



## News Release

For Release  
September 24, 2010

### **The Oconee Performing Arts Society Receives \$6,000 Plum Creek Foundation Grant**

#### ***Funds to Support Educational Outreach Project for Students***

**Greensboro, Ga. 6** The Oconee Performing Arts Society (OPAS), a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Lake Oconee residents by bringing high quality performing arts to convenient and attractive venues, was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Plum Creek Foundation. Funds will support the organization's Educational Outreach project by providing five in-school productions and a band festival for K-12 students in Greene and Putnam County public schools.

OPAS is active in providing education and outreach programs to the Lake Oconee community. The organization is committed to bringing the joy of live theater and music to children in economically disadvantaged families. In Greene County, eighteen percent of families and 33 percent of children under the age of 18 are below the poverty line.

“Our education and outreach programs have become an integral component of fulfilling our mission. By providing performing arts to students in the community we are promoting creative thinking,” said Samantha Duthler, managing director for the Oconee Performing Arts Society. “The funds donated by Plum Creek will allow us to continue this mission.”

OPAS has a history of providing outreach opportunities in the Lake Oconee area. The organization has provided tickets to students for performances and brought entertainers into the schools for performances, lectures, and classroom discussions. The five in-school productions featured in the Educational Outreach project will include the following: Dave Ellington presenting “Can You Hear My Hat” for middle school students, Barry Stewart Mann presenting, “Peace Pipes and Talking Leaves Leaders and Lore of the Cherokee” to K-5 children, FBN Productions presenting their “Opera for Kids” program to K-5 children, “Manga African Dance” for the middle school children, and for the high school students a Shakespeare program designed to expose them to the wide variety of his works.

“Arts are an integral part of education,” said Jim Rundorff, senior director of land asset management for Plum Creek. “We are proud to support an organization that is ensuring that students in our community have the opportunity to participate in performing arts and activities that add a unique dimension to education.”

The Plum Creek Foundation supports non-profit organizations that improve the overall quality of life in the communities where Plum Creek operates. The Foundation board meets quarterly to review submitted grant applications. Visit [www.plumcreek.com/communityinvolvement](http://www.plumcreek.com/communityinvolvement) to download an application and learn more about the foundation grant program in addition to other ways that Plum Creek is serving its communities.

For more information about The Oconee Performing Arts Society visit <http://www.opas.org>.

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*Plum Creek is the largest and most geographically diverse private landowner in the nation with approximately 7 million acres of timberlands in major timber producing regions of the United States and wood products manufacturing facilities in the Northwest. For more information, visit [www.plumcreek.com](http://www.plumcreek.com).*