

SC PROJECT LEARNING TREE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

The S.C. Project Learning Tree (PLT) program has many blessings to count in 2019: support from an active and committed PLT facilitator network, financial and leadership support from S.C.'s forest industry, the S.C. Forestry Commission, the Forestry Association of S.C., the S.C. Department of Education, and S.C. PLT's national sponsor, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. SFI's education programs expand the knowledge, skills and opportunities to sustain communities, forests and the environment globally and right here in South Carolina.

Because of the forestry community's sustained and enthusiastic support of the S.C. PLT program, we have continued to grow our network of conservation educators who are better equipped to teach children about the connection between the environmental, social and economic benefits of sustainable forest management and natural resource conservation.

Comparing 2016 to 2019, the annual number of people who have completed a PLT workshop in South Carolina has increased 108%. This would not have been possible without support from South Carolina's education and forestry community and S.C. PLT's network of facilitators who lead educator workshops. These PLT-trained educators then help instill the value of natural resource stewardship in young people when they use the PLT activities with the children they teach at their homes, camps, parks, forests and schools.

Project Learning Tree has continued to develop new programs and curricula to stay current with new educational trends and practices. The PLT Carbon & Climate "e-unit" (a fully online, self-contained unit of

instruction) was selected a Learning® magazine 2020 Teachers' Choice Award for the Classroom winner, earning the seal of approval for outstanding educational value. For sixth through eighth grade teachers, Carbon & Climate helps introduce students to some of the complex issues involved in climate change. This was the third Teachers' Choice Award for PLT curriculum. Last year PLT's Energy in Ecosystems for grades three through five and previously PLT's Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood also received Teachers' Choice Awards for the Classroom.

The S.C. 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. During the summer, committee members participated in a two-day retreat at Hickory Knob State Park to create S.C. PLT's new strategic plan for 2020-2024. The plan creates a vision for the program and defines measurable goals and a pathway to reach those new goals. In 2019 we welcomed two new members



Matt Schnabel, SC PLT Coordinator

who bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to guide the PLT program. These members include Emily Oakman (Forestry Association of S.C.) and Gwendolyn Shealy (S.C. Department of Education). I would like to thank some outgoing steering committee members for their service: Pam Baltimore (U.S. Forest Service), Jeffrey Burden (S.C. Department of Education), Ed Donovan (U.S.C. Upstate), Graham Marsh (Mid-Carolina Timber Co.), and especially Jerry Shrum (retired S.C. Forestry Commission and S.C. PLT coordinator). Jerry brought such a wealth of knowledge that was very helpful in my first three years coordinating the program.

Our active facilitators are the backbone of the program and are the key to its success. Thirty-three facilitators led 37 separate workshops across the state to train 636 new PLT educators! Many thanks to all the PLT facilitators that led workshops this year!

Thank you to all of you who have supported S.C. 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

SC Project Learning Tree has had quite a busy year in which we educated over 600 participants! These educators will then teach their students tenfold more about the environment, and that is an immensely positive impact on our state for conservation. A big thanks goes to all of our facilitators that helped us go above and beyond our annual participation goal of 500.

Implementation of the new Teaching with i-Tree curriculum has been a great success this year. Matt and I have led several i-Tree trainings and have also presented at multiple conferences, including SC PLT Facilitator Refresher, EEASC's Annual Conference, DHEC Take Action, and SC Science Council's Conference. We have gotten a lot of great feedback from teachers on this unit and the accompanying i-Tree Design software which calculates the dollar value of the benefits provided by trees.

I am extremely excited about PLT's brand new curriculum, Green Jobs: Exploring Forest Careers. This new unit will help middle and high school students discover careers in sustainable forestry and conservation. It includes four hands-on instructional activities to help youth research forestry jobs and practice managing and monitoring forest resources. It is designed for educators, career and guidance counselors, Scouts, 4-H, FFA leaders, foresters, and job training advisors working with youth. National PLT is preparing for a formal launch of this unit in January 2020. This curriculum will be a perfect fit for our program and extremely beneficial in the promotion of jobs in forestry and natural

resources. We plan to include this training in our upcoming 2020 SC Sustainable Teachers' Tour.

