

Have you ever met someone who speaks on THEIR passion and their passion has you wishing that it was also YOUR passion? Well that is what speaking with our new Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent (ANR) was like. I'm sitting there listening to her speak on how she came to become a South Fulton ANR Agent and was wishing I was 30 years younger again.



Meet Emily Cabrera – warm, funny and oh so very knowledgeable about what has become her lifelong passion. Emily grew up in Kennesaw – a GRITS girl, but has not been afraid to venture out into the world. She got her Bachelors as well as Masters at UGA, majoring in Forest Resources – BS/FR.

Emily grew up with a passion for traveling and learning new cultures and she learned how to incorporate that passion into her studies and was able to actually make a living doing so. She is also passionate about the interconnecting of environmental, agricultural and social issues – her belief is that you can't have one without the other.

After graduating from UGA, Emily spent some time in the public school rooms but decided that she didn't want that formal environment. One of Emily's jaunts took her to Alaska where she was a Sea Kayak Guide. This involved teaching safety skills and wilderness living while herself living in a tent. She also got a job with the Department of Fish and Game where she worked with the salmon industry. She got homesick around her second year there and also didn't like the cold any longer.



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So Emily goes from the coldest cold to the hottest hot – Arizona, where she worked with her dad on a ranch for about six months. It was after

the six months that she went back to Athens to get her Masters degree in 2014. While pursuing her Masters, she worked on a local farm in Winterville, GA called Woodland Gardens. It was there that she worked with many Salvadorans, learned Spanish, met her husband Edwin and proposed to him. Yes, you read that right – SHE proposed to HIM.

After Emily's internship in May, she went back to farming at the Athens Land Trust where she managed the farm from August to October. Emily has also worked for an Environmental Assessment company, helping to write permits for environmental development. Having always wanting to be in an urban environment she finally got her current position with UGA as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent. I think we can consider ourselves proud to have someone like Emily to come aboard and bring such a wealth of knowledge, motivation and inspiration to do great things.