

SC PROJECT LEARNING TREE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Student Page

Schoolyard Safari Survey

Name: Madison School: Edgewood Grade: 4th

What animals or signs of animals did you see? Write or draw a picture of them.	Where did you see the animals or signs of animals?	Observations: What was each animal doing? When might each find all?
 bird	bird ground	looking for food



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

The South Carolina Project Learning Tree program continued to evolve and grow in 2018. Hundreds more educators across the state were trained in at least one of the PLT modules, giving them ideas, skills, tools and greater confidence to take their students outdoors to better understand the natural world and how to use its resources wisely.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative's presence as PLT's national sponsor has been great. They have supported and helped push the program forward in developing new programs and supporting states' efforts in environmental education.

One of the new curricula published this year was "Teaching with i-Tree." i-Tree was produced in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and contains three hands-on lessons that accompany the i-Tree Design free online program. The curriculum was designed for middle and high school students to help them discover and analyze the many ecosystem services that trees provide. Students use GIS technology to input data and calculate the dollar value of the benefits provided by a tree, or a set of trees.

In 2017, PLT introduced new e-Units of instruction for grades K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th-8th grades. An e-Unit is a self-contained unit of instruction that is fully online, making it easy for teachers to access and use. In 2018, PLT's "Energy in Ecosystems" e-Unit for grades 3rd-5th won the "Teachers' Choice Award for the Classroom" from Learning Magazine. A nationwide panel of teacher-judges selected various educational materials that are the very best of teacher-tested and teacher-recommended products. Receiving this recognition for one of PLT's curricula was a great honor that demonstrates our national PLT staff are hard-working and creative people.

The SC PLT Steering Committee is composed of members who care deeply about quality environmental education for students and professional development for our teachers and forestry professionals. In 2018 we welcomed many new members who bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to guide the PLT program. These members include Sarah Talley (U.S. Forest Service), Cynthia Deaton (Clemson University professor & 2018 SC PLT Outstanding Educator), Julie Smoak (USC Upstate professor), and Michael Walker (International Paper forester). New officers also took on leadership roles on the steering committee with Ms. Chanda Cooper serving as chair, Victoria Pasco as vice-chair, and Rosemary Wicker as secretary. Many thanks were given to our outgoing chair, Russell Hubright, and outgoing secretary, Barbara Allen, for their years of service.

Our active facilitators are the backbone of the program and are the key to its success. Thirty-seven facilitators led 33 separate workshops across the state to train 474 new PLT Educators! The SC PLT program also welcomed 17 new facilitators who



Matt Schnabel, SC PLT Coordinator,
SCFC Environmental Ed. Coordinator

were trained at the Triple Facilitator Workshop (PLT, Project WILD, Project WET) at Harbison State Forest in July. Many thanks to all the PLT facilitators who led workshops this year!

Eleven facilitators came to the 2018 PLT Facilitator Refresher at Harbison State Forest. Facilitators learned about changes in the PLT program, were trained in the "Energy in Ecosystems" e-Unit for 3rd-5th grade, and practiced tree measurement using forestry tools. Much fun and good food was had by all! I hope to see many of our facilitators at the 2019 Facilitator Refresher at Cedarleaf Farm (2012 SC Tree Farm of the Year) this coming July. We will have a training on the new "Teaching with i-Tree" unit and Tree Farm tour!

SC PLT is continuing to evolve as technology and the needs and desires of students and educators change. Our program is committed to hands-on, experiential learning that gets students engaged in real-world projects. Thank you to all of you who have supported SC PLT with your time, money, and skills, and I ask for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you!

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR'S CORNER

This year has been an exciting and busy year for South Carolina Project Learning Tree! We have facilitated workshops, written grants, worked exhibit tables and implemented new initiatives.

And I'm particularly excited about having the opportunity to attend the annual PLT International Coordinators' Conference, which will be held in Little Rock, Ark. In May. This past year we traveled to Cody, Wyo., and even visited Yellowstone National Park as part of the conference! Did I mention that I love my job?

