

# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM



Credit: NH Project Learning Tree

*Learning to Make Choices for the Future of NH's Forests*

## *What is A Forest for Every Classroom?*

**A** Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) is a year-long professional development series for middle and high school educators, aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge and skills required to transform classroom teaching into effective and exciting place-based education.

Teachers who participate in FFEC develop (or modify) their own curriculum unit to increase student literacy skills and foster student understanding of—and appreciation for—the forested lands in their communities. These units integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of the local community, addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, civics, and forest land management and stewardship.

At the heart of the FFEC program is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of their own “place” are more eager to learn and be involved in the stewardship of their communities and public lands.

Space is limited for this transformative experience. [The deadline to register has been extended to Friday, March 30, 2012.](#) For more information go to [www.nhplt.org](http://www.nhplt.org).

## *This workshop series offers you:*

- A field-based exploration of important private and public forests in our region, spanning all four seasons.
- Training in world-class forest research by scientists and academics at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.
- Authentic field-work methods and award-winning curriculum materials from Project Learning Tree.
- Hands-on, active sessions presented by naturalists, foresters, industry experts, and others passionate about the future of forest stewardship.
- Strategies for increasing student academic achievement through place-based education.
- Standards-based curriculum development.
- Instruction and practice in the Principles and Promising Practices of Place-Based Education.
- Service learning fundamentals and case studies.
- Curricula and resource materials for teaching about forest ecology, management and stewardship.
- Graduate credits through Plymouth State University for participation and curriculum development. (Additional fee for credits.)
- A network of educators, scientists and resource specialists.
- Mini-grants up to \$200 upon implementation of your unit.
- Extended support and follow-up events.



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*“This course has re-kindled my soul and passion for teaching. It has made it meaningful again. I am so grateful for the vision, the inspiration, the follow-through, and the commitment and knowledge that the partners have channeled through us.”*

- WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

*Thanks to the...*

- *USDA Forest Service*
- *Hubbard Brook Research Foundation*

*...for their generous support in making this program possible.*

## *What is Place-Based Education?*

Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in science, mathematics, social studies, and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances student appreciation for the natural world, and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active contributing citizens. (David Sobel, *Standing Strong in My Rightful Place*, 2003)

Place-based education research has shown that students who are engaged in real-world learning within their local communities have higher literacy rates and are more likely to succeed than those who learn through a traditional textbook approach. A study by the *State Education and Environment Roundtable* demonstrated that when the environment is used as an integrating context, students earn higher grades and score better on standardized reading, writing and math examinations.

## *What Will Be Expected of Workshop Participants?*

Participants are encouraged to come as part of a school team. Each team will be responsible for developing (or modifying) a curriculum unit that meets NH's curriculum frameworks and the literacy needs of their school. Curriculum units must be based on real-world learning experiences within their local communities. Each team will develop a service-learning project that brings the school and the community together, where teachers and students learn about local forestry issues and pertinent forest research, and become involved in a viable community-based project. (Individual teachers may participate, if space allows.)

The all-inclusive registration fee for this yearlong series is \$400 per person. This includes eleven days of professional development, extensive curriculum materials, four nights' accommodations in the White Mountains, great food, implementation grants up to \$200, and much more. PSU graduate credits are available for an additional fee. For more information, contact Erin Hollingsworth at (603) 226-0160 or [erin@nhplt.org](mailto:erin@nhplt.org).

## *Workshop Dates and Locations*

Spring Session	May 11-12, 2012, <i>Friday &amp; Saturday</i> Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest Woodstock, NH This is an overnight session. Meals and housing are provided.
Summer Session	August 2-3, 2012 <i>Thursday &amp; Friday</i> August 8-11 2012 <i>Wednesday –Friday</i> Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest Woodstock, NH August 2-3 and 8-10 are overnight sessions. Meals and housing will be provided.
Fall Session	Fall 2012, <i>Friday &amp; Saturday</i> Dates and location to be determined.
Winter Session	February 2013, <i>Friday &amp; Saturday</i> Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest Woodstock, NH This is an overnight session. Meals and housing will be provided. Dates to be determined.

## *What Knowledge and Skills Will Be Addressed?*

This series is designed for the unique professional development needs of middle and high school teachers, offering content-rich sessions taught by research scientists and practitioners. Topics will include global climate change, acid rain, soil science, forest ecology, global forest economics, landscape change, forest management, and much more. Hands-on field sessions will address forest plot design, tree measurement and identification, forest food webs, soil profiling, measurement of abiotic factors, and more. Go to [www.nhplt.org](http://www.nhplt.org) to view photos and agendas from last year's series.

**Forest for Every Classroom: Learning to Make Choices for the Future of Our Forests** is an educational program originally developed by the National Wildlife Federation, Shelburne Farms, the Green Mountain National Forest, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, and the National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute. This professional development model is being replicated by the New Hampshire partners with permission and support of this founding collaborative.

## *The Partners*

**New Hampshire Project Learning Tree** provides high quality professional development to educators who seek to enhance youth understanding, appreciation, and love for the natural world. PLT activities empower youth to think critically and act responsibly on behalf of the ecological, social, and economic values of our forests and other natural resources.

The **White Mountain National Forest** spans almost 800,000 acres in central New Hampshire and western Maine. It is one of the most popular National Forests in the country, with upwards of 6 million visitors annually. The staff is committed to educating teachers about forest ecology, watersheds and the role of forests in watersheds.

The **USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station** extends across 20 states, comprising both the most densely populated and most heavily forested portion of the US. It is dedicated, organized, and staffed to provide scientific information about forests in a form that people can use.

The **Northeastern Area** is a unit of the **USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Branch** that encourages and supports sustainable forestry in the Northeast and Midwest. They work with state forestry agencies and many other partners to influence the wise management, protection and sustainable use of urban and rural natural resources.

The **Hubbard Brook Research Foundation** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study in New Hampshire by promoting the understanding and stewardship of forested and aquatic ecosystems through scientific research, long-term monitoring and education.

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The all-inclusive registration fee for this transformative professional development series is \$400 per person and includes 11 days of PD, meals, lodging and curriculum materials. Mini-grants up to \$200 will be available to participants who meet all workshop requirements and document curriculum implementation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) taught \_\_\_\_\_

Subject(s) taught \_\_\_\_\_

Teammate(s) applying \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator's name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Public/private forest land available to you \_\_\_\_\_

## *About your teaching and professional development goals:*

*(Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet.)*

1. How have you incorporated forest studies into your teaching in the past? Is authentic field work part of your teaching methods? If so, please describe.

2. Please describe how participating in A Forest for Every Classroom will support your professional goals. Please mention personal or professional experiences that relate to our program.

3. Do you have any experience with service learning? In what ways do you

## *Application Form*

### You should be willing to:

- Come as part of a team of teachers, with the strong support of your school or district administrator. A letter of support from your administrator is required to complete your application. (Individual teachers may participate, if space allows)
- Participate in all eleven training days.
- Develop (or modify) a forest-based teaching unit that uses the local landscape and meets the goals of your school action plan and state curriculum frameworks, exemplifying the promising practices of Place-Based Education.
- Include service learning in your students' experience.
- Provide written documentation of your forest unit for possible inclusion in a model program to be disseminated nationally.

**Return your completed application and registration fee by Friday, March 30, 2012**

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR ADMINISTRATOR'S LETTER OF SUPPORT.

To: NH Project Learning Tree, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord, NH 03301

Office: (603) 226-0160 Fax: (603) 228-0423