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## **Hardwood Forest Foundation Awards Project Learning Tree Grants** More than \$10,000 Distributed to 11 Programs

MEMPHIS, TENN. - The Hardwood Forest Foundation today awarded more than \$10,000 in grant funding to Project Learning Tree (PLT) programs across the United States. PLT is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. Developed in 1976, it has an international network of more than 500,000 trained educators using seven curriculums covering the total environment.

“As the Foundation continues its longtime tradition of awarding grants to PLT programs, it is important that the hardwood industry as a whole support programs such as PLT as a means to spread a true understanding of the forests,” said Crystal Oldham, Executive Director of the Hardwood Forest Foundation.

The mission of PLT is to use the forest as a “window” on the world to increase students’ understanding of environment; stimulate students’ critical and creative thinking; develop students’ ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and instill in students the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

“The Foundation requires that the funding be used primarily to reduce the cost for teachers to attend PLT workshops,” Oldham added. “This may include reducing teacher fees or other fees related to attendance.”

### 2007 Hardwood Forest Foundation PLT Grant Recipients are as Follows:

- California Community Forests Foundation
- North Carolina State University, College of Natural Resources
- State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana Project Learning Tree
- Alabama Forestry Association
- Mississippi Forestry Commission
- Georgia Project Learning Tree
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Ohio Project Learning Tree
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado State University

Founded in 1989, the Hardwood Forest Foundation, a 501c3 organization, is active in a variety of educational programs and activities throughout the United States and Canada. Since its creation, NHLA has supported its efforts and hosted its office in the NHLA headquarters, located in Memphis.

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