The Coordinators' Conference is a great opportunity to network, learn about new initiatives, and rejuvenate your enthusiasm for PLT. It was really great to meet some of the SFI staff and hear more about their organization, especially the State Implementation Committee. SFI President Kathy Abusow really showed her love for PLT when talking about the program. PLT has truly found a great home with SFI!

Since starting my position with SCFC, I have realized how important it is for Matt and me to apply for grants in order to grow and develop SC PLT. The first grant I received was the 2017-18 Model Program Initiative through AFF, which funded our six brand new SC PLT Environmental Education Centers.

EE Centers promote collaborations that encourage long-term, high-quality environmental education programing, increasing opportunities for PLT activities and outreach to impact a larger number of diverse communities.

Each center has an associated PLT facilitator, or center coordinator, who is responsible for ensuring the site hosts an annual PLT Educator Workshop. The center coordinator is also responsible to check in/out its "Tree Trunk" to facilitators who are leading a workshop

nearby. A Tree Trunk has materials to lead 10 different PLT activities and is available to any SC PLT facilitator!

Our six EE Centers are: Anne Springs Close Greenway, Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, Lynches River County Park - Environmental Discovery Center, Hobcaw Barony - Discovery Center, Roper Mountain Science Center, and Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. If you are interested in learning more about the SC PLT Environmental Education Centers, please visit our website at <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/pltedcenters.htm>.

The second grant I received was the ee360 through a cooperative agreement between the North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and seven other partnerships. This grant funded our annual PLT guide order, which will allow us to continue our free-of-charge trainings for school and district-wide in-service educator workshops.

These funds also paid for 10 participants to go through our Triple Facilitator Workshop (Project WET/WILD/PLT), which was held at Harbison State Forest on July 11th-12th 2018. Three of the participants were pre-service faculty, and two were natural resource faculty.



Beth Foley, SC Assistant PLT Coordinator

These college and university professors will help us broaden our outreach with pre-service and natural resources students that will effectively allow them to include environmental education in their teaching.

Four out of five professors have already incorporated PLT trainings into their curriculum! The remaining five participants were all EE Center staff. The staff members will ensure we are reaching the whole state of South Carolina and provide more training opportunities for non-formal educators. All five staff have workshops planned for the spring of 2019.

For upcoming workshop information, please visit the Forestry Association of South Carolina's website at <http://www.scforestry.org/project-learning-tree>.

How do you spell success?

- 21,415 SC educators trained in 1,009 workshops since 1980.
- 10 National PLT Outstanding Educators from South Carolina in the last 19 years!



About SC Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree is the environmental education program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and sponsored in South Carolina by the S.C. Forestry Commission, the State Department of Education, and the S.C. Forestry Foundation [a 509 (a) (3) non-profit organization].



Outstanding Educator of the Year Cynthia Deaton

Cynthia Deaton of Gaston has been named the 2018 South Carolina Project Learning Tree Jerry L. Shrum Outstanding Educator of the Year. She was selected by the South Carolina PLT Steering Committee in May.

Deaton is an associate professor in the College of Education at Clemson University, where she provides PLT-based environmental education opportunities to students and staff.

“In my professional development workshops and undergraduate courses, I integrate Project Learning Tree curriculum because of the way it allows me to expand what I do in the classroom,” said Deaton. “It provides teachers with content, resources and activities that they can use to support an inquiry-based classroom. As they participate in PLT activities and begin to explore their impact on the environment, teachers see how and why environmental education is important.”

Deaton’s commitment to environmental education began in 2001 as a public high school teacher in Brunswick, Georgia. After attending a PLT training session, she immediately began implementing PLT into her biology and physical science courses and her work with kids outside of schools. This love of environmental science continued with her work as a facilitator for other practicing

teachers while receiving her graduate degree at the University of Georgia. There, she helped develop and implement a year-long professional development experience focused on teaching environmental science in the elementary classroom.

