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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Spencer Environmental Lecture Series Continues with
“An Evening with Janisse Ray: Reflections on Longleaf Pine”**

Historically the regal longleaf pine grew from Virginia to Texas covering 90 million acres across the South. Only 4% of this imperiled ecosystem still exists today. Many dedicated conservationists are working in the Chattahoochee Valley and across the South to help restore this glorious and biologically diverse forest which is home to many amazing plants and animals including the gopher tortoise and red-cockaded woodpecker.

Enjoy an evening with award-winning writer, naturalist and environmental activist Janisse Ray author of “*Ecology of A Cracker Childhood*.” The book is a vivid memoir which describes her childhood growing up in a junkyard nestled among the vanishing longleaf forest and eloquently tells her story interwoven with the story of the longleaf pine ecosystem she so loves. Her book was chosen as a selection in the Books All Georgians Should Read program, praised by Wendell Barry as “well done and deeply moving” and described by The New York Times as “The forests of the Southeast find their Rachel Carson.” Ray’s writings also include four additional literary non-fiction books and a collection of nature poetry. She was recently selected as a 2015 inductee into the Georgia Writer’s Hall of Fame.

Her lecture is sponsored by the partner organizations of the Spencer Environmental Center: Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership, Chattahoochee RiverWarden, Chattahoochee Valley Land Trust, Coalition for Sound Growth, The Nature Conservancy and Trees Columbus with special thanks to The Columbus Museum for hosting the event. Funding for the program was provided, in part, by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The Spencer Environmental Center, located at 303 12th Street, has become the environmental hub for the community and we are proud to offer a collaborative lecture series that reflects our efforts in conservation, stewardship and education throughout the Chattahoochee Valley.

For more information, contact LuAnn Craighton: lcraighton@tnc.org

An Evening with Janisse Ray: Reflections on Longleaf Pine

Ray is an award-winner writer, naturalist, environmental activist and author of “*Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*”
Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

The Columbus Museum, 1251 Wynnton Rd.

Admission is FREE.

Books will be available for purchase and Ray will sign books following her lecture.

