

Florida Project Learning Tree Annual Report 2008

Partnership in Youth Education

Schools • Industry • Nonprofits • 4H • Government • Universities



PLT uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase youths' understanding of our complex environment, to stimulate critical and creative thinking, to develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues, and to instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.



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Greetings from PLT Central

Florida PLT is pleased to report over 640 educators attended workshops across the state. Tree products, climate change, invasive species, and natural resource conservation were some of the topics discussed through interactive, hands-on activities. Classroom teachers, pre-service students, foresters, and nature center staff obtained new ideas and materials to engage youth in exploring Florida's forests and ecosystems. An additional 7,352 youth and adults interacted with our facilitators at outreach events such as Scout gatherings, AgVentures, and school presentations.

It is my privilege to convey a big "thanks" to our fabulous volunteers and sponsors who make our programs possible.

This year PLT Central focused on understanding the new state education standards that guide learning in the classroom to see how we can make the PLT materials more relevant to teachers. The new science standards will help us target our materials to certain grade levels.

Catch a glimpse of this year's Florida PLT Award winners to learn how they are supporting natural resource education on page 4. Our Florida PLT Schools and Facilitators send in an array of photos from their classrooms, outreach activities, and educator workshops. A sampling of what happens around the year can be seen in images on page 3.

We are looking forward to several new activities in 2009. Florida was selected to pilot a PLT Green Schools program. This initiative encourages youth to investigate their school's water, waste, and energy use (among other components) and develop an action project. We are also developing new resources: an on-line training program for 4-H leaders and activities to teach youth about forest health and forest ecosystems. Both projects are led by UF Masters Students. Finally, Jenny Seitz, PLT Coordinator since May 2004, became the new Education Coordinator for the Alachua County Public Works, Waste Management Division's Waste Alternatives office in February. We are grateful for her leadership and skill in growing the program. Replacing Jenny is Nancy Peterson, the former Associate Director for Research and Outreach/Extension at the UF School of Natural Resources and Environment. Nancy has an MS in environmental education from Southern Illinois University and many years of experience in program administration. We warmly welcome Nancy to the PLT Family.

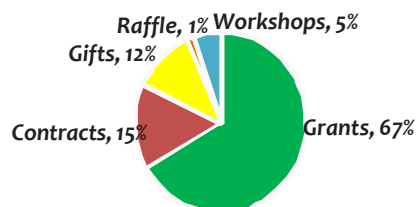
In this time of economic challenges, your involvement with Florida PLT and support of our programs are essential to keep natural resource education at the forefront of our children's educational opportunities. We appreciate all you do for Florida's youth and forests.

Sincerely,

Martha C. Monroe

Martha C. Monroe, Professor, SFRC, UF/IFAS

2008 Income Sources



Total Income

Florida PLT depends on support from private and public funding sources.

Inaugural Legacy Award Mike Long

In honor of his strong support and dedication to youth and teachers in Florida, Mike Long, former State Forester for Florida, was selected as the recipient of the first Florida PLT Legacy Award

PLT 2008

- 645 educators, trained at 27 workshops
- 13 PLT Environmental Centers
- 11 PLT Schools
- Over 7,000 youth and adults reached

A Year in Pictures



PLT School, St. Paul Lutheran's third grade class with teacher Mrs. Oberhofer, showing their To Be A Tree outfits.



Third grade student, Lucia Spinelli, and her teacher act out scenes from The Lorax during the Tree for Many Reasons activity at PLT School St. Michael Lutheran School.



Diane Kratt and Rusti Clinger, examine tree cookies during workshop at St. Michael Lutheran School.



New PLT School, Ft. Lauderdale Preparatory School, receives School Plaque and materials. From l to r: Summer Scarletelli, PLT School Coordinator; Anita Lonstein, Director; and Jennifer Seitz, PLT Coordinator.



New PLT School, Walden Community School, receives School Plaque and materials. From l to r: Dr. Carol Mikulka, Founder; Heather Callahan, PLT Steering Committee Representative; and Karin Williamson, PLT School Coordinator.



Shelia Bolin explains the Birds and Worms activity to fourth grade students during Windermere Preparatory School's Environmental Day.

Celebrating Excellence

Project Learning Tree applauds all educators, facilitators, and partners whose efforts make our Florida PLT program successful. The 2008 award winners are:

Educator of the Year: Ed Lewis

A forester for Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, Ed has been an extraordinary friend to AD Harris High School, for the last ten years. He has a remarkable knack of getting ones interest and holding it until he is through making his point. He led a tour for students at Gould's Tree Farm and kept the students laughing while they were learning. He helped students with tree identification during an urban forestry project and used his humor to teach them tricks on remembering the tree name. We are pleased to bestow the 2008 Florida Project Learning Tree Educator of the Year upon Ed.

Facilitator of the Year: Joan Hourican

Joan has facilitated 15 educator workshops in the last six years in Palm Beach and Broward Counties reaching 379 educators. Often Joan leads a PLT, WILD, and WET workshop with Science Methods pre-service students at Florida Atlantic University. She is willing to develop new workshops to offer materials to teachers such as PLT's Energy and Society Kits. When there is a need for learning, Joan works with teachers and schools to ensure a workshop can happen. We thank Joan for her commitment and congratulate this Project Learning Tree Facilitator of the Year.



From l to r: Joan Hourican, Ed Lewis, and Neal McDonald and Shelia Bolin with Family of Orange Lake Resorts Orlando.

Business Partner of the Year: Family of Orange Lake Resorts Orlando

The Family of Orange Lake Resorts Orlando is committed to the conservation and preservation of the resort's wildlife and environmental resources. Camp Adventure, a wildlife camp for children staying on the property, utilizes materials from PLT to help them learn about Florida's wildlife and native fauna while educating them on the importance of protecting animal life and preserving wildlife habitats. The resort has two PLT Facilitators running these wildlife initiatives and teacher workshops. During the year, PLT and Project WILD teacher workshops are held onsite. We honor the Family of Orange Lake Resorts Orlando's commitment to supporting Project Learning Tree.

The Steering Committee extends their most sincere thanks to the following organizations who generously support educating our youth about the environment.

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\$1001- \$5000

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St. Johns River Water Mgmt. District
St. Petersburg College
UF/IFAS 4-H Youth Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service

A special thank you to our volunteers for engaging youth and adults in PLT:

Dale Armstrong, A.E. Balthazor, Jon Berg, Marcia Bisnett, Shelia Bolin, Marcus Boston, Heather Callahan, Authur Clothier, Lara Colley, Eleanor Foerste, Elizabeth Franklin, April Frederick, Cheryl George, Jackie Graham, Glen Harris, Joan Hourican, Craig Iversen, Karen Johnson-Folsom, Mae Kiggins, Bill Kleinhans, Ed Lewis, Jen Loyd-Pain, Joe MacKenzie, Neal McDonald, Martha Monroe, David Moody, Teresa Mullinax, Lori Nicholson, Annie Oxarart, Robert Raze, Jr., Mike Renwick, Royanne Reusch, Jean Rogalsky, Stan Rosenthal, Katie Schlotterbeck, Jean Schubert, Jill Sox, Amy Taylor, Sonya Thompson, Jessica Tomasello, Ellen Truskowski, Chris Verlinde, Deb Wagner, Karen Weigelt, Fred Wiechmann, Robin Will, Kelliann Whitney.