When she left the University of Georgia to work at the University of Mississippi, she began working with Mississippi Project Learning Tree facilitators to train her undergraduate students (preservice elementary science teachers) and encourage these future teachers to engage their students in becoming stewards of their environment.

At Clemson, she has implemented PLT into 2-3 groups of elementary education students (18-26 students per group) each year. She continues to implement the PreK-8th grade curriculum into science education courses for elementary education majors, special education majors and early childhood majors. Deaton has also worked with multiple preservice and in-service teachers to modify PLT activities to address state and school initiatives, meet the needs of their diverse student population, and use them to develop inquiry-based lessons. She has supported in-service teachers in finding ways to use PLT activities to encourage and reinforce 21st century skills, inquiry-based instruction and

mobile learning.

In addition to integrating the PreK-8th grade PLT curriculum into her science methods coursework each year, Deaton has been dedicated to providing PLT training and support to teachers. She has co-facilitated PLT at Camp Read-a Rama workshop for reading teachers and facilitated PLT at a SC Botanical Garden teacher workshop for PreK-3rd grade teachers. One of her passions, however, has been to support high-needs teachers in receiving PLT curriculum training and support. To do that, Cynthia co-authored grant proposals for multi-year professional development workshops that partnered with one or more high-needs school districts.



I thoroughly enjoyed this workshop, and the information presented was very helpful and relevant. I'm very excited about the guide we received and the ideas we got for our classroom. Very informational!

– Teacher
*on PreK-8 workshop
at Clemson*



Great workshop! I'm eager to learn more about these lessons in order to be able to share them with my students. Thank you so much for everything.

– Lauren Howard
*USC student
on PLT early childhood workshop*

2018 WORKSHOP REPORT

In 2018, 33 face-to-face workshops were conducted with 474 participants. With some workshops covering more than one module, a total of 523 copies of the PLT modules were distributed at these workshops. The following is a breakdown of the types of workshops:

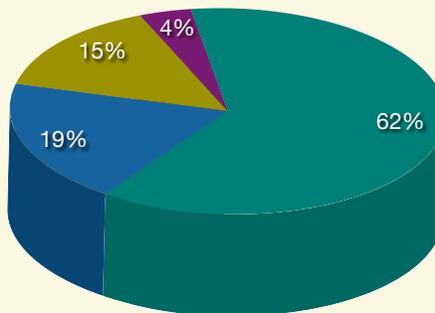
Type Of Workshop	# Of Workshops*	% Of Workshops	# Of Participants	% Of Total Participants
Early Childhood	3	8%	38	7%
PreK-8	8	22%	121	23%
PLT Secondary Modules	7	19%	89	17%
Pre-service Early Childhood	4	11%	74	14%
Pre-service PreK-8	12	33%	176	34%
PLT E-Unit (K-2, 3-5, 6-8)	1	3%	8	2%
National PLT Online PreK-8	N/A	N/A	1	<1%
Facilitator	1	4%	29	6%
TOTALS:	36	N/A	524	N/A

* In order to show how many of each PLT module was distributed and how many workshops were conducted for each module, workshops that covered more than one module are shown as separate workshops for each module, making the total number of workshops 36.

2018 SC PLT BUDGET SUMMARY

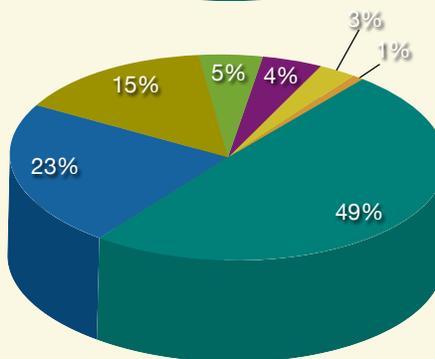
Income: \$44,325.17

Cash Balance	\$27,659.78
Grants	\$8,460.80
Corporate Donations	\$6,500.00
Workshop Fees	\$1,704.59
TOTAL	\$44,325.17



