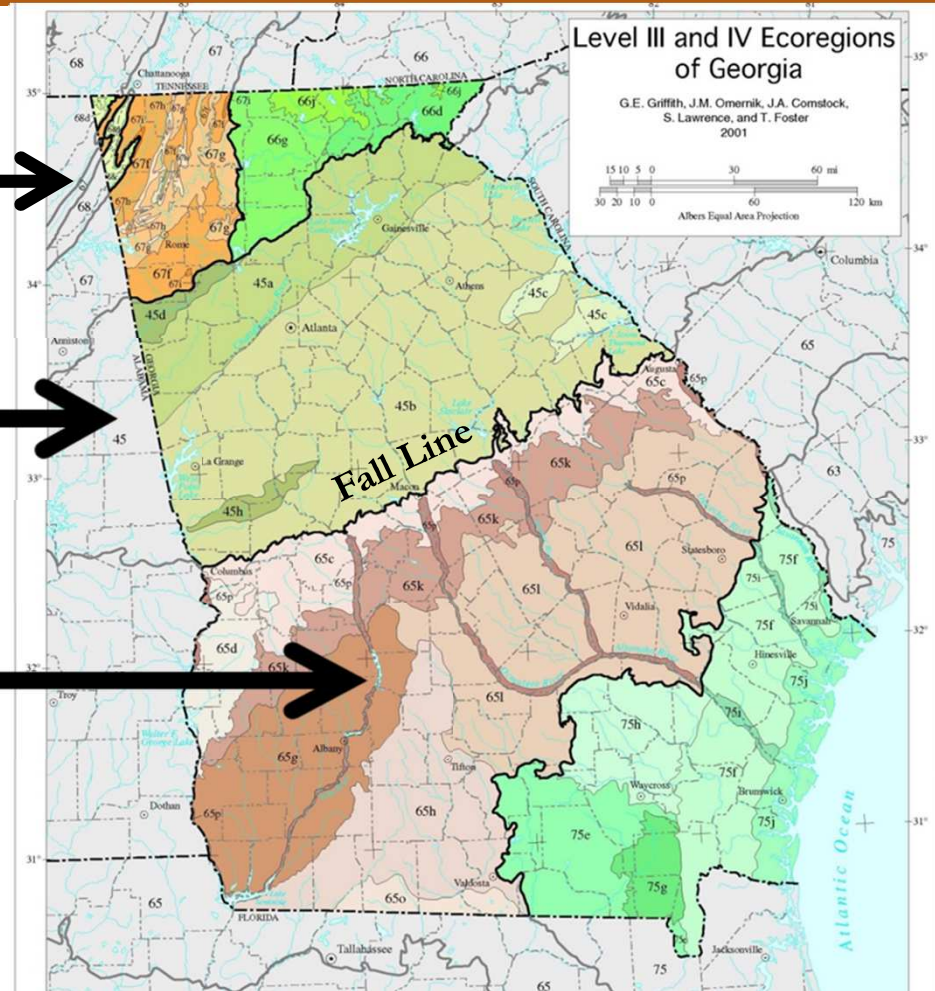
**Mountains**



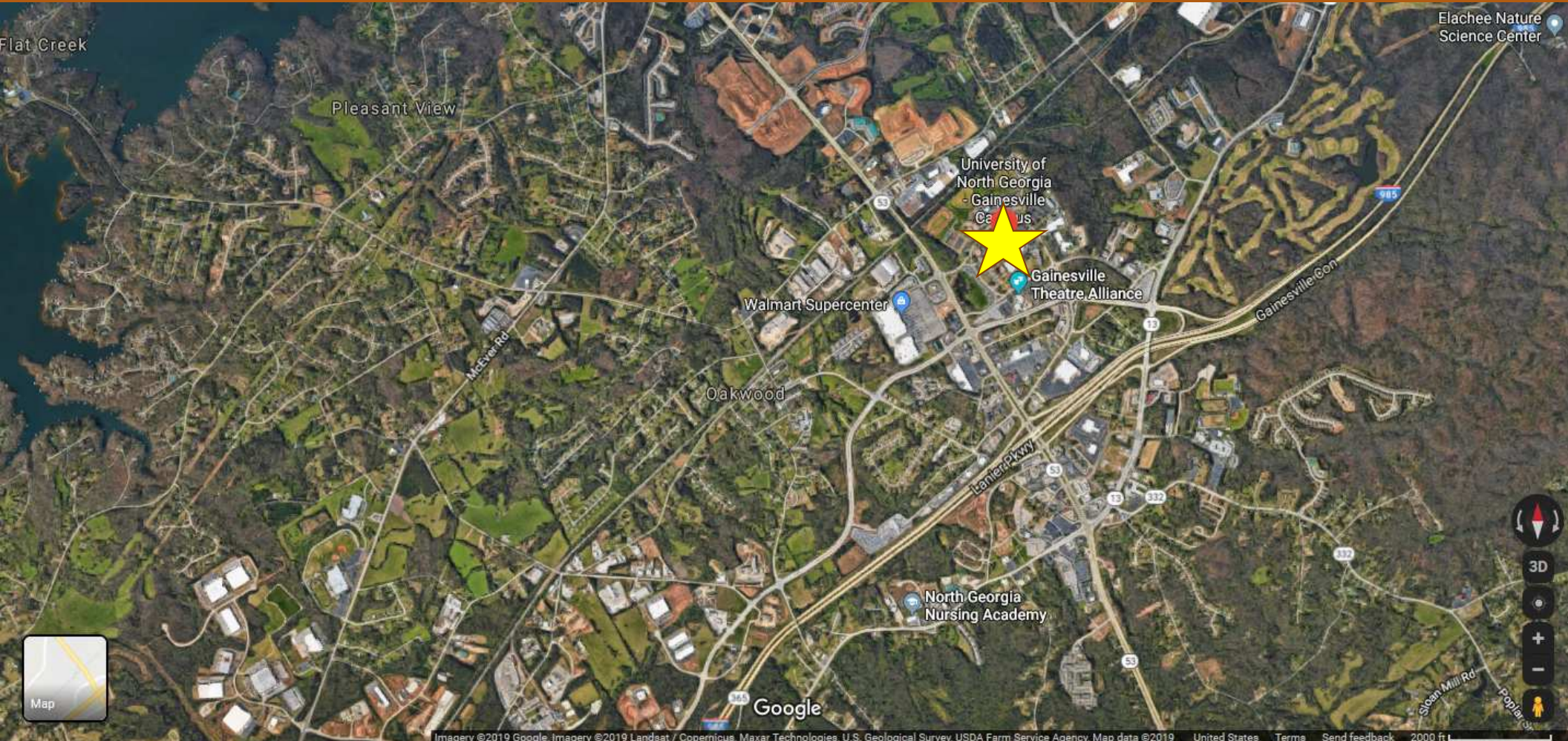
**Piedmont**



**Upper & Lower  
Coastal Plains**

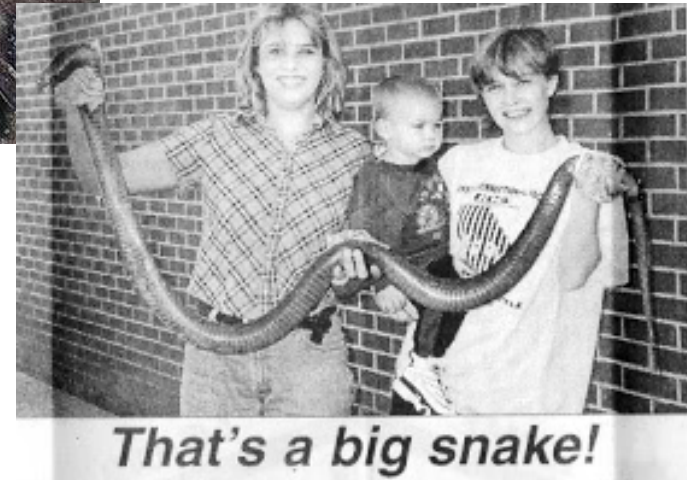


# Habitat Loss is the #1 Reason for Species Decline

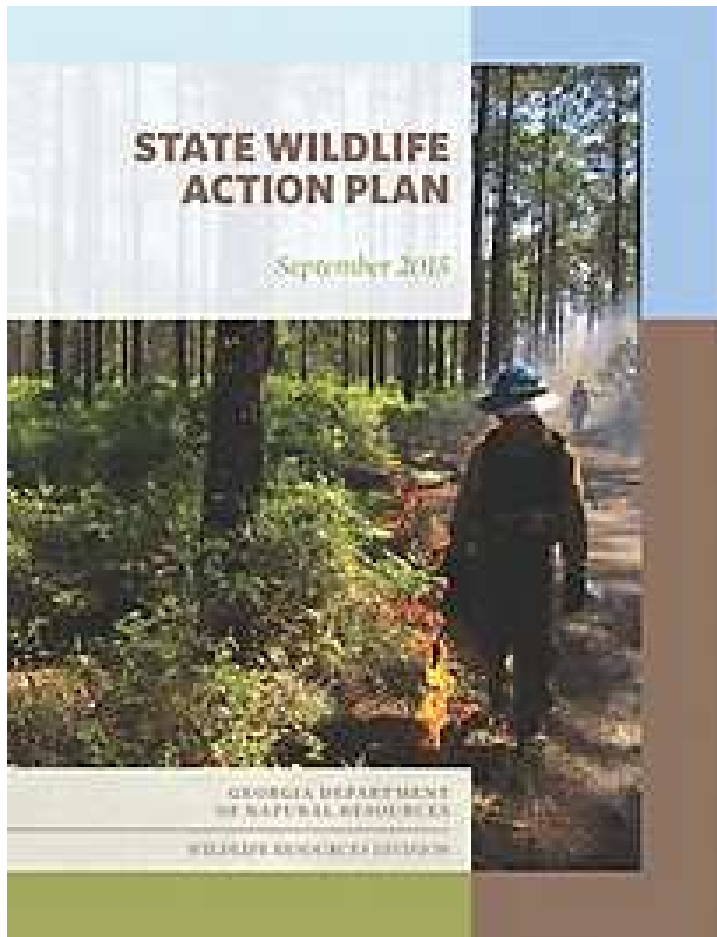


## Other Threats to Wildlife

- Climate Change/Extreme Weather
- Collisions with cars, windows & ships
- Diseases
- Invasive Exotic Species
- Illegal Harvest & Trade
