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Supporting the network and engaging our statewide community

In Focus: PLT Facilitator Newsletter - Summer 2026



Welcome!

We've had a busy season! Here are the key updates and a look at what we've accomplished together so far.

— Your PLT coordinators, Danielle Ardrey and Lisa Eadens



Action needed

Digital upgrades

Verify facilitator email by Sept. 1. Check your email address in the [facilitator directory](#) to maintain access to training files before our platform migration. (See *full Digital Upgrades story in News section.*)

Help us plan: In-person facilitator gathering (August 2027)

We're working behind the scenes to host our next in-person gathering in August 2027! While location and funding details are being finalized, you can expect an engaging space to connect, share resources and learn alongside fellow facilitators. Plus, we'll host our next New Facilitator Training during the same week. To help us pick the best time, please submit your vote by **Sept. 1, 2026**.

[Start Survey](#)

Join the Facilitator Community Committee

We're forming a new committee to build a stronger support network — discussing everything from mentorship structures to coordinator support. Help shape how we connect!

- Stipends provided
- Time commitment: 2-3 hours/month for 4 months

Interested? [Contact Danielle](#) by **Sept. 10** to join or learn more.

Co-facilitators needed!

lead!)

Danielle is looking for co-facilitators for two upcoming workshops:

- **Discover Your Urban Forest | Sept. 17**
 - *Location and format:* 1-hour session at the CAEE Conference in Denver
 - *Overview:* Move beyond the *what* of natural resources to the *who*. Using PLT's [Discover Your Urban Forest](#), participants will explore how to facilitate multi-perspective dialogues on land use, community settings and environmental justice.
- **Thinking Outside the Box | Oct/Nov - Final date TBD**
 - *Location and format:* 8-hour workshop in Colorado Springs
 - *Special host partner:* We're excited to partner with Packaging Express to host this event! This will be a unique opportunity for participants to see real-world forest product careers and green jobs in action.
 - *Overview:* Hands-on exploration of green jobs and career pathways using PLT's free [Thinking Outside the Box](#) activity collection.

Interested in co-facilitating? [Contact Danielle](#) to learn more or sign up.

Share FREE Green Pathways student engagement kits with local schools!

Please reach out to educators and high school counselors in your network to let them know about [Green Pathways](#) — specifically that they can access free student engagement kits to spark student interest in green careers!

What to share with schools and counselors

- **Instant digital downloads:** High-res graphics for school TV screens and ready-to-post social media assets available immediately.
- **Free printed promotional kits (mailed free for a limited time):** Thanks to special program funding, schools can request physical sets shipped directly to them at no cost (shipping starts late August, while supplies last):
 - *Classroom posters:* Set of 2 for classrooms or hallways
 - *Student postcards:* Pack of 50 featuring QR codes for quick student access

digital assets or order their free printed promotional kits before supplies and funding run out.



Digital upgrades and platform changes: What you need to know

Colorado and National PLT have been working behind the scenes to make our online presence stronger, more streamlined and more accessible. Here is a quick breakdown of the changes and what it means for you.

Facilitator website and reporting updates

- **File security update:** Resource files are transitioning to a secure host. Please review your contact information in [this directory](#) **before Sept. 1** to maintain document access.
- **Consolidated workshop forms:** Pre, during and post-workshop documentation are now centralized in one location under [Workshop Forms](#).
 - **Before workshop**
 - *Workshop proposal:* Streamlined to enable faster coordinator support.
 - **During workshop**
 - *Photo release (new):* Please have participants sign this at the beginning of your session and take photos throughout.
 - *Participant form:* Combined the Information Sheet and Evaluation into a single form for participants to complete at the end of the workshop.
 - **After workshop**
 - *Facilitator report:* Simplified — coordinators now handle data tallying from your submitted forms to reduce your administrative tasks.
 - *Photos and photo releases (new):* Upload session photos and signed releases here to share with the broader PLT network.



