Kathy McGlauflin
Senior Vice President, Education
Project Learning Tree
Project Learning Tree is

• A program of the American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works for:
  – Quality environmental education
  – Informed decision-making about our communities and our world
  – Healthy forests

• PLT is sponsored by state partners across the Country
Project Learning Tree is

A Comprehensive EE Program

– Diverse, international network of partners
– Implementation via a successful delivery system of professional development
– High quality, PreK-12 EE curriculum materials and programs
PLT’s Mission

PLT uses the forest as a “window on the world” to:

– Increase students understanding of our complex environment
– Stimulate critical and creative thinking
– Develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues
– Instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action
Project Learning Tree History

- **Early 1970’s:** Partnership between education, resource agencies, and businesses
  - started Project Learning Tree to teach young people about the environment
- **1976:** PLT materials first implemented in 13 western states
  - K-6 and 7-12 Environmental Education Guides
- **1992:** GreenWorks!
- **1993:** PLT materials revamped into PreK-8 and Secondary Modules
- **2006:** Major revisions to the PLT PreK-8 Guide and continued development of Secondary Modules
- **2008:** GreenSchools!
- **2010:** Early Childhood Guide
- **PLT was so effective it inspired other EE programs based on the PLT model**
  - Project WILD in 1983
  - Project WET in 1992
PLT’s Environmental Goals

Awareness → Knowledge

Challenge → Responsible Action

“Teaching students how to think, not what to think about complex environmental issues”

- Rudy Schafer, Founder of PLT
PLT’S Network

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia
- Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Slovakia, Sweden, Uruguay, U.S. Trust Territories, The Peace Corps
- National PLT
- Operating Committee
- State Sponsors
- State Steering Committees
- State Coordinators
- Facilitators
- Teachers
- Students
National, State, and Local Partnerships

and 88 State Partners
Implementation

50 + State Network

“Train the Trainer Model”

Professional Development
  – Inservice
  – Preservice
  – Nonformal

30,000 Educators Trained Each Year Across the Country
in over 1500 Workshops

During the average business day, a PLT workshop begins every hour. More than half the teachers who attend use PLT in their classes at least six times a year.
PLT Curriculum

• PLT for PreK-8
  – Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood
  – PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide
  – Energy and Society

• 5 GreenSchools! Investigations

• PLT for Secondary
  – 5 printed modules
  – 2 online modules
Curriculum Development Process:

1. Advisory Committee
2. Formative Evaluation
3. Focus Groups
4. First Draft of Activities
5. Teachers Pilot-test Activities
6. Activities reviewed by Education and Resource Professionals
7. Activities Revised/Edited
8. Activities Reviewed
9. Final Editing
10. Design and Publishing
11. Implementation through workshops
12. Teachers Field-Test Module
Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood:

Eleven activities and over 130 experiences that engage young children in outdoor play and exploration.

Topics

• Exploring nature with five senses
• Meeting neighborhood trees
• Experiencing trees through the seasons

Has accompanying Music and Movement CD
PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

Features:

– Reading Connections
– Technology Connections
– Differentiated Instruction
– Over 100 topics covered

Aligned to National and State Standards

Classroom Friendly

– 96 hands-on, interdisciplinary activities
– Indoor and outdoor activities
Energy & Society Kit

Activity Guide

Music & Dance by Billy B
  – Energy & Me CD
  – Energy & Me music and dance DVD

Poster Set
  – Where is the energy?
  – What powers the move?
Secondary Modules

- Focus on Forests
- Forests of the World
- Places We Live
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Focus on Risk
- Biotechnology (Online)
- Biodiversity (Online)
Climate Change Activities
Elementary & Middle School

PreK-8 Guide
• Air Plants
• Rain Reasons
• Field, Forest, and Stream
• Tropical Treehouse
• Soil Stories
• Waste Watchers
• The Global Climate
• In the Driver’s Seat
• Our Changing World

Energy & Society Kit
• May the Source Be with You
• What Powers the Move?

Partner Program
• Rainforest Alliance: Guatemala Climate Education Project
Climate Change Activities

Secondary Modules

• Focus on Forests
  – Climate Change and Forests

• Forests of the World
  – Analyzing Patterns of Forest Change

• Climate Change & Southeastern Forests (In Development)
  – Focuses on forests in the southeastern states, from Virginia to Texas and south to Florida
  – You can view the draft activities at this website [http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/climate/](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/climate/).
PLT Programs

• GreenWorks!

• GreenSchools!

• Educator Support
PLT GreenWorks!

Grants available for environmental service-learning projects.

Integrates community service with the academic curriculum.

Combines the environmental knowledge and resources of PLT with community action initiatives.
ClimateChangeLIVE

• Distance learning program
• Partners include: U.S. Forest Service, PLT, Prince William Network, and other federal agencies and NGOs.
• The program offers learning about climate change through a series of webcasts, webinars, and online climate education resources.
• PLT will offer GreenWorks! climate change grants in 2014
PLT GreenSchools!

The GreenSchools! initiative encourages teachers and students to:

• incorporate PLT into curriculum
• conduct environmental investigations
• take action to create sustainable school environments

Over 2,000 schools registered
PLT GreenSchools!

• Investigations
  – School Site
  – Energy
  – Waste & Recycling
  – Water
  – Environmental Quality

• Webinar Series

• Grant Opportunities

www.greenschools.org
Educator Support Materials:

*The Branch*, PLT’s quarterly online newsletter
- Information on PLT’s programs and resources
- Latest in environmental education news

The PLT website, [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)
- Supplemental resources for each activity
- Downloadable curriculum and student pages
- Standards correlations and more!
Recognizing Excellence

PLT’s National Outstanding Educator Program

Recognizes educators for their commitment to EE, teaching skills, and use of PLT

Five winners chosen each year from state nominations
Highlights

• 30,000 educators trained a year
• 60% of workshop participants are referred to PLT by another educator
• Implementation of new Strategic Plan
• Recognition by DOE Green Ribbon Schools
• Coverage of PLT in national, local and social media
• 20 Years of GreenWorks! Over $1 million to over 1000 schools
• Washington, DC “Fly-in” on EE
Thank you!

Visit [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)
[www.greenschools.org](http://www.greenschools.org)

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