



PLT Newsletter

WINTER
2021

upcoming events >>>

Alabama Science Teachers Association
Annual Conference

March 15-16, 2021

Teacher Conservation Workshop Series:
Resource to Recreation

June 23-24, 2021; Mobile, AL

Register: www.plt.org/alabama

More events coming soon! Online calendar:
www.plt.org/alabama.

Host an event in your area. Contact Alabama
PLT for information: plt@alaforestry.org.

Mission

Project Learning Tree advances environmental literacy and promotes stewardship through environmental education, professional development, and curriculum resources using trees and forests as windows on the world.

Vision

Project Learning Tree is committed to creating a future where the next generation values the natural world and has the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions and take responsible actions to sustain forests and the broader environment.

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MAKE LEARNING FUN!

Meet Burner Bob® - A Cool Dude with a Hot Message!™

Burner Bob® is a bobwhite quail who lives in the longleaf forest with other animal friends such as gopher tortoises and red-cockaded woodpeckers. He devotes his life to explaining to people that the longleaf forest has evolved over time from being burned on a regular basis.

Burner Bob® and The Longleaf Alliance support regularly scheduled, prescribed fires to encourage healthy forests for the well being of sensitive species of plants and animals that call the longleaf ecosystem home. Fire reduces competition from shrubs and other pines to create open conditions needed for longleaf pines and many native plants. In turn, these plants provide food and habitat for all sorts of wildlife. To help both his plant and animal friends, Burner Bob® wants people to know why and how to conduct prescribed burns safely.

Read more (and SHARE) the Burner Bob® story with the *Bob & Friends* [coloring book](#)!



[Watch Bob's Video!](#)

DID YOU KNOW....

The dense needle cluster of young "grass stage" longleaf pines protect the tree's bud from fire and quickly regrows after a burn.

See *"The Forest Built by Fire"* to learn more about how longleaf survives fire.



Explore these additional fire resources at www.longleafalliance.org:
Animals Play it Cool — Native Americans Burned — Land Managers Use Prescribed Fire

PROJECT LEARNING TREE NEWSLETTER — WINTER 2021



Biodiversity Blitz:

New Learning Progressions, Teaching Standard Updates

Project Learning Tree recently launched a new series of theme-based activity collections that focus on specific grade levels and topics.

Biodiversity Blitz is the third collection of activities to be released as part of this new themed series for educators. It features three PLT activities for educators of students in grades 3-5 that invite learners to investigate variability among species in an ecosystem, and how this variability – or biodiversity – helps sustain life on Earth.

[GET THE ACTIVITIES HERE](#)

STEM: Living with Fire

Engage students in STEM as they learn about the importance of fire as a management tool in forestry. Find enrichment activities online [HERE](#) to accompany Project Learning Tree's Living with Fire activity found in the PLT K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide.



Interested in
becoming a PLT
facilitator? Please
contact Alabama
PLT to learn more!
plt@alaforestry.org

Lucy Meets a Logger



Join Lucy as she meets Mr. Logger and friends and learns all about logging! Learn how the forests are kept healthy. Discover what kinds of items come from trees-the answers may surprise you! Stephanie Fuller works with the Forest Workforce Training Institute, promoting the positives about Alabama's forest industry. Her new book helps the youngest of readers understand more about forests and the people who tend to them. AVAILABLE AT [BARNES & NOBLE](#); [BOOKS A MILLION](#); [AMAZON](#)

Winter-Themed STEM Activities



The cold winter season provides many opportunities to add fun and interesting STEM activities to lesson plans.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Project Learning Tree is an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
Project Learning Tree is a program of the Alabama Forestry Foundation.



The Forest Built by Fire



Historically, low intensity fires frequently moved through the landscape.

Today these fires are mimicked using prescribed fire.



Immediately after prescribed fire.



Regrowth two weeks after fire.

Fire reduces competition from hardwoods and other pines, maintaining open conditions necessary for longleaf pines and native plants, while providing food and habitat for wildlife.

Fire resistant, not fire-proof

Longleaf is resilient to frequent fires but is vulnerable to fire at certain stages:

- Prior to the grass-stage as new germinants.
- During height growth before bark thickens.
- While "candling" in early spring before needles emerge on new growth.



Sapling:

Lateral branches emerge at 6-10 ft in height.



Mature:

Lower pine limbs are pruned by fire, keeping the canopy above most flame heights.

Thick plates of bark protect the inner trunk from fire.

Native understory plants and longleaf needle litter provide fine fuels to carry fire across the forest floor.



Seeds:

Fire consumes litter on the forest floor, creating optimal conditions for germination.



Grass Stage:

Young longleaf resemble a clump of grass. The dense needle cluster protects the bud from fire and will quickly regrow post burn.

Rapid height growth increases longleaf's competitive advantage for sunlight and moves the growth bud above typical flame heights.

Bottlebrush:

Longleaf bolts in height with no branching.



Fire recycles nutrients back into the soil.

Most grass-stage growth occurs underground as seedlings develop extensive root systems.