

February 2007

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 and supporters.

Thank you for all your support,
Jennifer Seitz
Florida PLT Coordinator

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1. FL PLT News

In 2006 our facilitators conducted 53 workshops reaching 1,122 participants! In addition, they also led 39 additional outreach activities exposing over 15,127 youth and adults to PLT. A special thanks to all of our facilitators for volunteering their time and efforts to our program.

Christine Allen, Dale Armstrong, Florie Babcock, Mary Bahr, Marcia Bisnett, Marcus Boston, Heather Callahan, Mark Case, Lucy Cortese, Sherre Dabinian, Jenny Dambek, Carolyn Durbin, Simone Fidy, David Fogler, Griselda Forbes, Cheryl George, John Haggard, Karen Hales, Glen Harris, Linda Hartmann, Mayfair Head, Mark Hebb, Peggy Hill, Nicole Homberg, Joan Hourican, Michelle Hunter, Craig Iversen, Rodney Ivey, Karen Johnson-Folsom, Becky Jordi, Bill Kleinhans, Debbie Lawrence, Ed Lewis, Lora Lindsey, Jen Loyd-Pain, Joe MacKenzie, Meghan McAdams, Jan McCurdy Schultz, Cindy Maytrott, Cari Meigs, Mark Miller, Brooke Mohr, Martha Monroe, David Moody, Libby Ormes, Jody Owens, Julia Parker, Bob Poorman, Tara Powers, Stan Rosenthal, Royanne Reusch, Katie Schlotterbeck, Lavon Silvernell, Philip Smith, Deb Sparbeck, Shaun Stewart, Allan Stollberg, Martha Stollberg, Tim Stuhr, Audrey Swindal, Amy Taylor, Donna Thomas, Sonya Thompson, Eileen Tramontanna, Bruce Turnbill, Chris Verlinde, Michelle Waterman, Brenda Weeks, Karen Weigelt, Kelley Weitzel, Fred Wiechmann, Robin Will, Kelliann Whitney.

Volunteer Educators Wanted to write FCAT extensions for PLT and WILD!

PLT and Project WILD have received a combined correlations grant from the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP). Grant funds will be used to fund an FCAT writing workshop facilitated by Kelley Weitzel and to pay

volunteers a small stipend. The workshop will be offered on May 5 in Orlando. Selected PLT and WILD activities will be correlated to practice FCAT style questions. Kelley will teach participants how to write practice FCAT questions correlated to WILD and PLT activities. We are seeking teachers from all grade levels familiar with PLT, WILD and of course the FCAT. Teachers will be asked to familiarize themselves with selected activities before the workshop and attend the workshop. We are looking for a total of 26 teacher volunteers: 4 per grade level grouping (K-2, 3-5 and 6-8) for each project and 2 WILD teachers for grades 9-12. For more details or to volunteer, please contact the project coordinator for the project you are able to assist.

Lori Haynes, Project WILD Coordinator - lori.haynes@MyFWC.com or 561.625.5142/Toll-Free in FL 877.450.WILD

Jenny Seitz, PLT Coordinator - jacohen@ufl.edu or 352.846.2329

Florida PLT Awards- Nominations Open

Here's your chance to recognize an individual or organization for their efforts in promoting and enhancing environmental education. Nominate an educator, PLT facilitator, or business partner of the year for the Annual Florida PLT Awards.

-Nominate an educator that incorporates PLT activities into the classroom or their programs and encourages the use of PLT activities by their colleagues.

-Nominate a facilitator that has energized you to bring the environment into the classroom by using PLT.

-Nominate an organization or business that has supported your efforts of using PLT in your school, center, or programs.

Additional criteria for each award are listed on the nomination forms that can be downloaded from the [PLT web site](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/facilitators/awards_and_nominations.html) (http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/facilitators/awards_and_nominations.html).

Deadline for all nominations: May 5.

