

Welcome to the 2023 FRPA Conference!



August 28 - 31, 2023 | Orlando, FL

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED: USING PROJECT LEARNING TREE (PLT) TO ENHANCE EVENTS

August 31, 2023

Dana Sussmann

Senior Forester, Florida
Forest Service
Orlando District



Leah Glynn

PLT Assistant,
Florida Project Learning
Tree





MEET OUR SPEAKERS



**Dana Sussmann, Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service
Orlando District**

Dana began her career with the Florida Forest Service in 1989 in South Florida and relocated to Central Florida in 1994. In this role as a Cooperative Forestry Assistance forester, she provides rural forestry assistance to landowners in Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Brevard counties. Additional job responsibilities include urban forestry assistance to local communities and environmental education. She received a Bachelor of Forest Science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and is a Project Learning Tree Facilitator, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, and Florida Certified Prescribed Burner.



Leah Glynn, Florida Project Learning Tree Assistant

Leah Glynn is a graduate student at the University of Florida within the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, studying Forest Resources and Conservation, with a special interest in Recreation Science and Environmental Education. Leah earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Florida in May 2022, and will graduate with her master's degree in May of 2023. Leah is working as the Florida Project Learning Tree Assistant and has enjoyed learning more about environmental education and providing professional development trainings for educators and PLT facilitators across the state. From a young age, Leah has had a passion for recreation and hopes to work to make the natural environment a more inclusive space while also providing quality educational programming in underserved communities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Explore what PLT Offers
2. Experience a PLT Activity
3. Share ideas for incorporating PLT activities into your next event
4. Learn about resources and support offered by PLT



Icebreaker: We All Need Trees

Connecting Kids to Nature

Nature is a great teacher and getting kids outside to learn and play is good for their brains and their bodies. Try this outdoor activity from Project Learning Tree® - It's safe, fun, and educational!

We All Need Trees

Children are often surprised to learn how many different products we get from trees. Use this activity to help children learn just how much we depend on trees in our daily lives.

Take a walk with children, and bring along a daypack filled with a few tree products, for example, fruit (e.g., apple, orange, banana), a pencil and a journal or a book, sunblock, and chewing gum. Pick up a downed tree branch and ask where it came from (a tree). Eat the fruit, and ask children where it came from (a store? a tree?). Ask children to think of other items that come from trees. Discuss some unusual tree products, using the samples from your daypack. Ask critical questions, including:

- Have you used anything that comes from trees today?
- How are tree products alike and how are they different?
- What do you like most about trees?

In addition to giving us wood, paper, food, and other products, trees are invaluable assets to our communities. Take a neighborhood walk, and look for newly planted trees and shrubs. How are they protected? Find a place without trees, and compare it with a place with many. Which place do you like best? Why?

For a children's story about the gifts of trees and our responsibility to care for them, check out *The Tree Farmer* by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta, 2005, ISBN: 1893622169.

Complete this word search puzzle to discover ten tree products. Look below for the answers.

A U R A T I U G I
T P E T O S B E L
T O P A C H O N I
E T A L O C O H C
P E P U E H K D N
P O S T C A R D E
U E W E N I W I P
T E E R S R O T H
C I N N A M O N C



GOODS FROM THE WOODS

DID YOU KNOW THAT TREES ARE USED IN 5000+ PRODUCTS?

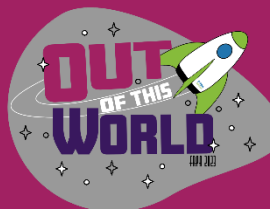
Here's a small sampling of items...



