

December 2004

Welcome to the return of The Florida PLTree Line! After hearing from numerous facilitators and educators that they wanted Tree Line to return I decided it was time for a come back. Due to budget constraints we will only be able to offer Tree Line online. Since not everyone is able to view images and different fonts with their email systems we will begin with basic fonts, no images, and links to other sites. In the future we will have the Tree Line accessible on the Florida PLT website.

This bi-monthly newsletter is for you. Let me know what type of information you would like to see. I invite everyone to submit an environmental related article or blurb that would be of interest to PLT educators.

Thanks for all your support,
Jenny Seitz
Florida PLT Coordinator

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1. New PLT School

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran School! St. Paul Lutheran , Lakeland, has a PreK-8 program. With two ponds, an outdoor classroom, a turtle pond, butterfly gardens, humming bird stations, bird feeders, water conservation stations and a tree trail, they are set to incorporate PLT activities into their strong academic program.

As a PLT School, St. Paul Lutheran will receive a colorful flag for the school flagpole, an engraved plaque, a PLT School rubber stamp for correspondence, and a resource box filled with environmental education teaching resources. Interested in finding out how your school can become a PLT School? Contact Jenny.

2. Florida PLT Web site

The website is constantly changing to meet the requests and needs of educators and facilitators. Check out the changes at <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt>. If you have any suggestions or topics you would like to see please let me know.

3. PLT Workshop Online

To provide another option for educators to attend an educator workshop, PLT is offering an online workshop starting the week of February 21st. For six weeks you will meet others around our state and region, communicate using discussion boards and

teleconferences, and share experiences through peer teaching. It's not a boring computer class! To find out more go to <http://www.creative-conservation.com/trainingopps.htm> and check out the Special Projects section at the bottom. The cost is only \$125 for the six week program. Upon completion you receive college credit and a PLT Educator certificate. You save money by staying home, you save time by staying home, and you gain some very valuable resources to use with your students.

4. Resources for Educators

ARTNC

North Carolina Museum of Art online educational resource, featuring nature and science activities that can be used in environmental education. Includes K-12 lesson plans and activities searchable by region, subject, and grade.

NSTA's Teacher's Grab Bag

Do you have big ideas, but a small budget? The National Science Teacher's Foundation has put together a great list of links for many inexpensive or free items, such as trial versions of educational software and free videos.

Outside My Window

This is a project started by an international relations educator at Evergreen Valley High School in California. Outside My Window is a collaborative project designed to help students connect with other people around the world. Students exchange photos taken through the windows of their houses and classrooms, create new "windows" collages in their classrooms composed of those pictures, and use a web forum to meet and talk to other people. Visit their website for information on how to be a part of this project and how to incorporate it into your existing lesson plans.

Edutopia Magazine

Edutopia is a vision of powerful teaching and learning—and the good news is that the vision is being realized today in our nation's best schools. Detailed articles, research summaries, and links to hundreds of relevant Web sites, books, organizations, and publications are available to help schools and communities build on successes in education. Each issue is based on 13 topics: Assessment, Business Partnerships, Community Partnerships, Digital Divide, Emotional Intelligence, Mentoring, Ongoing Professional Development, Parent Involvement, Project-Based Learning, School-To-Career, Teacher Preparation, Technology Integration, and Technology Professional Development.

Integrating Invasive Weeds within Middle School Sciences

Invasive species know no boundaries; the aliens are in your neighborhood, and your students can help! Aliens In Your Neighborhood, produced by the National Park Service, is not a curriculum about weeds, but instead provides a model for integrating a theme within a school's curriculum at the middle school level, as well as expanding it to multiple grade levels and subjects (math, language arts, social studies, art, etc.). The Aliens Curriculum now includes cross-links to related activities by Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, and Project Wild Aquatic.

SimForest Software

SimForest (for simulated forest) is a project that enables students, grades 7-12, to plant trees of more than 30 kinds and then choose the environmental factors that affect their growth. The software is intended for biology and ecology classes. Teacher and professional development materials are included. The website includes a complete description of the project and download instructions.

Classroom Earth

Quality environmental education programs are highlighted on this site. The top ten sites for educators are divided into five categories: most popular, rising stars, after school, home school, and earth day. This website is a program of the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation.

5. Interesting Tree Fact #1

Did you know that we get different everyday products from leaves of trees? Vapo Rub, and other similar products, contain oil from the leaves and/or wood of the camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) native to eastern Asia. Dried bay leaves are a common ingredient in spaghetti (*Laurus nobilis* is native to the Mediterranean region). Many cough drops contain oil from leaves of eucalyptus trees, native to Australia and New Zealand.

Interesting tree fact information courtesy of Oregon State University Wood Products Extension.