



HELLO GEORGIA TEACHERS!

WE ARE ECOREACH

We provide lesson plans and other resources for educators centered on ecology and environmental science. Schedule a Zoom call with an Ecologist for your class or participate in one of our projects like Backyard Critters!

CONTACT INFO:
WEBSITE: [HTTPS://ECOREACH.ECOLOGY.UGA.EDU/](https://ecoreach.ecology.uga.edu/)
EMAIL: [ECOREACHUGA@GMAIL.COM.](mailto:ecoreachuga@gmail.com)
BACKYARD CRITTERS PROJECT:
[BACKYARDCRITTERS.ATHENS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:backyardcritters.athens@gmail.com)

Our mission is to connect UGA students, faculty, and staff with K-12 students, and community members through meaningful and informative environmental education activities. Contact us today to learn more!



Follow us @EcoReachUGA





EcoReach is an environmental education and outreach organization based out of the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia (UGA), our members include graduate students, undergrads, faculty, and staff from departments from all over UGA.

What does EcoReach do?

We collaborate with K-12 educators to provide flexible programs designed to meet the needs and interests of your students. We hope to raise awareness and enthusiasm for science and opportunities for meaningful interactions between scientists and K-12 students.

Some of the types of resources and programs we provide:

- Lesson plans and educational resources
- Classroom visits (currently Zoom-a-scientist sessions) about environmental topics or career panels
- Specific programs such as *Backyard Critters* and “Who are your local scientists?” to connect with K-12 students and provide relevant place-based resources
- Binoculars for Young Black Birders
- Activities for community science-related events
- After-school library events
- Providing judges for science fairs
- Programs for local scout groups

Want more information?

Check out the **EcoReach website** for more information: <https://ecoreach.ecology.uga.edu>
Email the EcoReach coordinators for more information! Carol (cy91370@uga.edu) or Carolyn (ccummins@uga.edu)

Sign up for info & to collaborate using this quick form:

<https://forms.gle/JrkT4qr2w2UJ7VsV9>



Join us in the Backyard Critters Program!

We want to celebrate the amazing diversity of wildlife that can be found even in your own back yard!

Dear K-12 Educators,

EcoReach (<https://ecoreach.ecology.uga.edu>) is an environmental education and outreach organization led by graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology. We work with K-12 teachers to provide flexible programs designed to meet the needs and interests of your students, so if you are interested in collaborating, email us at ecoreachuga@gmail.com.

We'd love for you and your students to be a part of our **Backyard Critters Program**. The idea is to get students excited about observing nature in their own backyards and neighborhoods!

Observations can be easily submitted via a Google form. Students will not be submitting any personal information and can use a classroom team name. The submissions from this form will go up on the EcoReach website as a catalog of student and community member observations of the natural world. In their submissions, students can get creative and include photos, poems, short stories, or questions about their observations! We have a great network of ecologists who can help with identification and fun facts about these awesome critters.

Three simple steps for participating in the **Backyard Critters Program** and get your students excited about their backyard critters and ecology:

1. **OBSERVE nature in your backyard/neighborhood!** What catches your eye? All observations are valid, so this can be plants, animals, fungi, a cool rock, or literally anything else! (In other words, even though the project is called "Backyard Critters," your observation doesn't have to be an animal, just any cool natural features in your neighborhood!)
2. **RECORD your observation** in some way. You can write about what you see, take a photo, draw a picture, write a poem or short story, or anything else you can think of (or do more than one of these things)!
3. **SUBMIT your observations** via this Google form:
<http://bit.ly/EcoReachBackyardCritters>

If you participate and have feedback or questions for us, feel free to email us at BackyardCritters.Athens@gmail.com. We are also happy to provide **personalized programming for your class** (ideas include classroom posters of critters observed by your students and Zoom-a-scientist sessions with your class)!

We appreciate your participation, and we look forward to your submissions

Zoom an Ecologist! (and Classroom Visits once it's possible!)

Want to set up a virtual visit? Let us know what topics your students are exploring and we're happy to develop an interactive zoom session with your class!

Megan Tomamichel – Aquatic Infectious Disease Ecologist



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Activity: Think about your Mars colony. What kind of microbes would you need to make a fully functioning Martian ecosystem?

