

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



MISSION

To advance environmental literacy and promote stewardship through excellence in environmental education, professional development, and curriculum resources that use trees and forests as windows on the world.



GRANTS & DONATIONS

\$19,100

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$69,500+

2022 GRANTS & DONATIONS

SFI Education Grant - \$8,100

Rayonier Community Fund Grant - \$2,500

Earl & Wanda Barrs - \$2,500

The Langdale Company - \$2,000

SFI SIC: \$2,000

West Fraser - \$2,000

**PARTICIPANTS
TRAINED**

411

**NEW
FACILITATORS
TRAINED**

14

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
EVENTS**

24

TREES & ME: GEORGIA PLT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

Georgia Project Learning Tree (PLT), in partnership with the STEAM Center for Creativity and Innovation at Valdosta State University (STEAM Center), had the privilege of providing four professional development (PD) opportunities to Middle and Southwest Georgia Head Start Programs. Two hundred of their early childhood educators were successfully trained PLT's Trees & Me curriculum. Activities included PLT's Trees & Me curriculum through whole group and "station-style" experiences. Facilitators demonstrated how the curriculum correlates to the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS). These PD courses utilized a three-and-a-half-hour in-person learning session, designed by Georgia PLT to connect educators to STEM Strategies, GELDS, and curricula used by several Head Start Programs.

After the PD events, trained educators received even more than the knowledge of PLT's curriculum. Each Educator earned a certificate of completion with contact hours to further their continuing education through Bright from the Start. Educators also walked away with resources and physical teaching tools to help them in the classroom and the opportunity for a chance to win a \$100 gift card by completing an implementation follow-up form. As a result of the success of this initiative, beginning in September of 2022, Southwest Georgia Head Start integrated PLT's Trees & Me into their Learn Everyday curriculum.



This initiative was made possible by funding from the Sustainable Forestry Initiatives (SFI) Education Grant.

STATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair - Kate Buron, Trinity School

Vice Chair - Jessica Pippin, VSU STEAM Center for Applied Creativity & Innovation

Vice-Chair Elect - Lauren Johnson, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center

Wanda Barrs, Due South Investments

Melanie Biersmith, UGA Georgia 4-H

Barbara Boler, The Langdale Company

Amanda Buice, Georgia Youth & Science Technology Center, Inc.

Chase Cook, Georgia SFI State Implementation Committee

Frank Green, Georgia Tree Farm Program

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