

14<sup>th</sup>  
annual

Georgia  
Environmental  
Conference

AUGUST 21-23, 2019

# Catechee

## Audubon International Signature Sanctuary

Since 1999

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Buck Workman, CGCS  
Savannah Schell, BSFR



*GeorgiaENet.com*

# What is Cateechee?

| Hartwell, GA

| ~400 acres

| Urban Reuse System

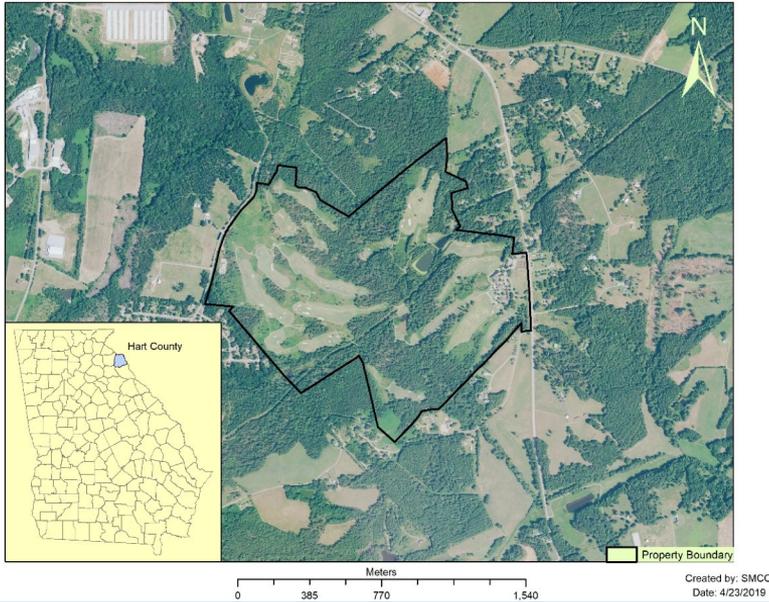
| Conference Center

| 18-hole AI Signature Sanctuary Golf Course

| Lodging

| Waterfall Grille Restaurant

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# Why was Cateechee built?

- | In the mid 1990's the Georgia EPD mandated the Hartwell Wastewater Treatment Plant to begin land applying the effluent as opposed to stream discharge into Cedar Creek
- | The city purchased 400 plus acres to be used for the Land Application System
- | Local business owner, J. Lee Barton, approached the city about building a country club on the property that would include a golf course
- | The two parties came to an agreement in 1996 and construction began in 1997. The name Cateechee was chosen in honor of a local Indian Maiden legend
- | Cateechee was sold to current owners, Charly and Kelli Schell, in 2017

# Urban Reuse Effluent Water

| 100% of the Urban Reuse effluent from the plant is land applied to the Cateechee property onto 273 irrigated acres

| Current average daily flow from the plant is 650,000 gallons

| On yearly average, 75% of the water is applied onto dedicated spray fields and 25% is used to irrigate the golf course

| The total annual volume of recycled water is approximately 240 million gallons



# Why did we decide to apply for Signature Course Status?

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| During the early land clearing stage of the Cateechee project, owners and builders were overwhelmed by the natural beauty of the land. Golf course superintendent, Buck Workman, was challenged to develop a plan to protect the environmental integrity of the property

| Audubon International(AI) was contacted in early 1997 and a sight visit was scheduled. It was determined that Cateechee would be a good candidate for the Signature Program since construction of the golf course had not yet begun

| The golf course was opened in November 1997 and the Signature Program written plan was submitted and approved on June 28, 1999. The club has been an active member of AI ever since, 20 years

Cateechee Golf Club  
Audubon Signature Sanctuary XVI

Presented By  
Audubon International

June 28, 1999

AUDUBON  
INTERNATIONAL



# Requirements to Maintain Signature Course Status

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- | Demonstrate continued maintenance of program criteria
- | Implementation of the NRMP
- | Outreach and Education activities
- | Submit annual update
- | Site visit from member of local environmental group on year 2
- | Site audits every 3rd year



Kat Findlay (AI), Buck Workman, and Savannah Schell after Site Audit

# Habitats at Cateechee



| Bird Boxes

| Ponds

| Riverine

| Wetlands

| Native Areas

| Upland Forest

| Pollinator Areas

# Bird Boxes

| Bluebird boxes

| Duck boxes

| Monitored weekly during  
Spring and Summer

| Late fall/early winter clean  
out

| Free from chemical pesticides

| Snake screens and portal  
protectors





# Pond Habitats

- | Urban reuse
- | Irrigation
- | Riparian buffers
- | Extra water sources
- | Bass/Bluegill populations
- | Triploid grass carp
- | Bonus Activities

# Cedar Creek

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| Savannah River Basin

| Clean water source

| Riparian buffers

| Water Quality Tests Annually

| Species Present Include:

Bluehead chub (*Nocomis leptocephalus*)

Yellowfin shiner (*Notropis lutipinnis*)

Yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*)

Northern hogsucker (*Hypentelium nigricans*)

Creek chubsucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*)



# Wetland

| Active beaver population

| Increases biodiversity

| Restored wetland habitat

| Mitigates effects of droughts

| Keystone species

| Ecological indicators



# Native Areas

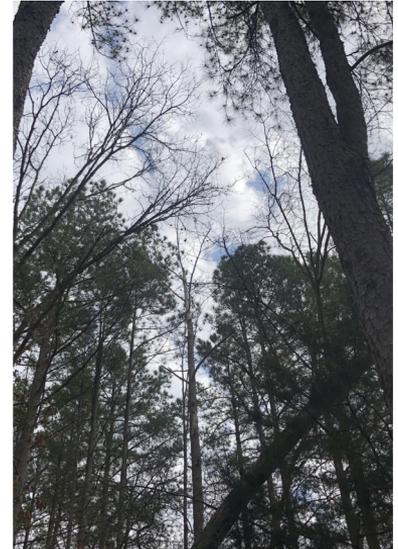
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- | Surround field of play
- | Provide critical habitat year-round
- | Buffer for runoff
- | Northern bobwhite quail
- | Red-tailed hawks
- | Pollinators
- | Strip mowing

# Upland Forest

- | Wildlife corridors
- | Nurtures ecological processes
- | Critical habitat
- | Permanence
- | Largely left to natural processes



# Operation Pollinator

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- | Georgia native wildflower mix
- | Replanted annually in early Spring
- | Provides nesting and food resources for:
  - bees
  - other pollinator sp.
  - beneficial insects
  - small mammals and avian species
- | Habitat free from:
  - herbicides
  - insecticides





# Outreach and Education

| Partnership with STEM program at our local elementary school

| First Green

| Speaking Engagements

| Nature Trail



# Golf as Greenspace

| Ecological benefits

| Education

| Critical Habitat

| Endless Possibilities



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Thank you!