



# Empowering Educators, Inspiring Youth!

## Florida Project Learning Tree 2015 Annual Report

### Expanding Roots, Branching Out

Florida PLT advances environmental literacy and promotes stewardship through excellence in environmental education, professional development, and curriculum resources that use trees and forests as windows into the world.

- **Florida PLT** is now the **fourth largest state program** in the nation!
- **236** dedicated **educators** donated **18,000+** hours
- **71,500** youth and adults **participated** in the program
- **54 workshops** conducted across **diverse subjects**, training over **900 teachers**
- **\$442,957** contributed through **sponsorships, in-kind donations and volunteers hours**
- **40** PLT Early Childhood facilitators now trained
- **Facilitator's Guide** for Early Childhood published
- **20** PLT Environmental Education **Centers** teaching PLT to over **58,000 youth**
- **13** PLT **Schools** The Montessori School of Navarre (PLT School) examined the effects of flooding on soil when trees/plants are removed!



Early childhood participants



Climate science



Early childhood activities

### PLT/Florida Forest

#### Service Arbor Day Initiative



Museum story time at the Children's Science Explorium

was developed to promote reading to elementary students, helping to provide a greater awareness of the importance of trees.



St. Paul Lutheran celebrating Florida Arbor Day

*Why Would Anyone Cut Down a Tree* by Roberta Burzynski was given to all 2015 PLT Conference participants.

Wakulla PreK Education Center (a PLT School) planted trees and Smokey Bear came to visit for Arbor Day.



### Planet Diversity: Trees Gone Wild!

The 2015 PLT Conference was held at the Brevard Zoo in Melbourne. Citizen science, including making oyster mats was just one of the positive learning experiences. A silent auction and raffle raised \$1,398 for Florida PLT!

**"We need to find a way to make the 'powers that be' understand the value of programs like PLT..."**



### Facilitator Training:

**"It was an amazing two days!!" "Fantastic!" "WONDERFUL facilitators!!"**

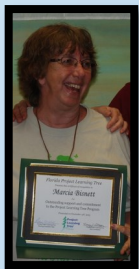


[www.sfrc.ufl.edu/plt](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/plt)  
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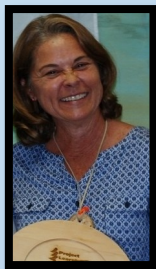


## Congratulations to our 2015 Florida PLT Award Recipients!

Award winners include: Business Partner of the Year **Rex Lumber**, Florida Facilitator of the Year, **Karen Johnson Folsom**, Florida Educator of the Year **Brian Elkins**, and our Certificate of Appreciation recipient **Marcia Bisnett**. Recipients were honored at the 2015 PLT Annual Conference "Planet Diversity: Trees Gone Wild!" in Melbourne, FL. To learn more about our award winners visit [sfrc.ufl.edu/PLT/supporting\\_PLT/](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/PLT/supporting_PLT/)



**Marcia Bisnett**



**Karen Johnson Folsom**



**Brian Elkins**



**Caroline Dauzat (center), Rex Lumber**

**Thank You  
PLT Volunteers!  
Over 18,000 Hours Donated**

### Steering Committee

**Robin Will, Chair; Robert Raze, Vice Chair; Shaun Stewart, Secretary; Nancy Peterson, Treasurer; Bill Kleinhans, Parliamentarian; Susan Blake, Barbara Boler, John Brown, Karen Folsom, Bryce Forrester, Cheryl George, Dawn Hurley, Ed Lewis, Steve Lowrimore, Mark Miller, Jamie Pitts, Vanessa Spero-Swingle, Daniel Stevens, Deb Wagner, Jackie Zimmerman.**

### Volunteer Educators

Missy Allison, Mary Bahr, William Bailey, Erica Baugh, Rosina Bencivenga, Heather Bevis, Marcia Bisnett, Nate Bisnett, Lana Blackman, Marcus Boston, Kirsten Brazier, Heather Brunson, Cindy Clair, Arthur Clothier, Chris Colburn, Vicki Crisp, Dolly Cummings, Sydelle Dombrowsky, Brian Elkins, Tom Gilpin, Barbara Gugliotti, Veronica Frehm, Sam Hand, Cathy Hardin, Lisa Hickey, Peggy Hill, Michelle Hunter, Craig Iversen, Tracy Jenner, Alison Jones, Adam Kent, Janice Kerber, Laura Kelley, Rosalyn Kilcollins, Alex Kyle, Eric Leitner, Joe MacKenzie, Erica Maier, Rebecca Malones, Chris Martin, Michelle Mason, Rebecca McCafferty, Lindsey McConnell, Carol Mikulka, Mark Miller, Lara Milligan, Brooke Mohr, Martha Monroe, David Moody, Mark Mummaw, Lori Nicholson, Lynn Nquyen, Molly O'Conner, Annie Oxarart, Julia Parker, Monica Phipps, Martha Pierce, Brian Pippin, David Poletti, Travis Pollard, Rayanne Reusch, Chimene Rice, Tracey Ritchie, Jean Rogalsky, Stan Rosenthal, John Rosso, Katie Schlotterbeck, Trixie Smith, Mary Spence, AL Stenstrup, Allan Stollberg, Martha Stollberg, Jane Storm, Betsy Sullivan, Janet Sweat, Lori Heath Thorn, Susan Toth, Eileen Tramontana, Chris Verlinde, Alyssa Vinson, Ryan Vogel, Yolanda Washington, Jane Wells, Fred Wiechmann, Rebecca Wolfson, Collet Wooley.

## THANK YOU 2015 PLT Sponsors!

### Gold Leaf (\$2,500+)

American Forest Foundation, National PLT  
Florida Forest Service  
Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative  
Implementation Committee (FSFIC)

### Silver Leaf (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Rayonier Inc.  
Rosewell Global  
UF School of Forest Resources &  
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### Bronze Leaf (\$500-\$999)

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North Florida Woodlands & Rex Lumber  
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### Friend of PLT (\$25-\$499)

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