

Ecologist Development Program

Recommended Training Courses

Course availability and schedules vary. Coordinate with the organization directly to schedule and register for classes.

Streams

- [NC Stream Identification](#) - Blueline Environmental
- [Surface Water Identification Training and Certification](#) - NC State University
- [Swamp School](#)
 - National Ordinary High Water Mark Field Delineation for Rivers and Streams
 - Determining Perennial or Intermittent Flow Classifications

Wetlands

- [Duncan and Duncan W.E.S.T](#)
 - Basic Wetland Delineation (Coastal Plain or Eastern Mountains/Piedmont)
 - Advanced Hydric Soils, Hydrology, and Regional Indicators (Coastal Plain or Piedmont)
- [Swamp School](#)
 - Wetland Delineation Training: USACE Wetland Delineation with Regional Supplements
 - Wetland Delineation Refresher Training
- [Wetland Training Institute](#)
 - Basic Wetland Delineation
 - Advanced Wetland Delineation
 - Basic Wetland Delineation Refresher Course
 - Problematic Delineation Seminar

Protected Species

- [Swamp School](#)
 - Endangered Species Act Training
- Bat Training:
 - [Virtual bat and transportation structures assessment training](#)

Plants

- [Duncan and Duncan W.E.S.T](#)
 - Hydrophytic Vegetation (Coastal Plain or Piedmont)
 - Identification of Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes
- [Swamp School](#)
 - Winter Wetland Tree Identification Training
 - Wetland Wildflowers Identification Training
- [UGA State Botanical Gardens Certificate in Native Plants](#) (CNP 2024 schedule in folder – can take any course without committing to the full certification)
 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plant
 - Basic Botany: Fundamentals of Plant Biology
 - Winter Tree Identification
 - Introduction to Graminoid ID
 - Spring Wildflowers of Upland Deciduous Forests of Georgia
 - Spring Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops of Georgia

GDOT-Specific Training

- Plan Development Process
- Plan Reading (Internal Only)

Professional Groups and Organizations

- Georgia Native Plant Society
- Georgia Botanical Society: hosts weekend outings and provides camaraderie with knowledgeable professional and amateur botanists. Participation in events also provides excellent exposure to and practice with native plants that translates into valuable on-the-job taxonomic skills.

While not professional resources, Facebook hosts all manner of groups focused on biotic taxonomy and habitat characteristics that ecologists performing for GDOT address every day. Seek out reputable recommendations online or from colleagues on groups they find helpful in their taxonomic development.