It has been a joy to watch our SC PLT Environmental Education (EE) Centers grow and prosper. All six EE Centers hosted their own PLT educator workshop this year. In 2018, these centers were created to 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. Now that this initiative has two years under its belt, we have decided to expand the program. Harbison State Forest will be our seventh EE Center and will put the Midlands region on the map!

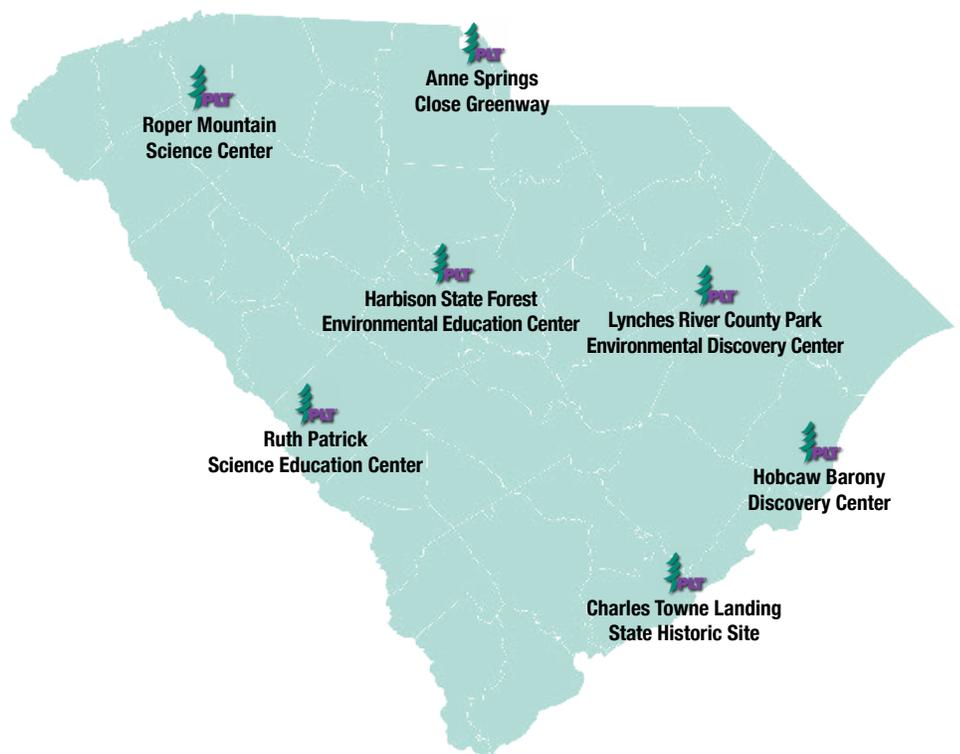
Each EE Center has a "Tree Trunk," which includes materials to lead 10 different PLT activities from the Pre K – 8 guide. These trunks were originally just available for loan by



Beth Foley, SC Assistant PLT Coordinator

local PLT facilitators to assist in leading workshops. We recently expanded the availability of these Tree Trunks to any PLT educator who has gone through a PD training. This will be a great asset for teachers to help increase utilization of PLT in their classrooms. If you are interested in loaning one of the Tree Trunks, please contact your local EE Center Coordinator which can be found here <https://www.state.sc.us/forest/pltedcenters.htm>.

SC Project Learning Tree Environmental Education Centers





Outstanding Educator of the Year Dr. Lynn Hoekstra

Dr. Lynn Hoekstra of Columbia has been named the 2019 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.

Hoekstra is a professor of education and Teacher Education Program Director at Columbia International University, where she has included PLT Early Childhood curriculum training in her syllabus for the past four years.

In 2018, she became certified as a PLT, Project WET, and Project WILD facilitator, and since then, she has co-facilitated two pre-K-8 curriculum workshops for pre-service educators at Columbia College and an early childhood PLT workshop at CIU for pre-service teachers and local child development center staff members.

