

December 2005

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.

Thanks for all your support,
Jennifer Seitz
Florida PLT Coordinator

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1. New PreK-8 PLT Activity Guide

The new guide is here! The updated guides have improved reading connections, teacher support for differentiated learning, assessment techniques, technology connections, updated content information and a new look to the formatting of the entire guide. These new guides will start being used at educator workshops in January 2006. Details on how you can obtain a new guide will be sent out in early January.

2. Special Events

PLT held it's first ever Advanced Educator Workshop on November 19 in Callahan, Florida. Participants were true forest explorers as they examined different soils, learned about tree diseases and how to id a tree, and tried out small experiments to do in the classroom. Thank you to the Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation for hosting this workshop.

Upcoming events:

*December 2: PLT and Project WILD K-8 Educator Workshop at Everglades Youth Camp (West Palm Beach). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Deadline to register December 1.

* December 10–11: WET, WILD and Woodsy K-8 Educator Workshop at Camp Honi Hanta (Bradenton). Deadline to register is December 2.

3. Upcoming PLT Workshops

*December 8: K-8 Educators Wildland Fire and Forest Ecology Workshop at the Lee County Division of Forestry District Office (Ft. Myers).

*January 19: PreK-12 Educator Workshop at Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science (Tallahassee).

*January 21: Focus on Forests 8-12 Educator Workshop at Greynolds Park (Miami). Limited Spaces.

*January 28: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Austin Cary Memorial Forest (Gainesville).

*February 3: PreK-12 Educator Workshop at Leon County Extension Office (Tallahassee). Limited Spaces.

*February 4: Focus on Risk 8-12 Educator Workshop at Greynolds Park (Miami). Limited Spaces.

*February 10: PreK-12 Educator Workshop at Leon County Extension Office (Tallahassee). Limited Spaces.

*February 11: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Camp Crystal Lake (Starke).

*February 11: K-12 Educator Workshop at Savannas Preserve State Park (Port St. Lucie).

*February 16: PreK-12 Educator Workshop at Leon County Extension Office (Tallahassee). Limited Spaces.

*February 18: 3-12 Wildland Fire Educator Workshop at Greynolds Park (Miami). Limited Spaces.

*March 4: 3-8 Urban Forests Educator Workshop at Greynolds Park (Miami). Limited spaces.

You can register for any of these workshops by contacting the lead facilitator listed on the Calendar of Events web page.

4. Resources

If Trees Could Talk Middle School Curriculum

This 8-module social studies curriculum in forest and conservation history gives teachers the opportunity to download social studies activities that are based upon archival materials. The centerpiece of each module is a compilation of primary resources (documents, maps, newspaper articles, oral histories or photographs) from which students will be asked to gather, examine, and analyze information, and synthesize insights. The material was produced by the Forest History

Society in collaboration with Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, North Carolina State University, Project Learning Tree, and the North Carolina Forestry Association. The curriculum is correlated with the National History Standards and the National Social Studies Standards.

The NOAA Ocean Exploration Program

The program was created to enhance America's environmental literacy through the excitement of ocean discovery. Increasing this literacy requires high-quality, effective collaborations between ocean explorers and America's teachers. NOAA has created a web site specifically for formal educators. Included on the site are lesson plans, curriculum, professional development opportunities, online NOAA Explorer CD-ROM, and the OceanAGE Careers program.

Forest Trees of Florida Now Online!

The Florida Division of Forestry's "Forest Trees of Florida" book is now available online. Known as the "little green book" to many educators, this resource has all you need to know about our native trees including a line drawing. Easy for students to use also!

Tides Lesson Plans

Developed for students in grades 9-12, these lesson plans focus on tides and water levels.

Living Science Program Web Site

This program is aimed at middle and high school math and science teachers on Florida's Treasure Coast. While the professional development and summer workshops are available only to educators in the Treasure Coast the archived web sites are available to all educators. Involve students in real-world research and interaction with scientists through the archived webcasts. The web site includes interesting articles, resources, quizzes, and activities created by middle and high school educators in the following topics: astronomy, biology, chemistry, marine science, mathematics, medicine and physics. To obtain "full access" to the teacher lessons and information, register with the site and make sure to mark "teacher" in the appropriate box.

Bear Creek Educational Forest

The Florida Division of Forestry has completed the education center at Lake Talquin State Forest in Quincy (Gadsen County). Full-time staff at the forest offer free guided programs for students to experience the outdoors and learn about the different elements and processes of forests. Some of the program options available include ecosystem exploration, forester for a day, tree id, animal adventures, resource reasoning, and photosynthesis fun. Programs are correlated to the Sunshine State Standards. For additional information on available programs or to schedule your field trip contact Bear Creek Educational Forest at 850.627.9064 or write to 8125 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, FL 32351.

SUNLINK: Florida's K-12 Electronic Library Card Catalog

Funded by the Florida Department of Education, records of almost all Florida K-12 public school libraries are included in this searchable database. Database gives you the option to search for materials in different languages, by grade level, by reading level, by specific reading program, by

publication date, by format, and more. Materials are available for interlibrary loan from other schools in Florida.