- Indiscriminate Killing
- Overuse of Natural Resources
- Pollution



# State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)



A strategy to conserve wildlife and their habitats *before* these animals, plants and places become rarer and more costly to conserve or restore.

- Lists 349 animals and 290 plant species as high priorities for conservation.
- Includes 150 recommended actions to focus efforts where they're most needed and most effective.



# Create Habitat to Reverse the Downward Trend!

Even small-scale efforts can improve habitat connectivity!

**Every conservation action matters!** 😊



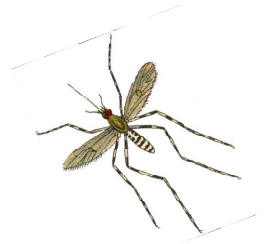
**Seeds**



**Berries**

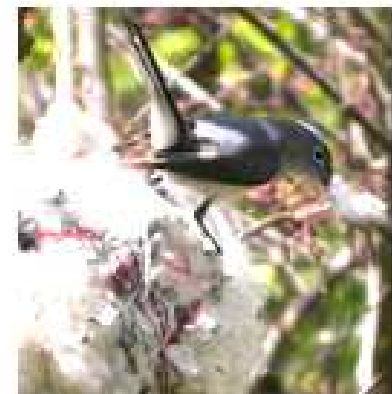
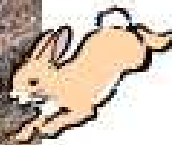


**Nectar**



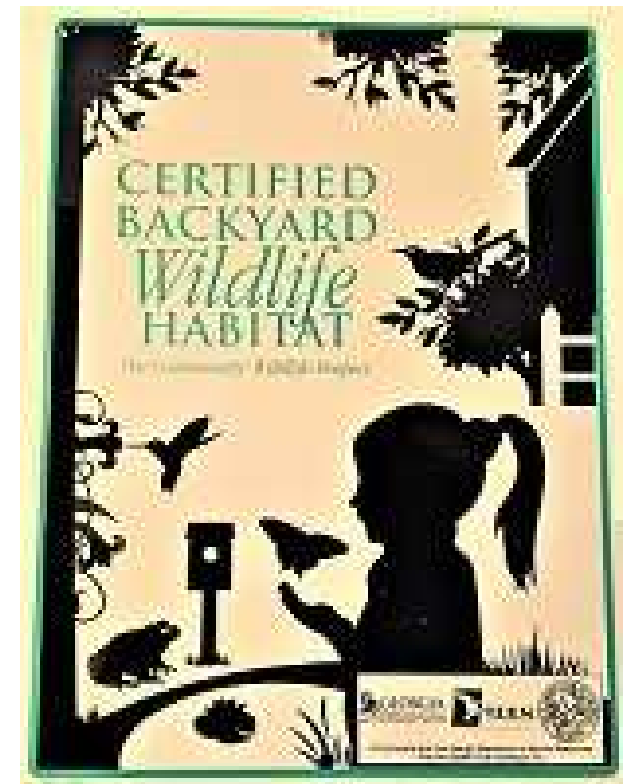
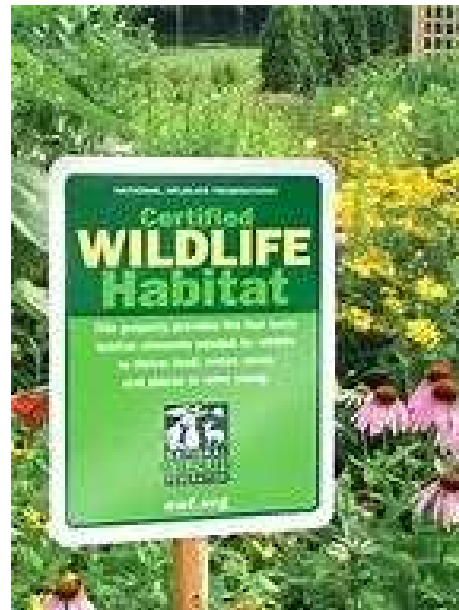
**Insects**