Aspirin
Ice cream
Skateboards
Cell phones
Diapers
Bug repellent
Bandages
Fishing tackle
Laundry detergent
Crayons
Paint
Football helmets
Fireworks
Glue
Sports drinks
Shoe polish
Soap
Cosmetics
Concrete
Lotion
Toothbrushes
Rayon
Fragrances
Mulch
Paper
Tissue

Boxes
Cleaning supplies
Flavorings
Eyeglass frames
Carpet
Plastic twines
Computer casings
Luggage
Cellophane
Baby food
Cereal
Cork
Fabrics
Poultry bedding
Oil spill control agents
Cancer drugs
Musical Instruments
Baseball bats
Charcoal
Canoe Paddles
Guitars
Swing sets
Crutches
Sleds
Hair spray
Ink

Cough syrup
Shampoo
Dish washing liquid
Orange soft drinks
Pine cleaners
Tea
Rootbeer
Chewing gum
Fat-free foods
Salad dressings
Lip balm
Coated pills
Car wax
Furniture finishes
Spices
Syrup
Liquid smoke
Turpentine
Tires
Asphalt
Toothpaste
Hot chocolate
Ping pong balls
Whole grain bread
Steering wheels
Nuts



What is PLT?

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is an **award-winning environmental education program** designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. PLT is an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).



PLT'S MISSION

- To advance environmental literacy, stewardship, and career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world.
- To achieve this mission PLT:
 - Provides students with the **awareness, appreciation, skills, and commitment** to address environmental issues.
 - Enables students to **apply scientific processes and higher order thinking skills** to resolve environmental problems.
 - Helps students acquire **an appreciation for and tolerance of diverse viewpoints** on environmental issues and develop attitudes and actions based on analysis and evaluation of the available information.
 - Encourages **creativity, originality, and flexibility** to resolve environmental problems and issues.
 - **Inspires and empowers students** to become responsible, productive, and participatory members of society.



PLT Teaches Youth



Project Learning Tree

Teaches youth:
**HOW TO THINK,
NOT WHAT TO THINK**

About complex environmental issues



Uses the outdoors as a classroom to encourage a connection with nature



What is SFI?

What is Sustainable Forestry Initiative?



An organization which:

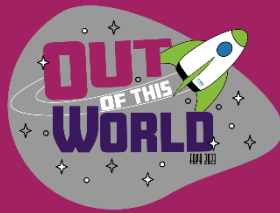
Promotes sustainable forest management (including urban forests)

Provides a framework to satisfy growing demands for responsibly produced wood products

Supports educating and connecting youth to forests and the outdoors



Hands-On Activities



You Try It! – Web of Life



Example #1: Pollution Search

5 Types of Pollution

Land Pollution

Water Pollution

Air Pollution

Noise Pollution

Light Pollution

Pollution Search

Here's a way for your students to take a closer look at pollution: what it is, what its sources are, and what people can do to reduce it.

Activity
36

Levels

Part A: Grades 2-6
Part B: Grades PreK-2

Subjects

Science, Social Studies, Math

Concepts

- Altering the environment affects all life forms—including humans—and the interrelationships that link them. (2.2)
- Pollutants from human and natural systems can enter ecosystems in various ways. (3.3)
- Ecosystems possess measurable indicators of environmental health. (3.4)
- The application of scientific knowledge and technological systems can have positive or negative effects on the environment. (3.5)

Comparing and Organizing
Solving Problems

Instruction

Linguistic Knowledge

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify forms of pollution and describe the effects that various pollutants can have on people, wildlife, and plants.
- Students will describe relationships between various forms of pollution and human actions.

ASSESSMENT OPPORTUNITY

- Pass out copies of the student page. Have each student circle items in the picture that are potential sources of pollution. On the back of the page they should explain how each item they circled might cause pollution and what can be done to prevent this form of pollution. See answers on the last page of this activity.

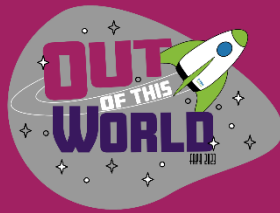
BACKGROUND

Brown haze wraps around a city. Unwanted tires, appliances, and other refuse float in a stream. Oil washes up on a beach. All of these are examples of **pollution**. Human-generated chemicals, trash, noise, and heat can all be pollutants, but so can ash spewing from an erupting volcano or smoke spreading from a forest fire. Pollution is any contamination of air, water, or land that affects the balance of the environment. Here's an overview of three types of pollution—air, land, and water—and a look at pollution controls.

