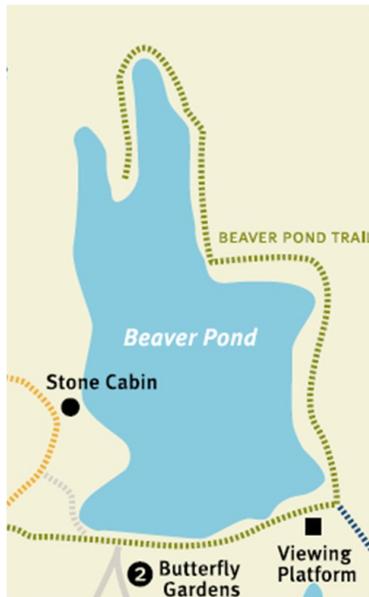


Beaver Pond Trail

The Beaver Pond Trail begins with the Stone Cabin Trail. Take a right at the split right after the maintenance building. Match up the numbers on the map with the numbers in the guide to find out more about the trail.

This trail is just under a quarter of a mile and is excellent for young families as you can observe both the pond and forest environment. There are benches along the trail to rest and relax.

Some seasonal plants and migratory wildlife mentioned in this self-guided brochure may be scarce from December through February.



We certainly hope that you enjoy your walk of our Beaver Pond Trail.
Please return this guide to the Admissions Desk.
We look forward to your next visit!
www.chattnaturecenter.com

6. High-Rise Wildlife, cont'd.

It is easy to attract urban wildlife to your own backyard by providing animals with a source for food, water, and shelter. Adding native plants to your yard will attract many butterflies, birds, and small mammals. Bird feeders, houses and baths are also very popular and can provide you with hours of viewing enjoyment. Placing a bat house in your yard will provide the bats with a safe place to roost and will ensure that they are eating the insects from around your house.

For more information on how to set-up a backyard habitat at your home, check out the National Wildlife Federation's program at www.nwf.org.



Beaver Pond Trail

a self-guided tour

Please respect nature as you hike on the Beaver Pond Trail; take only pictures and leave only footprints. **To enjoy this trail, please follow the green blazes (a spot/mark on a tree) that can be found along the trail. Numbers are marked with green paint on stones.**



Beaver
Castor canadensis

1. Ponds in Georgia

Take a good look at the ponds during your visit. How old would you guess they are? How do you think they got here? Unlike the natural ponds and lakes in northern states, nearly all ponds in Georgia are human-made. Huge glaciers carved out ponds and lakes in northern states over 10,000 years ago during the last ice age. But those glaciers never made it this far south during the last ice age.

A few natural ponds in Georgia were made by beavers that stopped up running streams. But most of the ponds we are familiar with were made by settlers in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries for farm and home use. The ponds you see at CNC today were dug only about 40 years ago.

2. Take a Leaf and Call Me in the Morning

At the end of the dam, before you head over the bridge, look to your left for a very unique tree called the black willow.

This native willow grows mostly in swamps and has many uses. In the past, the bark and leaves were used as a pain reliever by the native people of this area. Now we use the salicylic acid in the bark to make aspirin. The bark and leaves are also eaten by beaver and rabbits that just enjoy the tree for food.

3. Beaver Pond

The pond gets its name from the beavers that once made their home here. Along the trail, you can still see the gnawed trees they have left behind. Look and listen for plants and animals in this area - often waterfowl, wildflowers and other vegetation can be seen.

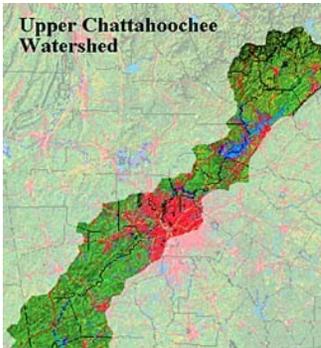


4. It All Flows Down

Beaver pond is a human-made pond that has numerous creeks that flow into it and keep it full. Some of these creeks also run through the neighborhood just above the pond, and you may notice storm water pipes that empty into this habitat.

Run-off water from the neighborhood may include lawn fertilizer, gas and oil from cars and pet waste. Water with these kinds of chemicals and pollutants could have an impact on this pond and may even impact the *watershed*.

A watershed is all of the land from which rain drains into a specific body of water, such as a stream, creek, river, pond or lake.



5. Who Lives Here? (Spring/Summer)

Keep your eyes open for a variety of species that call this area home. Plants and animals you may find here include:



Eastern Chipmunk
Tamias striatus



Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata



Green Anole
Anolis carolinensis



Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis



Alder
Alnus sp.



Eastern Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis

6. High-Rise Wildlife

As humans continue to develop land for our use, animals adapt and learn ways to survive and even sometimes use us as a means to fulfill their basic needs.

Sit for a moment and listen to the woods around you. Do you hear any animals? Perhaps a bird calls or a chipmunk runs through the leaves. Take a look around you. Do you see evidence of wild animals? Look for feathers, footprints, or scat (feces) on the ground. Look for animal homes in the trees. You might see nests, tree cavities, or even bird houses. There are several large bird houses on this trail; these are wood duck boxes. Notice how they are placed near the water.

Continued on Back.