5. Grants/Contests/Awards

15th International Painting Competition on the Environment Deserts, Drylands and Desertification Through the Eyes of Children

Children from around the world are being invited to express their hopes and fears about the future of the world's deserts and the issue of desertification in general in this year's 15th International Painting Competition on the Environment. Children who will be between the ages of 6 and 14 years on World Environment Day 2006 (5 June 2006) from all regions of the world are invited to submit their paintings on the theme to their Regional UNEP Office by 20 January 2006. For full rules and information on how to submit a painting, please see the Painting Competition web site. <http://www.unep.org/tunza/paintcomp15>

Earthwatch Educator Fellowship Awards

Awarded through a competitive application process, the Earthwatch Educator Fellowship Awards are considered based on geographic region, financial need, and the benefits that would result from participating in an expedition. Educators and administrators of any discipline are eligible to apply. Applications accepted on a rolling basis. <http://www.earthwatch.org/education/educator/apply.html>

ThinkQuest

An international competition where student teams engage in collaborative, project-based learning to create educational web sites. The winning entries form the ThinkQuest online library.

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program

This a dynamic, active, art and science program designed to teach wetlands habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program guides students, using scientific and wildlife observation principles, to communicate visually what they have learned through an entry into the Junior Duck Stamp art contest. The Junior Duck Stamp contest begins each spring when students submit their artwork to a state or territory contest. Students at the state level are judged in four groups according to grade level: Group I: K-3, Group II: 4-6, Group III: 7-9, and Group IV 10-12. The first place design from the national contest is used to create a Junior Duck Stamp for the following year.

International Young Eco-Hero Awards

Do you know any YOUNG ECO-HEROES aged 8 to 16 years? Please let them know about Action For Nature's 2006 International Young Eco-Hero awards program. Winners receive a cash prize and recognition for their environmental accomplishments. The award promotes individual action concerning environmental protection and advocacy, environmental health projects and the education of others. Deadline to apply is February 28, 2006.

2006 AF&PA Recycling Awards

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) Recycling Awards encourage and recognize outstanding recycling programs that promote the recovery of high quality paper. The 2006 awards will recognize an individual, two businesses (small and large), two communities (small and large) and two schools. The School Recycling Awards recognize schools that have implemented successful recycling programs with a monetary prize and framed original artwork, given to a classroom recycling program and a school-wide recycling program. Deadline: February 17, 2006.

6. Events/Workshops

National Environmental Education Week: April 16-22, 2006

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) is pleased to announce the second annual National EE Week. This will be the single largest environmental education event in the U.S. It is coordinated by NEETF in cooperation with hundreds of outstanding schools, environmental education organizations, education associations, nature centers, zoos, museums, aquariums, and state and federal agencies. National EE Week is a full week of educational preparedness for Earth Day and will involve thousands of educators and millions of students. Visit the National EE Week web site for ideas on what you can do with youth.

Summer Opportunity for High School Students

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society, is designed to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Students (Grades 10-12) spend 8 weeks in the summer working alongside their mentor who is a fisheries professional in their local community. Participants receive a \$3,000 scholarship paid out in 6 installments over the summer months. Applications can be downloaded from the Web site. Application Deadline: February 15, 2006.

Florida's Forests: Yesterday, Today, Forever at the Florida State Fair

Join us in the Florida Forest Discovery Center, open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Florida State Fair in Tampa from February 9 through February 20, 2006. Step inside the Center and smell the fresh woody scent of the native trees and shrubs on display. Forestry professionals will be on hand to answer questions. The Florida Forest Discovery Center is a partnership of forestry organizations with the purpose of educating Florida's citizens and visitors about the positive contribution that sound forestry practices have on our quality of life.

Florida Forestry Teacher's Tour: June 20-23, 2006

Florida's educators are invited to join us for an exploration of forestry in Florida. Any Florida educators who teach environmental or social studies, science, math, multi-disciplinary classes or related topics and have not previously attended are eligible to apply. The tour takes place in Northeast Florida. Tour is free to participants. Everyone is eligible to receive 30 CEU hours. Application deadline is March 17, 2006.

Pittsburgh Conference in Orlando, Florida: March 2006

The program of activities of the Science Week Committee is one way that the Pittsburgh Conference will be supporting and enhancing science education in Orlando, FL this year. A variety of excellent opportunities will be available to teachers, students, science educators, and even families. Opportunities include teacher excellence awards, science equipment grants, teacher workshops, hands-on student workshops, and a lecture-demonstration event. To obtain more information, forms and/or instructions for these activities visit their web.

7. Interesting Tree Fact # 8

Tree windbreaks have been found to reduce residential heating costs by 10-15 percent, while shade and evapotranspirational cooling from trees have been found to reduce cooling costs by 20-50 percent (Dwyer, 1993; Laverne and Lewis, 1995).

Dwyer, John F., 1993. The Economic Contribution of Trees to Urban Communities; In: Trends - Justifying Recreation and Parks to Decision Makers, v. 30, no. 4.

Laverne, R.J. and Lewis, G., 1995. The Effect of Vegetation on Residential Energy Use. In Kollin, C. and Barratt, M. (eds.), Proceedings of the 7th National Urban Forest Conference, New York, Sept. 12-16, pp. 80-84.

Interesting tree fact information courtesy of TreeLink: The Urban Forestry Portal.