Walk in the Forest

A Collaborative Approach to Sharing Your Passion for Forests
Outline

• Overview of Project Learning Tree
• The Walk in the Forest Handbook
• Example of a “Walk” with Students
• Example of a “Walk” with Landowners
What is Project Learning Tree?

A Comprehensive EE Program

• High quality, PreK-12 environmental education curriculum materials, use forests as a “window on the world”

• Diverse, international network of partners

• Implementation via a professional development delivery system
PLT’s Environmental Education Goals

Awareness

Teaching students how to think, not what to think about complex environmental issues.”
~Rudy Schafer, Founder PLT

Knowledge

Challenge

Responsible Action
Implementation

- 50 State Network
- “Train the Trainer Model”
- Professional Development
  - Inservice
  - Preservice
  - Nonformal
- 30,000 trained annually across the U.S. in over 1,500 Workshops
PLT Curriculum

• PLT for PreK-8
  – PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide
  – Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood
  – Energy & Society

• PLT for Secondary
  – Forest Ecology
  – Focus on Forests
  – Municipal Solid Waste
  – Places We Live
  – Forests of the World
  – Biodiversity
  – Focus on Risk and Biotechnology Supplement
PLT Activity Pages

- Run in Tree Farmer Magazine
- 12 Activity Pages and Counting!
- Available at PLT Booth, Walk in the Forest Handbook, and online at [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) > Resources > Family Activities

- State Forestry Magazines
  - Louisiana Forests & People
  - Ohio Woodland Journal
  - West Virginia Farm Bureau News
  - Connecticut Woodlands
  - Massachusetts Woodland Steward
Conduct a Forest Exchange to celebrate 2011 Year of Forests!
Forest Exchange Boxes

Forest Exchange Boxes created by PLT state programs to celebrate Year of Forests
2011 International Year of Forests: What can you do?

- Organize a Forest Walk in your community
- Participate in a Forest Walk in your community
- Organize a Friends of the Forest event
- Participate in a Friends of the Forest Event
- Use a forest-related educational activity every month with students
- Use a forest-related informal activity every month with your family and friends
- Visit a national forest
- Visit a national park
- Go camping in a forest
- Talk a walk in the woods
- Adopt a forest
- Help a school improve its forest, or plant trees on school grounds with students and teachers
- Become a fan of The Year of Forests 2011 on Facebook
- Hold a field day on your forest/woodland property for other woodland owners
- Hold a field day on your forest/woodland property for students and teachers at a nearby school
- Attend a local field day in a forest
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<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>PLT ACTIVITY NUMBER AND TITLE</th>
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<td>Berry producing shrubs fence row, windbreaks</td>
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<td>70 Soil Stories</td>
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<td>Tree cross section</td>
<td>76 Tree Cookies</td>
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DID YOU KNOW?

• Children ages 3-12 spend only 1% of their time outdoors.
• Contact with the natural world reduces symptoms of ADD in children as young as 5.
• Young people can recognize 1000 corporate brands, but cannot name 10 plants or animals where they live.
• Two-thirds of the U.S. public fail a basic environmental quiz.
• When integrated across core curricula, environmental education improves student achievement in science, reading, math, and social studies.
Tree Farms as Learning Sites

Possible Audiences:
• Community Members
• Other (non-managing) Family Forest Owners
• Teachers and Students
• Youth Organizations
• Environmental Groups

Lessons to Learn:
• How Forests are Nurtured and Sustained
• Where Wildlife Abounds
• Trees as Renewable Resources

Tree Farmers + Educators + Foresters = A learning experience not forgotten!
What is it?

- Guidelines for planning an event
- Goals and objectives
- Talking points
- Opportunity for partnership and funding
- Liability insurance rider
- Examples of successful programs
- Activities
- Promotion guidelines
- Evaluation
- Forest community identity
Who is it for?

- Students
- Teachers
- Opinion Leaders
- Landowners
- Others
Goals of the Walk in the Forest

- Inform the public of the many benefits of trees and forests.
- Increase public awareness of the dynamic nature of the forest.
- Help the public to understand that foresters are uniquely qualified to help maintain the integrity of forest environments while providing many benefits for society.
- Inform the public that private family forestland owners have multiple and diverse objectives and that their investment in forest management results in benefits that we all enjoy.
Planning a Walk Guidelines

• Before the Walk
  • Establish Objectives
  • Select Location
  • Insurance
  • Timing
  • Develop a Plan
  • Establish Your Itinerary
  • Transportation and Parking
  • Invitations
  • Handouts
  • Walk Through
Planning a Walk Guidelines

• Day of the Walk
  • Pre-Walk
  • Follow the Schedule
  • Wrap Up

• After the Walk
  • Clean Up
  • Evaluations
  • Thank you notes
  • Publicity
  • Begin Preparations for Next Year
Benefits of Trees and Forests

• Environmental benefits include soil stability, air and water quality and carbon storage.
• Ecological benefits include landscape diversity and habitat for plants and animals.
• Economic benefits include the forest products industry, outdoor recreation equipment, etc.
• Recreation includes activities in the forest such as hiking, camping and hunting.
• Aesthetics is the pleasure derived from the visual beauty of the forest.
Dynamic Forests

- Biotic influences on forests include animals, insects, diseases, and non-native invasive species.
- Abiotic influences include flooding, drought, fire and wind events such as hurricanes and tornadoes.
- Competition for resources (sun, water, nutrients) occurs between organisms of the same species and different species.
- Succession is the replacement of one community of plants by another.
Foresters Maintain Integrity of Forests

- There is demand for products i.e. paper, wood & energy.
- Supplying these products through management does not necessarily compromise a forest’s integrity.
- Foresters complete a multi-disciplinary curriculum that prepares them for their profession.
- Many states require licensing or registration criteria that may include a code of ethics.
- Foresters gather data in order to make prescriptions.
- Often these techniques may appear harmful in the short-term but have long-term benefits.
Family Forestland Owners Benefit

- Individuals own forests for a variety of reasons, including environmental values, investment income, recreation.
- A landowner invests his time and money in management to accomplish his objectives.
- A landowner’s investment in forest management also provides benefits to society.
- Other societal benefits from private forestland management include clean air and water.
- A landowner’s participation in forest certification programs like Tree Farm is verification of sustainable forest management.
Example with Students

- 0-6, 38 – Egocentric
- 6-9 – Interested in Nature
- 9-12 – Gain Knowledge of Nature
- 13-17 – Develop a Sense of Conservation
- 30% Inherit Fear of Creepy Crawlies
- 70% Learn from Others
Example with Students

- Station 1 – Mammals, Heath Walls, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Station 2 – Snakes, Alabama Wildlife Federation
- Station 3 – Soils & Water, Milton Tuck, NRCS
- Station 4 – Birds, Marianne Murphy, Raptor Center
- Station 5 – Forestry Measurements, Sterling Brothers, Registered Forester
- Station 6 – Fishing, Jimmy Harris, Wildlife Federation
- Station 7 – Project Learning Tree, The Closer You Look Tom Carignan, Carignan Forestry Consultants
- Station 8 – Project Learning Tree, Birds and Worms, Rick Oates, Alabama Forestry Association
First Walk in the Forest
Station 1 Mammals
Station 1 Mammals
Station 2 Snakes and Reptiles
Station 3 Soils and Water
Station 4 Birds
Station 5 Measurements
Example with Students
Station 7 Project Learning Tree
Station 8 Project Learning Tree