In a short time, Lynn has already introduced dozens of future teachers and thousands of future students to the quality environmental education provided in the PLT curriculum.

Lynn was born and raised on her family’s farm in Illinois, where she first learned to treat the land with respect. As a middle school teacher in Michigan, Lynn developed an appreciation for the habitat and landscape of the Lake Michigan dunes while leading student field experiences. This contributed to the development of Lynn’s personal feeling of responsibility toward the environment and a desire to protect the resources of our planet.

Living in southern California for a

time helped Lynn become more aware of our need to conserve water and green space. Because of these formative experiences, Lynn is committed to helping students, teachers, and teachers-in-training learn more about the natural world and appreciate the importance of being good stewards of our earth.

Hoekstra accepted her award Friday, Nov. 8 at the Forestry Association of South Carolina’s annual meeting on Isle of Palms.

How do you spell success?

- 22,056 SC educators trained in 1,055 workshops since 1980.
- 108% increase in the number of people trained in PLT compared to 2016!



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].

What an awesome professional development day! I learned so many valuable lessons to use in my classroom and outside.

– Deborah Barrineau
Edith L. Frierson Elementary



The workshop facilitators were all very knowledgeable, happy to be here, and passionate about what they were teaching.

– Columbia College student



Loved the activities! They were super engaging and exciting. I felt like a kid again.

– Columbia College student



2019 WORKSHOP REPORT

In 2019, 37 face-to-face workshops were conducted with 636 participants. With some workshops covering more than one module, a total of 654 copies of the PLT modules were distributed at these workshops. The following is a breakdown of the types of workshops:

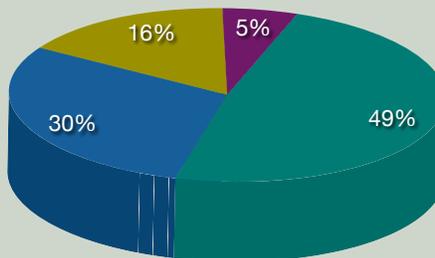
Type Of Workshop	# Of Workshops*	% Of Workshops	# Of Participants	% Of Total Participants
Early Childhood	6	16%	71	11%
Pre-service Early Childhood	6	16%	110	17%
PreK-8	10	26%	179	27%
Pre-service PreK-8	11	29%	235	36%
National PLT Online	N/A	N/A	5	1%
E-Unit Energy in Ecosystems (3-5)	1	3%	22	3%
E-Unit Carbon & Climate (6-8)	1	3%	5	1%
Pre-Service Secondary	1	3%	6	1%
Focus on Forests				
Secondary Forests of the World	1	3%	18	3%
Facilitator Refresher	1	3%	8	1%
TOTALS:	38	N/A	659	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 38.

2019 SC PLT BUDGET SUMMARY

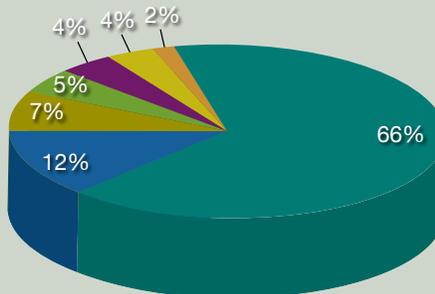
Income: \$42,024.08

Cash Balance	\$20,542.00
Grants	\$12,405.00
Corporate Donations	\$6,800.81
Workshop Fees	\$2,276.27
TOTAL	\$42,024.08



Expenses: \$17,215.09

Grant Expenditures	\$11,379.16
Publicity	\$2,111.44
Awards and Certificates	\$1,294.58
Travel	\$833.98
Workshop Expenses	\$695.96
Activity Guides	\$640.00
Operating Expenses	\$259.97
TOTAL	\$17,215.09