Air Pollution—Automobiles, incinerators, coal-fired power plants, and factories release carbon dioxide, sulfur oxides, particulates, and other pollutants into the air. Fireplaces and wood-burning stoves add

Air pollutants can cause health problems for people and other living things. Smog can make people's eyes burn and damage their lungs. **Acid rain**, caused primarily from the combination of water, oxygen, and atmospheric sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides, has poisoned lakes in certain regions, either killing fish or causing chronic stress that makes fish less able to compete for food and habitat. **Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)** in the stratosphere destroy the ozone layer, allowing more of the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays to reach Earth, possibly leading to increased rates of skin cancer. Increased amounts of carbon dioxide and other **greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere may affect world climate.

Since the Clean Air Act of 1970, great strides have been made to reduce air emissions. In 1975, Los Angeles recorded 118 days in which it had a stage 1 Smog Alert. In 1996, the number had



Example #1: Pollution Search



STEM: Pollution Search Activity

Ag Town

- Create a survey sheet to find items at the Fair, return it for a coupon to a sponsored item.
- Incorporate messages and videos from the five types of pollution link on television located in central area.



Example #2: Getting in Touch with Trees

Connecting Kids to Nature

Nature is a great teacher and getting kids outside to learn and play is good for their brains and their bodies. Try this outdoor activity from Project Learning Tree® - it's safe, fun, and educational!

Getting in Touch with Trees

By way of neighborhood trees and a mystery box, children will explore their sense of touch and discover different shapes and textures in nature.

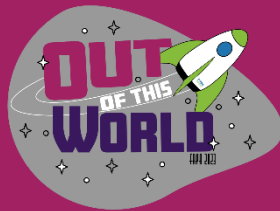
Before venturing outdoors with children, take a walk yourself and find an area where a few different tree species grow. Collect one or more objects from the ground underneath the trees. Place the objects in a "mystery box" so they can be felt but not seen. Take the children to your collection spot, have them feel the items in the mystery box, and challenge them to search the collection area to find the matching objects. Ask:

- What is important about your sense of touch? How do you use it?
- What would life be like without your sense of touch?
- Can you identify objects by only feeling them?

You can also bring along a blindfold and have children examine trees using only their hands. Can similarities and differences be found?

To learn more about the unique characteristics of a few American trees, check out *Trees, Leaves, and Bark* by Diane Burns, 1998, ISBN: 1559716282.

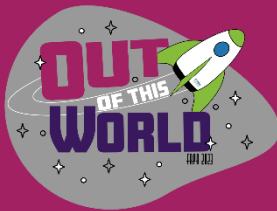
Complete this word search puzzle to discover ten words that describe texture. Look below for the answers.