Expenses: \$24,251.17

Grant Expenditures	\$12,001.26
Activity Guides	\$5,563.70
Travel	\$3,597.01
Awards and Certificates	\$1,147.81
Workshop Expenses	\$1,112.53
Publicity	\$652.00
Operating Expenses	\$176.86
TOTAL	\$24,251.17



In-Kind Contributions: \$17,928.69

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

SC SFI State Implementation Committee
Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.
SC Tree Farm Committee

Georgia-Pacific, LLC
International Paper

2018 FACILITATORS

Amy Umberger	Kelly Murphy
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Becky Cornwell	Krista Eckley
Beth Foley	Lynn Hoekstra
Carrie Whitlock	Matt Schnabel
Cassie Bell	Nancy Thompson
Chanda Cooper	Patricia Whitener
Christine Lotter	Ray Thompson
Cynthia Gardner	Renee Chewning
Dee Marshall	Retha Horne
Diane Curlee	Russell Hubright
Dodie Clark	Sarah Whitmire
Ed Donovan	Sharon Donovan
Guy Sabin	Sharon Miller
Ingrid Norris	Shelby Cohen
Janet Steele	Susan Fernandez
Jes Swanson	Thea Hagan
Jessica Daniel	Tricia Kyzer
Kelly Costner	

PLT STEERING COMMITTEE

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- Victoria Pasco, Vice Chair
Richland School District Two
- Rosemary Wicker, Secretary
University of South Carolina
- Janet Steele, Treasurer
Forestry Association of SC
- Matt Schnabel, Coordinator
SC Forestry Commission

Members

- Barbara Allen
Santee Cooper (retired)
- Pam Baltimore
U.S. Forest Service
- Jeffrey Burden
SC Department of Education
- Cynthia Deaton
Clemson University
- Edward Donovan
USC Upstate
- Beth Foley
Sc Forestry Commission
- Russell Hubright
SC Forestry Commission
- William Keels
Clemson University
- Graham Marsh
Mid Carolina Timber Co.
- Victoria Pasco
Richland School District Two
- Jerry Shrum
SC Forestry Commission (retired)
- Linda Sinclair
SCDE Science Consultant (retired)
- Sarah Talley
U.S. Forest Service
- Amy Umberger
Lexington/Richland District Five



Environmental Education Coordinator Matt Schnabel and CRECS teacher Allie Kreutzer show off the apiary.

CRECS Saves the Bees with Project Learning Tree

Students at Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter School (CRECS) in McClellenville are learning firsthand about honeybees with the help of a Project Learning Tree (PLT) GreenWorks grant. PLT-certified educator and teacher Allie Kreutzer was awarded a PLT grant to build an apiary, purchase bee keeper gear, acquire a starter bee colony for the school's organic garden and buy seeds and plants for the garden that may be pollinated by the bees.

In the previous five years, students learned about bees and kept a small colony next to the garden and animal farm. Ms. Kreutzer said, "The students have consistently asked why, if we have one beehive, can't we have more! Then we'd have more bees

and be able to keep the honey bee population up in our rural area."

Ms. Kreutzer partnered with beekeepers at Blue Pearl Farms who donated their time and expertise to help the students construct the apiary. The school also participates in the "Bee Cause Project," which helps students learn about the importance of honeybees while also providing real-world, hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) opportunities for learning. Ms. Kreutzer also incorporated many PLT lessons into student learning about pollinator plants including "How Plants Grow," "Germinating Giants," "Soil Stories," "Have Seeds, Will Travel" and "Bursting Buds."

"This project is the epitome of

service learning. Students will be providing pollinators for the community, helping to address the global honey bee shortage, and providing fresh, organic produce in a food desert for themselves and their community. McClellanville Land and Sea Market will provide us with a table to sell any extra honey and vegetables we get from our hive and garden," said Ms. Kreutzer.

Project Learning Tree offers GreenWorks grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to "green" their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment.

