

# UGA WATER COMMITTEE: EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS FROM K-12 STUDENTS TO GARDENERS AND STORMWATER MANAGERS

Hawkins, G., \*Goss, L., Grogan, J., Hammond, K., Jackson, B., Jones, S.

## Abstract:

Water is one of those important resources we have and use daily. Educating others on the importance of water is not contained to a specific group of citizens, but covers a wide range of ages, professions, and clientele within all three program areas of UGA Extension. During 2016, Extension educational efforts have included using a large 8X10 foot water cycle display, portable watershed models such as the Non-Point Watershed EnviroScape, hosting a 3-day water camp, exploring Florida's natural fresh water springs, and leading an irrigation workshop. Extension education can and does aid teachers in explaining different concepts related to the Georgia Standards. Committee members have presented water information to various groups representing many different interests from farming to garden clubs to students. Information shared helped participants better understand how actions and decisions related to farms or yards affect the water sources in their local and expanded area. Altogether, UGA Water Committee members have reached an estimated 1,000 contacts in 2016 through water educational programs. The Committee also received funding which provided updated resources used for teaching water educational classes throughout Georgia. Extension education, as it relates to water, is not confined to one group of Georgia citizens, but crosses many different professions and age groups. So, educating these different groups requires different tools, curricula, and programming; all of which brings the unbiased research based resources of UGA to the local community.

## K-12 Education

Educating youth can focus on many different topics and can use many different tools. Some of these topics and tools are:



### Topics:

Watersheds  
Pollution Prevention  
Water Cycle  
Groundwater  
Erosion and Deposition  
Fresh Water Springs

### Tools:

Enviroscape  
(NPS and Water/Wastewater)  
Rainfall Simulator  
8' X 10' Water Cycle  
Groundwater Model  
Erosion and Deposition Presentation  
Stream measurement Kit



1. Educating the youth in a school setting allows us to provide targeted presentations that helps complement what the teachers are covering in class.
2. Education of Teachers during trainings helps us provide ideas and hands-on activities to help the teachers have different ways to teach the standards
3. Providing presentations helps both cover the specific topics while also providing additional information for teachers to use year after year.

## Farmer/Agent/4-H Education

Educating famers and Extension Agents typically covers specific topic mainly focused on erosion control and water resources. Some of the tools used for this type of education includes:



The **rainfall simulator** helps explain the importance of keeping the soil covered to reduce erosion and conserve water resources.

Invitations to programs like **4-H2O** allows us to spread information about water resources to 4-H kids as well as agents.



Working with different groups to help host and present at farmer **field days** provides an opportunity to relate and disseminate information on different ways to protect water resources

## Community Education

Educating the community on water resource topics allows our information to spread wider than the Extension Office. Some of the tools used for this type of education includes:

Using the **Enviroscape and groundwater model** at community festivals provides an opportunity to educate youth and adults.



**Coordinating and presenting** at Stormwater trainings or water related educational events provides an opportunity to get UGA Extension's name in front of City/County officials and consultants.

Providing **presentations and hands-on education** for groups like the county 4-H Clubs or garden clubs helps educate on water issues and other environmental issues.