- **Simplified layout:** The site is now organized into three main hubs:
 - *Professional development:* Live and on-demand workshops
 - *Educator resources:* Free activities and PLT guide details
 - *Community:* Newsletter, Facilitator roles and application info, and Advisory Council details
- **Got feedback?** Have ideas, suggestions or questions about the new layout? Reach out directly to [Danielle](#).

PLT digital shop and materials

- **Fresh look for the shop:** The PLT store has been updated for easier navigation and faster content access.
- **Accessing content:** A [step-by-step PDF guide](#) showing how to find your digital content (online courses, e-books, and activity collections) on the updated platform is now available on the [PLT Facilitator Website](#).

Facilitator community

 **Watch:** Check out what our community has been up to so far this year!



👏👏 Facilitator spotlight



Name and title: Tara Costanzo, Outreach and Education Lead

Organization/affiliation: International Society of Arboriculture

Location: Thornton

always resonate with participants? I like to use *We All Need Trees* because it helps showcase all the ways we use tree and forest products beyond paper and lumber in our daily lives. Otherwise, some of my work focuses on workforce development, so I tend to use the *Green Jobs* quiz to help students explore career options. Sometimes, the suggested careers click, and they are interested in the options presented. Other times, they seem to know exactly what they want their career trajectory to be and are not interested in any of the options within the category grouping.

The "why": What is the most rewarding part of being a PLT facilitator for you? I really enjoy it when the workshop participants play into the silliness of some of the activities. I made a crocheted fringe skirt, decorated a vest to look like bark, and made a leafy crown to inspire future instructors to create a dress-up set for *To Be a Tree* as a basis for the paper-bag tree vest costumes. Playing dress-up was one of my favorite things when I was a kid and still is to this day, so connecting to my inner child is a big part of why I do this. Showcasing creativity is a big part of why I love the curriculum's adaptability and the process of creating props for the activities. That's rewarding.

The highlight reel: Can you share a favorite memory or a "lightbulb moment" you witnessed during a workshop? When I can engage audiences with PLT activities, it means I get to get out of the office (that's a good day!), interacting with new people, and helping expose them to forestry and the awesomeness of trees. Hopefully, showcasing my passion for our natural resources and sharing the benefits we receive. Just demonstrating how trees work and interact with the environment we live in usually prompts an aha moment for someone during the session.

Peer wisdom: If you could give one piece of advice to a fellow facilitator, what would it be? Leaving specific times off an agenda helps to remain flexible. It also helps keep your participants engaged if they are not concerned with keeping to a specific schedule. If you run over on time because there is a good conversation going on, encourage it to continue, but let them know that it needs to wrap up, and then you can circle back later with a parking lot session or encourage your participants to connect and share contact information to stay in touch with each other. If you feel the need to catch up, you can adjust your activities to shorten any remaining discussion time.

Natural roots: What is your favorite local tree or outdoor spot in our state? What immediately comes to mind are two favorite tree spots at the CSU Mountain Campus. There's a small grove of aspens just down the hillside from the staff cabins (Cabin 2); there's tall grass with dappled sunlight; it's a nice, light-green, calm, and

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a forestry nap.

Contact the state coordinators



Danielle Ardrey

Colorado State Forest Service
Conservation & Youth Education Specialist

970-732-0569

Danielle.Ardrey@colostate.edu



Lisa Eadens

CO Alliance for Environmental Education
Program Coordinator

303-273-9527 x702

lisaeadens@caee.org

[Visit PLT facilitator website](#)

This newsletter is dedicated to supporting our facilitators as they deliver high-quality environmental education professional development across Colorado.

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Physical address

3843 W. LaPorte Ave.
CSU Foothills Campus, Bldg. 1060
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Mailing address

5060 Campus Delivery Bldg 1060
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060
970-732-0569

pltcolorado@gmail.com

coloradopl.org

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