

# SFI IN BRIEF

Recent highlights from SFI



More than a billion people celebrated Earth Day on April 22. First recognized in 1970, this day of action inspires individuals and policymakers to make changes for the good of the planet we all share.

Over 300 million acres/121 million hectares across the U.S. and Canada are certified to SFI. Forests are crucial to our own health, and to the health of the planet. Through a rigorous forest certification standard, conservation research, environmental education, community engagement, and more, SFI is doing its part on Earth Day and every day to improve forest health and ensure sustainable management of forest resources.

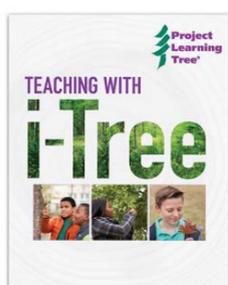
## Why Working Forests Matter

On April 12, Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI, presented in a special seminar at the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources on "[Why Working Forests Matter](#)." The seminar was attended by 90 students, alumni and prospective students and focused on the diverse ways working forests can improve our shared quality of life. The seminar was followed by an awards banquet in which UGA PhD student, Hector Restrepo, was awarded the 2018 Robert Olszewski Memorial Scholarship. The [Robert Olszewski Memorial Fund](#) was established to educate and mentor the next generation of forest advocates and leaders.



## Project Learning Tree Highlights

[Teaching with i-Tree - New Curriculum Now Online!](#)  
PLT has launched a new curriculum *Teaching with i-Tree*, which was produced in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service. The unit contains three hands-on activities designed to help middle and high school students discover and analyze the many ecosystem services that trees provide. The lessons accompany i-Tree Design, a suite of free online tools developed by USFS and its partners that allow students to calculate the dollar value of a tree or a set of trees. Download [Teaching with i-Tree](#) from PLT.org and use this [one-page flyer](#) to help promote this new resource.



## GreenWorks! Grants Available

Project Learning Tree is offering grants of up to \$1,000 to involve students in service-learning projects to improve the environment at their school or in their community. The projects provide opportunities for students to partner with their school, local businesses, community organizations, and natural resource professionals. The funds can be used by students in a variety of ways, including but not limited to implementing recycling programs, conserving water and energy, establishing school gardens and outdoor classrooms, improving a forest, or restoring a natural habitat. To be eligible, applicants must have attended a PLT workshop (either in-person or online). [Read more.](#)



## PLT Canada Placing Youth in Green Jobs Across Canada

Project Learning Tree (PLT) Canada will be facilitating the placement of 1,600 youth in Green Jobs across Canada. Through a [partnership with the Canadian Parks Council](#), 600 youth will be placed in summer jobs in Canada's provincial and territorial parks. Additionally, 1,000 youth will be placed in [green jobs using SFI's diverse network](#) of program participants, conservation leaders, Indigenous partners, and community groups. PLT Canada has received approximately \$11 million in federal funding from the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience Program to get youth working in the great outdoors in the summers of 2018 and 2019. PLT Canada's mission is to grow future forest and conservation leaders. By providing youth with opportunities to explore careers in the great outdoors, we can inspire life long appreciation for nature and Canada's forests. [Read more.](#)



## 2018 SFI Annual Conference



When it comes to providing supply chain assurances, producing conservation outcomes, and supporting education and community engagement - *Forests are the Answer*. The 2018 SFI Annual Conference will engage you in a discussion focused on why *Forests are the Answer* to so many of our conservation, community, and supply chain challenges.

Come to the [2018 SFI Annual Conference](#) to learn more and engage with the SFI community. [Register](#) before August 31 to take advantage of our registration and hotel discounts.

## Where to Find SFI

SFI staff are always on the road, speaking at conferences and exhibiting at shows. Want to say hello? Meet us at these upcoming events:



**Kathy Abusow**, President and CEO, attended the [World Business Council for Sustainable Development \(WBCSD\)](#) Liaison Delegate meeting in Geneva, April 16-19. Kathy participated in the Forest Solutions Group meetings and in global discussions on sustainability, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals, natural capital protocols, and other international initiatives.



**Kathy Abusow** will be attending the PEFC members meeting in Geneva, April 24-27. She will also be collaborating with Antonio Brunori, PEFC Italy, and Ana Belen Noriega, PEFC Spain, on leading a Knowledge Café discussion on the importance of certification in the textile sector.



SFI will be sponsoring and exhibiting at the [Green Schools Conference & Expo](#) in Denver, May 3-4. SFI is a Silver sponsor of the [Inside Out: Using the Outdoors to Enhance Learning](#) track. **James McGirt**, Manager of Service Learning and Community Engagement, will be giving remarks and staffing booth 408 in the exhibit hall.



**Jason Metnick**, Senior VP, Customer Affairs, will attend [The Sustainability Consortium Summit 2018](#) in Chicago, May 1-3.



**Darren Sleep**, Senior Director, Conservation Strategies, will attend the [CIQF Conference](#), in Quebec City, May 10-11.



**Jason Metnick**, SFI's Senior VP, Customer Affairs, will attend the [Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council Summit](#) in Minneapolis, May 14-16.

## BUY IT ALL AT THE SFI STORE!

Discounts available for bulk and SIC orders



## Get Social With SFI

The SFI community is diverse and includes landowners, brand owners, conservation organizations, community groups, the public sector, universities, Indigenous peoples and more.

As we continue to grow, we are excited to share not only SFI's stories but the SFI community's news as well! Please take a few minutes to tweet and post your thoughts or send us your stories so we can share them for you:

- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)
- Like us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Twitter](#)

We want to make sure you stay in the loop and are receiving our communications. To ensure our emails continue to reach your inbox, please add our email address to your safe senders list, address book or contact list.