Welcome to our New Facilitators

Andrea Aubert, Megan Auchter, Sherrie Blackwelder, Shelia Bolin, Marcia Gail Berger, Catherine Carey, Marella Bradway, Janelle Cummins, Theresa Dennis, Sandy Edmondson, Grace Foley, John Harris, Dawn Hurley, Charlene Johnson, Rosalyn Kilcollins, Alan Knothe, Andrew Lantz, Debbie Lawrence, Tami Limberg, Neal McDonald, Danielle Murfee, Carrie Nameth, Jennifer Oetting, Libby Ormes, Jody Owens, Whit Pennington, Kim Pierce, Mike Renwick, Kathie Roberts, Teresa Schroder, Deb Sparbeck, Jennifer Weis

Look for a workshop near you!

2. Upcoming PLT Events and Workshops

-February 2, 16 and 27: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Leon County Extension Office (Tallahassee). Contact Robin at Robin_Will@fws.gov to register. Limited space available. Each workshop is the same one offered three different days.

-February 19: Energy & Society 3-8 Educator at the Florida Solar Energy Center (Coca). Contact Jenny at jacohen@ufl.edu for registration information.

-February 19: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Brevard Zoo (Melbourne). Register through the Zoo at 321.254.9453.

-February 24: Wildland Fire 3-8 Grade Educator Workshop at Brooker Creek Preserve (Brooksville/Tarpon Springs). Contact April at afrederick@pinellascounty.org for registration information.

-March 3: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Weedon Island Preserve (St. Petersburg). Contact Grant at gcraig@co.pinellas.fl.us for information.

-March 6: PreK-8 PLT and WET Workshop for Planning Summer Programs at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (Jacksonville). Contact Kelliann at whitneyk@jacksonvillezoo.org to register.

-March 20: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science (Tallahassee). Contact the Education Department at 850-575-8684 to register.

-March 24 and 31: PreK-8 Two-Day Educator Workshop at Greynolds Park (Miami). Register through the school district. Contact Marcia at seleef@webtv.net to see if space is available for non-district educators.

-April 14 and 21: Energy and Society and Wildland Fire 3-8 grade Educator 2-Day Workshop at Miami-Dade Greynolds Park (Miami). Register through the school district. Contact Marcia at seleef@webtv.net to see if space is available for non-district educators

-June 6: Energy & Society 3-8 Grade Educator Workshop in Nassau County (Yulee). Register through the Nassau County School District. Contact Jenny at jacohen@ufl.edu to see if space is available for non-district educators.

For more information about these and other events, please see the [Calendar of Events](#) on our Web site.

3. Conferences / Events / Workshops

LEEF Conference

Join us in West Palm Beach for the **2007 LEEF Conference** March 15-18. Come see author Lynne Cherry (*The Great Kapok Tree*) during a book signing. Numerous field trips and presentations are scheduled for this event. For more information visit <http://leeflet.brinkster.net/>.

2007 International Educators Institute: July 22-28

The World Forestry Center hosts a unique week-long program for educators. This is both a professional development program and a Pacific Northwest field study tour.

The deadline for IEI applications is February 28. Selections will be made by March 31. Download the brochure with all the required qualifications, IEI program goals, cost, scholarship opportunities, and agenda. PLT Central can email you the brochure upon request. Send an email to Jenny requesting the "World Forestry Application" at jacohen@ufl.edu.

Florida Forestry Teachers Tour: June 19-22, 2007

Join teachers from around the state in this behind the scenes tour of forestry in Florida. This is an exclusive opportunity for educators to visit paper, engineered wood and solid wood mills, as well as private, public and industrial forests, including logging operations. For additional information and an application visit

http://www.fl-dof.com/calendar/forestry_teachers_tour.html

National Environmental Education Week: April 15-22, 2007

Now in its 3rd year, NEEW is fast becoming one of the largest environmental education events in the country and is made possible through the generous support of Canon, U.S.A. Inc. Here are some ways to maximize its impact in your area: host a hike in a wilderness area, launch or expand a recycling program in your school or workplace, plant native trees or other plant species or coordinate a litter pickup.