Think about this on your own, then we'll get back together and share

EcoReach has developed programs on a diverse range of topics, such as:

- Diversity of Animal Life
- Winter Camouflage & How Animals Use Color
- Plants & What Helps Them Grow
- Tropical Rainforests
- Biomes of the World
- Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
- Stream Bio-monitoring
- Creatures of the Night: Bats
- Weather: Using Maps and Weather Instruments
- Soil Ecology

We continue to diversify our range of topics and work with educators to create lessons based on the needs of the students. We emphasize developing programs to supplement schools' objectives while also fulfilling the requirements of the state curriculum guidelines.

Sign up for info & to collaborate using this quick form:

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Lesson Plans are available for download from the EcoReach website!

<https://ecoreach.ecology.uga.edu/virtual-activities/>

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Explore EcoReach Virtual Activities:

At home activities and games for kids and students (K12) to learn about environmental and ecological concept, while having fun!



All About Moths

Moths are insects that are closely related to butterflies. They both belong to the order Lepidoptera. Moths are usually active at night and rest during the day.

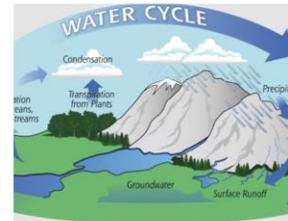
Begin Activity



Build-a-Bug Workshop

Did you know that there are some insects that spend most of their lives underwater in streams, rivers, and lakes?

Begin Activity



Water Cycle Bracelets

Craft your very own Water Cycle Bracelet while learning how water moves through the Earth's water cycle.

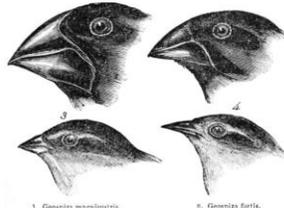
Begin Activity



Seed Fight Club Activity

Seed Fight Club is a creative activity that teaches students about resource competition and seed dispersal. Instructors should first give a short lesson on what plants need to grow and survive in a competitive environment and how seed dispersal can help.

Begin Activity



Darwin's Finches Activity

In this activity, you will use different "beaks" (forks, spoons, knives, and cups) to collect different types of "food" (anything you can find around the house that is small enough to be picked up with the tools mentioned above)! You will do this in three different "environments" (bins).

Begin Activity



Plastic Pollution

How long does it take for items that we all use every day to degrade in the ocean? Plastic pollution in the world's oceans has become a widely-recognized problem for ecosystems worldwide, but especially for marine ecosystems.

Begin Activity

“Who Are Our Local Scientists?”

This is a new project we are launching this year to highlight different environment-related career paths and ecology topics.

We will be interviewing local scientists at different career stages and compiling that information in videos, blog posts, and summary sheets (see example below). We will have versions that are appropriate for elementary as well as middle and high school students. Teachers can use these resources to support their curriculum and learning opportunities for their students.

What sorts of scientists or topics would you like to highlight in your classroom?

These local scientist interviews will:

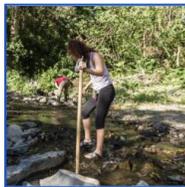
- Raise awareness about the wide range of environment-related career paths and highlight that anyone can be a scientist!
- Provide educational materials for exploring specific environmental topics more in depth with information from experts in the field
- Illustrate the kinds of work and the ways in which scientists ask questions and work to conserve ecosystems
- Potential for scheduling Zoom-a-Scientist sessions with interested classes!

EXAMPLE

Meet an Aquatic Ecologist!

Hi! My name is XXXXX.

I am a graduate student at the University of Georgia. I am an **aquatic ecologist**, which means I study water habitats!



What I do at work:

 I study plants and animals that live in **rivers** and how they help to keep the water clean.

 I use nets to collect **insects** in rivers and streams. I use a **microscope** in a laboratory to look at the tiny insects that live in water.

What I love about what I do:



I love finding animals under rocks in rivers and learning about their **life cycles**!



When I'm not at work, I like to listen to music, ride my bike, and spend time with my friends.



Want to learn more about what I do?

Check out this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLTyaM9luRY) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLTyaM9luRY)!

Educational Materials about Birds & Birding



We have been developing educational materials about the awesome birds that live in Georgia. Many of these birds can be seen right from our own backyards!

Examples of resources:

- Illustrated ID guide for birds commonly found in parts of Georgia
- Compiled web-based resources about birds, birding, and binoculars for elementary, middle, and high school students
- How-to-use-binoculars infographic

Sign up for to receive educational resources about birds using this quick form:

<https://forms.gle/JrkT4qr2w2UJ7VsV9>