# Add other habitat enhancements to your campus



# Certify your Campus Habitat!

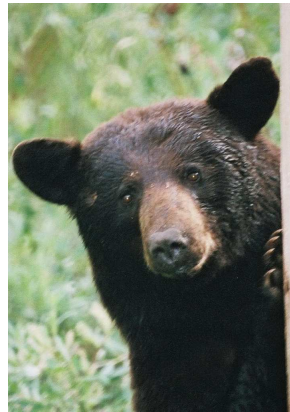
- National Wildlife Federation
- Atlanta Audubon Society
- GA DNR/Garden Club of Georgia
- Monarchs Across Georgia



# Some species are more resilient than others



# Dealing with Unwelcome Guests



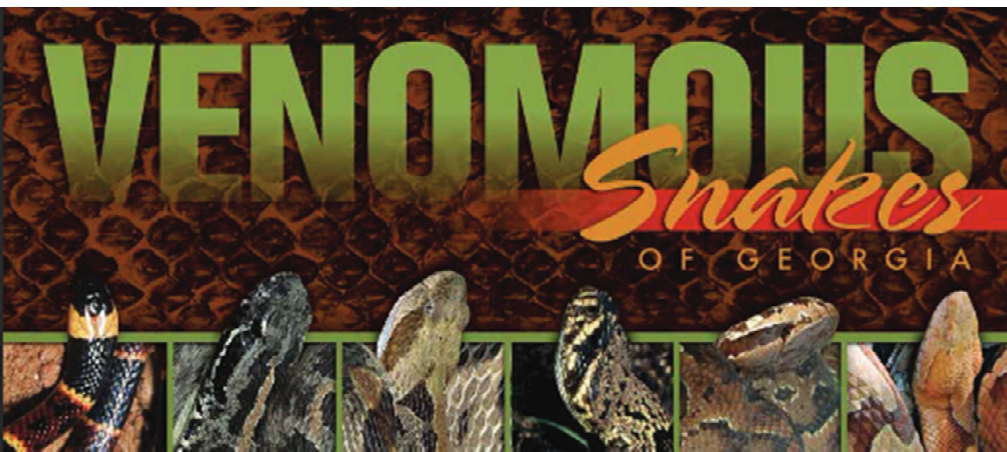
Learn more about the wildlife on your campus



Copperhead



Timber  
Rattlesnake



[www.georgiawildlife.com/  
GeorgiaSnakes](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/GeorgiaSnakes)

[www.srelherp.uga.edu](http://www.srelherp.uga.edu)

# General Wildlife Control Tactics

## Limit food availability

- Empty trash cans/dumpsters regularly, control rodents, eliminate insects in siding, etc.



## Repellants & scare tactics (limited success though)

- Sulfur powder for snakes, Milorganite for deer, inflatables, etc.

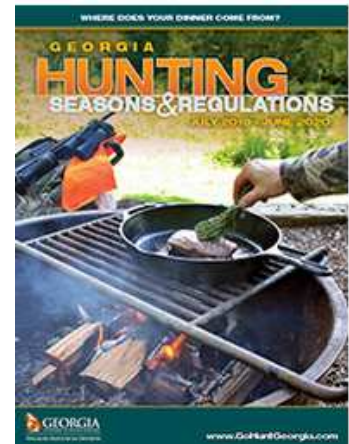


## Physical exclusion

- Fencing for deer, hardware cloth for bats, tall grass for geese, well manicured landscape to reduce food/shelter for snakes

## Lethal methods – Know the laws & consider consequences

- Species/season limitations + county/city ordinances
- Permits may be available to take certain species out of season



## Other Helpful Resources

**USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:**

[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

**Licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators:**

[www.georgiawildlife.com/nuisancewildlife](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/nuisancewildlife)

**Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators (by county & species):**

[www.gadnrle.org/special-permits](http://www.gadnrle.org/special-permits)



# Want to Know More?

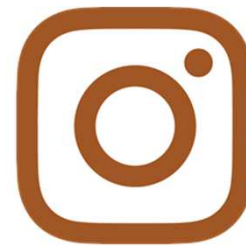
- [www.GeorgiaWildlife.com](http://www.GeorgiaWildlife.com)
- Purchase a hunting/fishing license, donate to wildlife conservation or sign up to volunteer at [www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com](http://www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com)



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# My Contact Information



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