

Florida PLT

Annual Summary 2022



Message from the Coordinator

Reflecting on Florida PLT in 2022, I am continuously inspired by our dedicated Steering Committee, amazing facilitators, and consistent supporters who all help forward PLT's goal: to advance environmental literacy, stewardship, and career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world.

In 2022, Florida PLT worked with nine colleges/universities, training over 80 pre-service teachers. As one FSU faculty member said, "I wanted to reiterate how wonderful the program was in terms of a professional development experience... The activities we engaged in were not only applicable but engaging in a way the preservice teachers were able to learn by participating." Now more than ever it is critical to equip pre-service teachers with knowledge and tools demonstrating how hands-on outside activities can both meet Florida Education Standards and enhance teaching and learning! Florida PLT will continue to respond to training requests from college professors around the state who understand the importance of getting students outside to learn.

A huge thank you to the Florida PLT Steering Committee and dedicated facilitators for jumping in as needed with the transition from two Florida PLT staff to one. I'm thrilled and privileged to work with Florida's PLT community to help PLT reach its vision of creating a future where the next generation values the natural world and has the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and take responsible actions to sustain forests and the broader environment.

Elise Cassie
Coordinator, Florida PLT

2022 Impacts

37 facilitators
conducted trainings

Held 30+ trainings
across Florida

Trained over 600
educators

Worked with 9
colleges/universities training
preservice teachers

2,000+ new website
users

Presented PLT at 5
Conferences

What educators said in 2022:

"This PD has introduced me to PLT activities that I am ecstatic to use in my STEM classroom. I am constantly searching for 60-minute activities that will provide quality lessons."

"Loved getting ideas of how to incorporate STEM and PLT activities in a cross-curricular way."

"You all exceeded my expectations of what a training should be."

FL PLT Steering Committee

Robert Raze, Chair
St. Petersburg College

Lori Nicholson, Vice Chair
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tonee Davis, Secretary
USDA Forest Service

Ann Duff, Parliamentarian
WestRock

Elise Cassie, Treasurer
Florida PLT Coordinator
University of Florida, School of Forests, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences

Barbara Boler
The Langdale Company

Tina Fleming
Wakulla Education Center

Karen Johnson
Nature's Classroom, Hillsborough County Public Schools

Nancy Narvaez-Garcia
Bureau of Standards & Instructional Support, Florida Department of Education

James Pitts
Packaging Corporation of America

Randy Raczkowski
Weyerhaeuser Company

Marney Richards
Florida Wildlife Federation

Janet Schnauss
Duval County Public Schools

Dana Sussmann
Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Tiffany Wilson
Rayonier

2022 FL PLT Facilitator/School Coordinator Retreat

- 42 facilitators and PLT school coordinators attended.
- Pre-Retreat Austin Cary Forest tour with Scott Sager, Austin Cary Forest Manager.
- "Get Outside" activity experience from the Explore Your Environment K-8 Activity Guide with Lori Nicholson, Marney Richards, and Dawn Perez.
- PLT agenda-building session held by Martha Monroe, where facilitators worked to create relevant agendas for use with specific targeted audiences.
- PLT school coordinator session with Janet Schnauss, where coordinators examined what's working and what's needed to better integrate PLT activities into school curriculum.



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
2022 FL PLT Partner of the Year



Tish Roland, 4-H Youth Development Agent
2022 FL PLT Facilitator of the Year



Irene "Trini" Johannesen, Science Teacher
2022 FL PLT Educator of the Year

2022 Snapshot



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