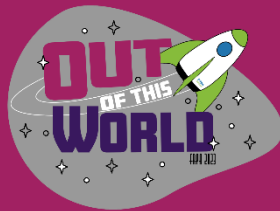
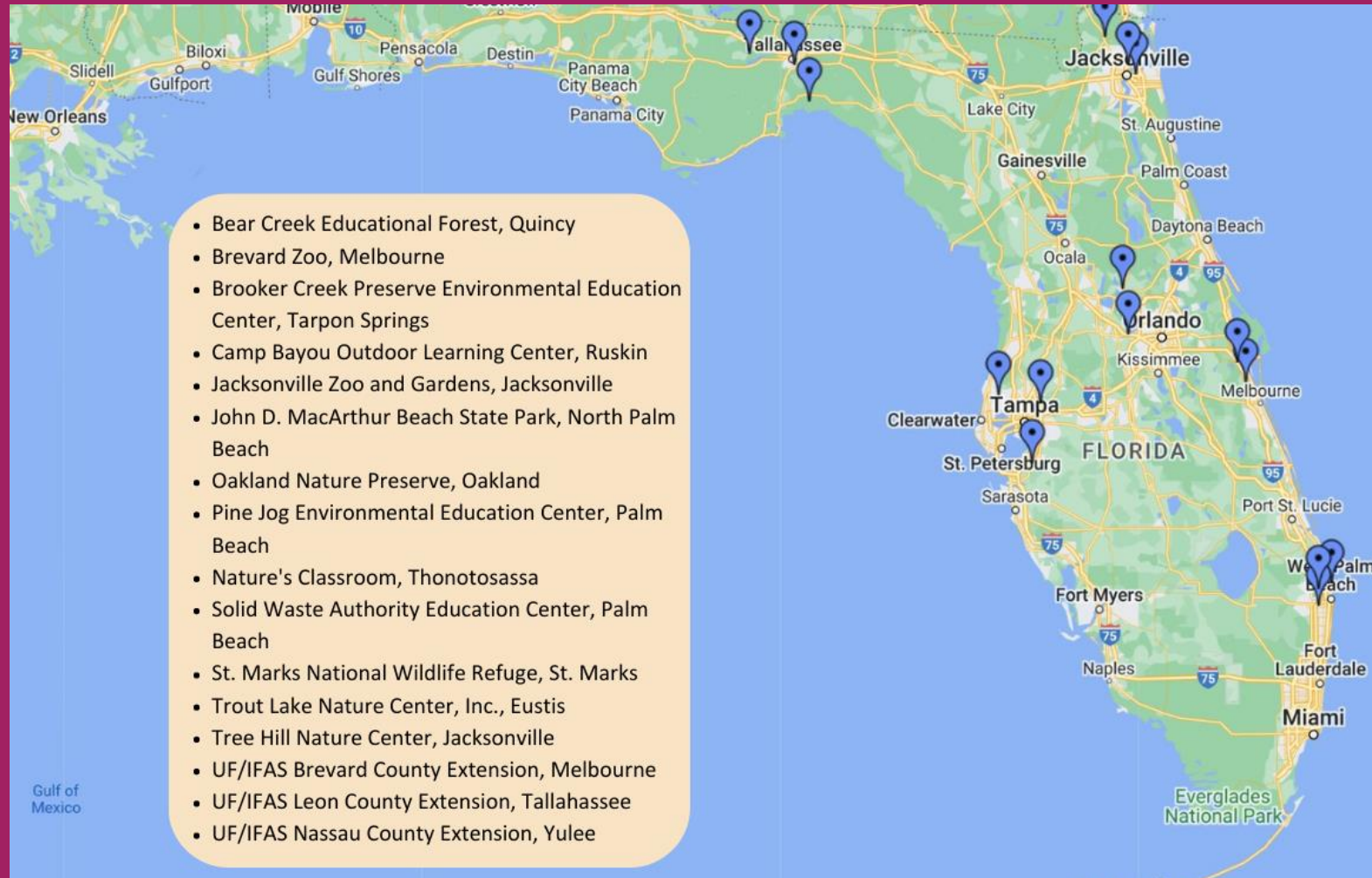
Example #2: Getting in Touch with Trees

Get In Touch With Trees Activity

- “Mystery Box” at table for children to feel the items collected.
- Challenge them to search the festival area to find matching objects.



PLT Environmental Education Centers



Partners and Resources

Finding Partners and Resources

- Find a Florida Forest Service County Forester:

- <https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/Florida-Forest-Service-Office-Locations/County-Foresters/Find-a-County-Forester>

Find Resources



<https://www.plt.org/>

Want to learn more about PLT in Florida?

Visit the [Florida PLT Website](#) and contact your PLT State Coordinators:



Elise Cassie

Florida PLT State Coordinator

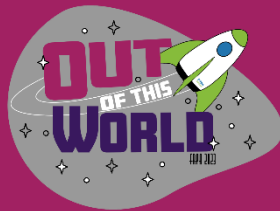
University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
PO Box 110410
Gainesville, FL 32611-0410



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<https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/plt/>



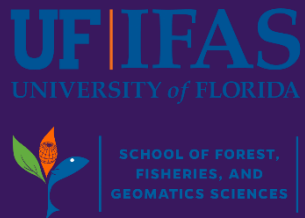
Thank You!

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- *<https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/plt>*



For more information about the
Florida Recreation and
Park Association
visit frpa.org