Lisa Deaton
Virginia Department of Forestry
@ New Kent Forestry Center

Ellen Reynolds
Beagle Ridge Herb Farm & Environmental Education Center
Project Learning Tree

Is a program of the American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works for:
– healthy forests
– quality environmental education
– informed decision-making about our communities and our world

In Virginia, PLT is sponsored by:
What is Project Learning Tree?

A Comprehensive EE Program

High quality, PreK-12 EE curriculum materials

Diverse, international network of partners

Implementation via a successful delivery system of professional development
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
National, State, and Local Partnerships
PLT Curriculum

PLT for ages 3-6
  - Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood

PLT for grades PreK-8
  - PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide
  - Energy and Society

PLT for Secondary
  - 5 printed modules
  - 2 online modules
Early Childhood Experiences

Exploring Nature with Five Senses
Sight: The Shape of Things
Sound: Sounds Around
Touch: Get in Touch with Trees
Taste and Smell: We All Need Trees

Experiencing Trees Through Seasons
Fall: Signs of Fall
Winter: Evergreen Magic
Spring: Bursting Buds
Summer: Adopt a Tree

Meeting Neighborhood Trees
To Be a Tree
Trees as Habitats
Three Cheers for Trees
Music and Movement

- Fosters Brain Development
- Develops Gross and Fine Motor Skills
- Benefits Children with Special Needs

Project Learning Tree: Early Childhood CD

- Supports EC Experiences
- Sounds of Nature
- Billy B Songs
PLT’s PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

New Features
- Reading Connections
- Technology Connections
- Differentiated Instruction
- New Design

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 (Grades 9-12)

- Focus on Forests
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Focus on Risk
  Biotechnology Supplement
- Places We Live
- Biodiversity (Online)
- Forests of the World
Standards Correlations and NCLB

Most states have aligned PLT materials to their state academic standards.

Visit www.plt.org for national and state correlations.

Searchable correlation at www.cnre.vt.edu/plt

No Child Left Inside Act 2010 (H.R. 2054/S.866)
No Child Left Inside Act of 2011 – introduced July 14
- AFF/PLT a member of the NCLI coalition
- Legislation would:
  - authorize Environmental Education in NCLB
  - provide new funding to states for teacher training and state environmental literacy plans
Every Student Learns Outside

www.learnoutside.org

Learn how to make outdoor experiences part of everyday lesson plans

Find a series of kids activity pages for “non-educators” based upon PLT activities
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)
- Resources by Activity Pages
  - Download student pages
  - Find additional resources for each activity
- Calendar of PLT events
- 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
Grants up to $1,000 for students to complete environmental service-learning projects.

Integrates community service with the academic curriculum.

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

Next Deadline:

September 30, 2012

Check www.plt.org for the most updated information.
GreenWorks! In Action: Biodiesel ReEnergizes Us

11th Grade Science Students in Utah created biodiesel...

...then powered a van with it for field trips!
PLT’s **GreenSchools!** Program

It combines:
- environmental education
- service-learning
- leadership opportunities

It engages:
- teachers, faculty, maintenance staff
- students
- school board members
- parents and community members

Students
- reduce the ecological footprint of their school
- create a more green and healthy learning environment
- save their school money!
How can schools participate?

1. Attend a PLT Workshop
2. Register Online – [www.pltgreeschools.org](http://www.pltgreeschools.org)
3. Obtain *GreenSchools!* Investigations
4. Form a *GreenSchools!* Team
5. Complete 5 *GreenSchools!* Investigations
6. Conduct Environmental Action Projects
7. Collect Data to Support Change
GreenSchools! Investigations

- Energy Use
- Waste and Recycling
- Water Consumption
- School Site
- Environmental Quality
GreenSchools! and GreenWorks!

Based on service-learning practices:

- Investigation
- Preparation
- Action
- Reflection
- Demonstration
- Celebration

All about Youth Voice!!
Project Learning Tree Works

30,000 educators trained a year.

Half of users report using PLT at least once a month.

Recipient of national awards

60% of workshop participants are referred to PLT by another educator.