

OUR SHARED FORESTS

A partnership of The Maquipucuna Foundation, Ecuador, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, The University of Georgia, Georgia Parent Teacher Association (PTA), 1000 Faces Coffee and several Georgia environmental education centers (see adjacent panel)

About the Maquipucuna Foundation

The MAQUIPUCUNA FOUNDATION was founded in 1988 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of Ecuador's biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. The foundation promotes the participation of local communities in its programs. Objectives and activities of the foundation include: establishment and management of private and governmental nature reserves; scientific, social and archaeological research to achieve ecological restoration and cultural preservation; implementation of ecotourism programs for generating local economic opportunities; environmental education and training of rural communities to promote sustainable use of natural resources; development of community-based resource management programs.

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PARTNER SITES

Each partner hosts educator workshops, checks out science night kits and more.

- o **Chattahoochee Nature Center**, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, 30075 www.chattnaturecenter.org;
Contact – Alicia Evans
outreach@chattnaturecenter.org
- o **Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program**, 662 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, 30060
www.cobbstreams.org; Contact - Mike Kahle
Micheal.Kahle@cobbcounty.org
Jennifer McCoy Jennifer.McCoy@cobbcounty.org
- o **Columbus State University's Environmental Learning Center at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Park**, Columbus, GA. Contact Patricia Lassiter at lassiter_patricia1@columbusstate.edu
- o **Confederate Hall Historical & Environmental Education Center**, Stone Mountain Park www.stonemountainpark.org;
Contact – Angela Sauve a.sauve@stonemountainpark.org
- o **Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center**, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford, GA 30519
www.gwinnettcountry.com; Contact -Lisa Fanczi
lisa.fanczi@gwinnettcountry.com
- o **SWGYSTC at Bainbridge College**
2500 East Shotwell Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819
Contact – Paula H. Chambers
paula.chambers@bainbridge.edu
- o **The State Botanical Garden of Georgia**, UGA, 2450 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, 30605
www.uga.edu/botgarden;
Contact – Cora Keber ckeber@uga.edu
- o **The Watson-Brown Foundation**, Thomson, GA.
Contact Frankie Smith fsmith@hickory-hill.org



OUR SHARED FORESTS

Students in Georgia and in the Chocó Andean Corridor of South America caring for their forests and for the birds they share in common - - - -

Our Shared Forests (OSF) is a multi-cultural, environmental education project featuring PTA sponsored science nights, standards-based instructional units, service learning projects and fundraising opportunities with organic, shade-grown coffee.



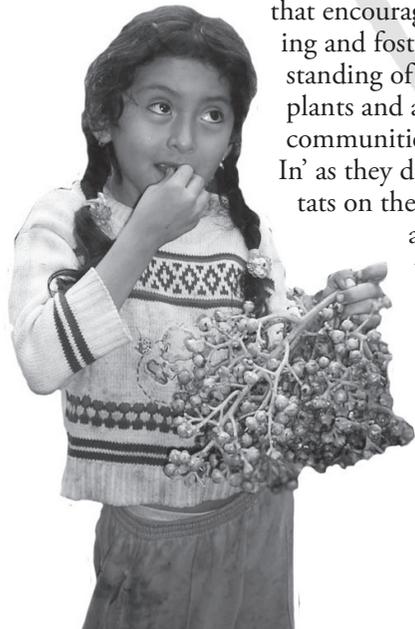
Funding provided by:
*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation
The Georgia Ornithological Society and
The State Botanical Garden of Georgia*

What is Our Shared Forests?

Our Shared Forests (OSF) is Ecuador and Georgia's Migratory Bird Partnership through Integrated Conservation, Bird Monitoring and Environmental Education. In Ecuador, OSF targets science-based habitat conservation throughout the Chocó Andean Corridor, one of the earth's top five biodiversity hotspots. While, in both Ecuador and Georgia, it aims at creating awareness about 10 bird species that migrate between both regions.

OSF is designed to be socially, environmentally and financially sustainable. It is a bi-national partnership between the Ecuadorian NGO Fundación Maquipucuna, the University of Georgia's State Botanical Garden, and the Chocó Andes Alliance and APROCANE associations of farmers and landowners in Northwest Ecuador. Overall, this project brings light to the importance of conserving existing habitats and reestablishing fragmented habitats of neotropical migrant birds. Neotropical migrants are birds that spend their winters in North America and their summers in Central and South America. Habitats of these birds are becoming fragmented as trees are cut down for timber, development and agriculture.

In the environmental education component, OSF provides tools and training for parents, teachers and youth leaders. In Georgia schools, these guide 2nd – 8th grade students in activities that encourage critical thinking and foster an understanding of the people, plants and animals in their communities. Students 'Dig In' as they develop bird habitats on their school sites and 'Fly High' as they investigate migratory birds!



Connecting local education to global conservation Grades 2-8

A CLOSER LOOK: Project Components

Curricular Units correlated to the Georgia Performance Standards guide students to value the importance of habitat in both North and South America as they learn about neotropical migratory birds. Learners grapple with the land-use related issues of shade grown, fair trade coffee and chocolate and learn how such issues affect children in both Georgia and Ecuador. Teachers introduce students to the forest in their own 'backyard' and its similarities and differences to the forests of Ecuador, with particular focus on 10 birds that migrate between Georgia and Ecuador.

Professional Development Workshops for Georgia teachers and PTA leaders are planned at the Our Shared Forests partner sites in Georgia. Workshops introduce the OSF curricula units, science nights, as well as opportunities for service learning projects with the coffee fundraisers. See the back panel for a list of partner sites.

On-Site Field trips Some OSF partners conduct field trips for local schools to their site. Field trip activities include a bird habitat hunt, bird observation and ID at bird feeding stations, a migration game and more. A puppet show is included for younger learners. Activities emphasize that bird conservation and forest sustainability are interconnected and of global concern. Pre and post trip activities as well as correlations to the GPS are included.

Coffee Fundraisers Stage a 'green' fundraiser at your school or center. This high quality coffee is grown and hand-picked by farmers in Ecuador, then

shipped directly to Georgia, where it is fresh-roasted to order by a local coffee roaster, 1000 Faces Coffee (www.1000facescoffee.com) in Athens, GA. Not only is the sale of this coffee a great way to raise funds for a service project or school need, but it also benefits the wildlife of Georgia and Ecuador as well as the coffee-farming families who grow it. Visit 1000Faces website or contact Ben Myers roasterben@1000facescoffee.com for more information.

Science Night Kits include supplies and posters to conduct 25 interactive stations. Local units of the Georgia Parent Teacher Association or another parent volunteer group can plan and sponsor an OSF Science Night at their school. The kits include a booklet of activity descriptions and a variety of other suggestions for making the event a success. Science nights are a great way to bring scientific learning to families, spark children's scientific interests and stimulate parent's interest in science as well as in their child's science education. During a Family Science Night, students and their parents work together on fun, simple, age-appropriate, inquiry-based science activities. Visit <http://www.georgiapta.org/resources-student-env-ed.html> for more information about the science nights and kits. Each partner listed above in the 'Workshops' section also hosts OSF science night kits.