New features in 2007 include the **Richard C. Bartlett Award for Environmental Education** to recognize outstanding environmental education programs in both formal and non-formal settings with grants awarded to the winning organizations and an on-line **Nature Bee** which will encourage student identification of wildlife habitats, flora and fauna in their communities. Visit www.eeweek.org for additional information.

4. Grants / Contests / Awards

High School Essay Contest

The Air & Waste Management Association is celebrating 100 years in 2007 with their Annual Conference and Exhibition in Pittsburgh, PA. The Education Council, Women's Professional Development Committee, is sponsoring an essay contest for high school students with cash prizes. The topic is "The Next 100 Years: Women's Contributions to Environmental Sustainability." Deadline: May 4, 2007. Contact

Pamela Heckel at awmaessay@gmail.com for additional information.
<http://www.awma.org/ACE2007/images/EssayPoster.pdf>

2007 Organic School Garden Awards

Do you use organic methods in your school garden? If so, you are eligible to enter this contest sponsored by The Rodale Institute. Teams of students and teachers are asked to submit an essay and poster that express how they use their school garden as a learning tool, how they use the produce they grow, and what impact it has for the students and community. Three winning schools will receive cash prizes of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2006. Visit the Web site for entry forms, guidelines, and information on previous winners.
<http://www.kidsregen.org/gardens/index.shtml>

5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom – The Global Climate #84

Information about global climate change or global warming is usually about the global effects. These two web sites focus on the effects climate change will have on Florida.

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalwarming/florida/flainx.asp>

<http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/pdfs/Florida.pdf>

The information provides good background information for the teacher or you can have students read it and report back to the class.

6. Resources

Author available to visit your school

Doris Anne Holman will come into your school and teach about the environment through the use of her Florida books. Her books are written to a 2-5 grade level and illustrated in full color. In the lower grades she brings puppets to talk about the birds and animals of Florida. She also brings paper plates and draws with the students some of the birds and animals from her books. Call her at 813-779-8803 for rates.

Promise of Place

Web site offers program ideas, case studies, research, links, and other resources to support place-based education projects. The Promise of Place Web site is project of the Center for Place-based Learning and Community Engagement and was supported by the USDA Forest Service as part of Electronic Commons competitive grants program.

<http://www.promiseofplace.org/>

FREE has been redesigned!

The Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) has improved navigation and images throughout the site. A new "subject map" shows more than 100 topics and the number of resources for each. The goal of this web site is to make it

easier for educators to find more than 1500 teaching and learning resources available from the federal government. Visit <http://free.ed.gov> for more information.

North American Drought: A Paleo Perspective

This Web site was designed to explain how paleoclimatic data can provide information about past droughts and about the natural variability of drought over timescales of decades to millennia. We note that droughts are a world wide phenomenon and affect the global community. However, the focus of these Web pages is North America. Available in Spanish.

http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/drought/drght_home.html

7. Interesting Tree Fact #15

Similar to most hollies, the American holly (*Ilex opaca*) is widely used for landscaping and in holiday decoration throughout the world. The persistent leaves (the leaves stay on all year) have several thorny spines around the margin. The spines are one way to tell it apart from other hollies. The second way to tell when you are looking at an American holly is by the thickness of the leaves. These leaves feel "leathery" and are thicker than leaves found on the other popular native holly, dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*).

The bright, red berries are a favorite food choice for blue jays, cedar waxwings, red-bellied woodpeckers, wild turkeys, raccoons, and deers. Similar to the animals that eat its berries, this native is found in wetlands and sandy coastal areas. Other trees often found near it are red maples, sweetgum, slash pine, and southern red oak.

Information courtesy of: http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/4h/American_holly/amerholl.htm

Credits: the NAAEE and Ed Info list serves.