



September Newsletter

Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors inspires students to care for nature and their communities with hands-on science education and climate action.

From the Executive Director

Dear ECO Community,

Thank you for supporting Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors!

ECO continues to educate students to care for nature during the pandemic. We learned by trial and error as schools closed and our in-person program delivery was no longer possible. We went online and into classrooms with our educators, live on Zoom, and also created virtual activities and ECO Adventures videos.



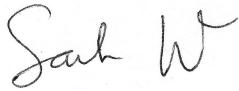
During the pandemic, ECO achieved a long-held goal to create curriculum kits to expand its organizational reach and pilot individual lessons with parents and educators engaged in remote learning. These “Learn at Home” lessons were accessed by over 200 individuals across the country.

Additionally, 77 acres of land was donated by the Rasmussen Family Trust. ECO’s Board of Directors and staff are currently developing plans for how to best

use this new acquisition to implement our mission.

We couldn't have done it without you, our friends and loyal supporters. Wishing all of you the best of health and time in nature.

Sincerely,



Sarah Woods
Executive Director, Acting

Meet our Board



Wasim is a nature, travel, architecture & fine art photographer by trade and founder of [Superswell VR](#), a virtual reality production company focused on the outdoor & travel industry. He recently found himself in the Peruvian highlands documenting the work of [Quechua Benefit](#), a nonprofit

that provides economic empowerment for underserved communities in the Andes. While there, he had the rare opportunity to [photograph a vicuña chaccu](#), an ancient Incan Sun God ritual centered around the wild distant cousin of the alpaca.

This led him down an alpaca-fueled path that he wasn't expecting, but immediately embraced. He currently lives in Bend, Oregon at [Flying Dutchman Alpacas](#), one of the nation's top alpaca farms and programs, and, as the recently dubbed 'world's premier alpaca photographer,' under the moniker [PacaPics](#), has been photographing various farms and alpaca programs ever since.

We are so fortunate to have Wasim Muklashy as a Board member. He inspires us in so many ways. One of his big passions is monthly giving and he wants us to know how important it is to make a monthly gift to ECO. As he says, "no checks to mail, no monthly reminders needed, no expense on the nonprofit's side, it makes saving the world 'easy peasy'!"

And he hopes you will [join him and become a monthly donor](#) if you haven't done so already.

Wasim is also the Chair of the Communications Committee of the Board and his experience in marketing and media news is such a gift to ECO. He is also dedicated to news about science, sustainability and climate action, where he occasionally posts inspiring stories of cool things happening around the world on his hobby site www.TheFutureIsPrettyRad.com



Oh...and if you ever have a hankerin' to have a picnic, with alpacas, stay tuned for [PacaPicnics](#), coming soon to a paddock near you. He promises "a group of floofs guaranteed to put smiles on the faces of those in the foulest of moods."

For more of his shenanigans, check out:

PhotographyByWasim.com, PacaPics.com & [Instagram.com/WasimOfNazareth](https://www.instagram.com/WasimOfNazareth)

Meet our Educators

ECO's success is in great part due to its professional educators who build curriculum and relationships that inspire awe and wonder for the science of nature.



ECO's Education Program Managers

Amelia Corbari (left) and Alexandra Gordon attending The Teacher Institute for Watershed Science and Conservation at The Ecology School in Maine, August 2021.

ECO's lessons build on classroom learning by providing science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) enrichment education through hands-on experiences in the classroom and outdoors.

Amelia Corbari works with students and teachers at schools in the southern

Willamette Valley. She is authoring ECO's Learn at Home lessons and Place Based Units for elementary education. Amelia holds a BA in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon and a Master's of Environmental Management with focus on Sustainable & Resilient Communities from Western Colorado University. As someone who always learned better outdoors, her passion has pushed her to grow a career in environmental education. She hopes that one day, diverse outdoor experiences and place-based ecological knowledge will be the norm for every student.

[Read Amelia's full bio here](#)

Alexandra Gordon works with K-12 students and teachers in the Portland Metro area. She is authoring ECO's Learn at Home lessons and Climate Action Curriculum for grades 6-12. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Lehigh University where she focused on environmental sustainability and a Master's in Development Practice from Emory University. As a bilingual conservationist, Alexandra's passion is to connect people and nature, from working on the Atlanta urban conservation team for The Nature Conservancy to now serving as an educator for ECO.

[Read Alexandra's full bio here](#) and her [journal entry](#) about her experience in Maine.



The coastal tide pools in Maine are rocky and filled with hidden life.

"Without realizing, I was waist-deep in the water, enthralled with the possibility of who I might find hiding underneath the next rock."

~ Alexandra

Donate Your Vehicle to Support ECO

Your donation supports ECO programs. Donors receive a charitable tax deduction.

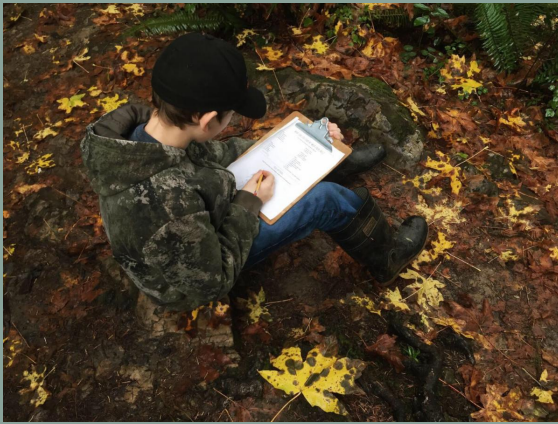
ECO accepts cars, trucks, boats, motor homes, travel trailers, motorcycles, and aircrafts in any condition.

The donation process is easy and towing is free!

To donate your vehicle, please contact
Wendy Mitchell at
wendy@ecologyoutdoors.org



Learn at Home Lesson



Our ECO curriculum includes ideas for building your identity as a scientist and exploring using your senses—with very little materials and set-up required. We hope it helps you unplug, get out outside, and recharge!

Enter your email address to create an account and unlock access to our [FREE CURRICULUM HERE](#).

Download the curriculum to share with students, use at home, or view on a mobile device as you explore outdoors!

Sign up today and we will continue to send you updates on our newest materials and handy resources. Stay tuned for the release of our latest lesson next week.

Thank You Donors!

Wendy Mitchell
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Domino, age 8

