

New Perspectives, 10/1994 - Hidden Lake Academy

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HIDDEN LAKE ACADEMY

Dahlonega, Georgia

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by Linda Shaffer

Bursting forth this fall into the emotional growth school scene is **Hidden Lake Academy** northeast of **Atlanta**, headed up by a well-known psychologist and long-time experienced educators in the field.

Dr. Leonard Buccellato, psychologist, in Atlanta has officially opened the school's rural-setting doors with **Rudy and Jill Bentz**, formerly program counselors and educators with the Cedu School in southern California.

The school's experienced founders and staff, facility, setting, 18 month program, and reduced/all inclusive tuition costs for students enrolling early on has quickly brought their enrollment to 18 students by September 27. The first student arrived the day before the school was officially opened, September 1. Inquiries have been numerous and headmaster Rudy Bentz indicates they will enroll children as it makes sense in the school's growth.

Hidden Lake Academy is founded upon the basics of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Through an integrated program of conventional as well as innovative classes, wilderness adventures and individual and group counseling, each student has the opportunity to re-discover the roots of their own intrinsic goodness and vitality.

Situated on 200 acres with the **Chattahoochee National Forest** on three sides and a 14 acre lake, the campus offers a rural setting with nearby mountains for hiking, camping, whitewater rafting, fishing and rock climbing -- and a safe and peaceful academic environment.

Hidden Lake opened its doors with an already developed campus which includes academic, lodge and dormitory-type buildings as well as an indoor heated swimming pool, picnic pavilion, tennis court and lakeside gazebo.

With a low student/teacher ratio, Hidden Lake Academy uses an individualized approach and flexible block scheduling to allow for intensive study. All academic courses follow state guidelines for high school curricula. The challenging and supportive environment is geared for effective learning, both intellectual and emotional.

The five-part, 18-month program is available to students ages 13 to 17 upon enrollment along with parental involvement through on-campus workshops, close communications, and visits on and off campus and at home.

(Note: Hidden Lake is off to a flying start with considerable professional support and the potential to be, should we say, among the "movers and shakers" in whole child education.)

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