In-Kind Contributions: \$18,451.18

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

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

Georgia-Pacific, LLC
International Paper
Norment

2019 WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

AB Marshall	Kelly Murphy
Ameerah Eaddy	Kimberly Fickling
Amy Umberger	Lynn Hoekstra
Beth Foley	Matt Schnabel
Cassie Bell	Michelle Evans
Chanda Cooper	Renee Chewning
Christine Lotter	Retha Horne
Cynthia Deaton	Rosemary Wicker
Debbie Poston	Russell Hubright
Dee Marshall	Sara Beth Freytag
Dodie Clark	Sharon Miller
Emily Oakman	Stephanie Moore
Ingrid Norris	Susan Fernandez
Jessica Daniel	Terrell Peace
Jimmy Walters	Tia Prostko
John Ratterree	Tricia Kyzer
Judy Beck	

2019 Facilitators Who Volunteered in Other Ways

Carrie Whitlock	Lynn Pilewski
Ed Donovan	Sarah Whitmire
Jennifer Majors	Sharon Donovan

PLT STEERING COMMITTEE

Executive Officers

- Chanda Cooper, Chair
Richland Conservation District
- Victoria Pasco, Vice Chair
Richland School District Two
- Rosemary Wicker, Secretary
University of South Carolina
- Emily Oakman, Treasurer
Forestry Association of SC
- Matt Schnabel, Coordinator
SC Forestry Commission

Members

- Barbara Allen
Santee Cooper (retired)
- Cynthia Deaton
Clemson University
- Beth Foley
SC Forestry Commission
- Russell Hubright
SC Forestry Commission
- William Keels
Clemson University
- Victoria Pasco
Richland School District Two
- Gwendolyn Shealy
SC Department of Education
- Linda Sinclair
SCDE Science Consultant (retired)
- Sarah Talley
U.S. Forest Service
- Amy Umberger
Lexington/Richland District Five
- Michael Walker
International Paper

Sarah Talley, Cassie Bell and Chanda Cooper examine the growth rings of a tree with Roy Boyd and learn how growth rates affect management decisions.



Joanna Angle, right, explains the creation of the pollinator field.



Bill Altman, right, explains how forested watersheds protect water.

SCPLT Facilitator Refresher Training Held in Chester County

On July 9, Joanna Angle and Bill Altman hosted the 2019 SCPLT Facilitator Refresher at their home and tree farm...Cedarleaf Farm. Cedarleaf Farm is approximately 65 acres and is located in Chester County. Joanna Angle was awarded 2012 SC Tree Farmer of the Year for her work to conserve, protect and promote the forest resources at Cedarleaf Farm. Facilitators got a tour of Joanna and Bill's historic home (built in 1859 and on the National Register of Historic Places) and learned about the cultural history of the property. Next, we saw the pollinator field next to the house where Joanna and Bill have planted plants to attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. We then hiked through Cedarleaf Farm's forested lands and learned how they are managed from Joanna and Bill's

consulting forester Roy Boyd (retired SC Forestry Commission forester). He explained how the management plan of Cedarleaf Farm reached the four tenants of the American Tree Farm System: Wood, Water, Recreation, and Wildlife.

After a delicious catered lunch from Buttermilk's BBQ in Chester, facilitators received updates about the PLT program and then were trained in how to use PLT's i-Tree unit at future workshops. PLT's new Teaching with i-Tree unit is "designed for use with middle and high school students and includes three hands-on activities that engage students in discovering and analyzing the many ecosystem services that trees provide. Students use the free, online i-Tree Design software (developed by the U.S. Forest Service) to calculate the dollar value

of the benefits provided by a tree or a set of trees." The i-Tree unit can be used in conjunction with many PLT activities and allows students to use a GIS (Geographic Information System) and develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) skills.

Many thanks go to Joanna Angle and Bill Altman for opening their home to our facilitators and for being such great hosts! Their passion and commitment to conservation and environmental education was inspirational to our group. Thanks also goes to Roy Boyd for his time to educate our facilitators about forestry and the science behind forest management decisions. Thank you facilitators for your attendance this year and your commitment to the SC Project Learning Tree program.

