

Wild & Woolly FOREST FESTIVAL

Outings and Events Stories

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Festival Highlights



Renowned Georgia author Janisse Ray highlighted the 2011 Georgia ForestWatch Wild & Woolly Forest Festival & Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7 at the Sautee Nacoochee Center.

She gave a spell-binding talk on "*Inspiration to Protect the Places and Things We Love*." Ms. Ray is well known as the author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, which won the New York Times Notable Book Award and was chosen as The Book All Georgians Should Read. Janisse has also authored two other books of prose and a book of poetry, *A House of Branches*, just out in 2010. After the talk, the audience crowded around the book-signing table to get signed copies of these wonderful books.

As has become a tradition, this annual ForestWatch benefit featured a fabulous array of

native plants for sale from Jennie Branch Nursery, Scott Creek Nursery, the Pickens County Master Gardeners and 4H, and Saul's Nursery.

The festival also featured music and song by Joanne Steele, a local folk musician and craftsman. She did a great rendition of John McCutcheon's "It's Kind of a Circular Thing" on guitar and harmonica. This was followed by an outstanding talk by Jim Walker, a ForestWatch volunteer and district leader.



A special feature this year was tree climbing provided by Genevieve Summers, owner of Dancing with Trees. The kids especially enjoyed being up in the branches. Last but not least, Shayne Johnson and his band, the "Crooked Tunes" provided great blue-grass music during the afternoon.



As always, there was plenty of food, wine for tasting, music, and a special raffle of an exciting biplane ride! Special thanks go out to Martha and John Ezzard and John McMullen of Tiger Mountain Vineyards for donating the wine, and Cal and Sandi Tax for providing the biplane ride.

Special kudos also to Melinda and Andy Edwards who coordinated the food. Many volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, made this event a success – thanks to all of you!