

February 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.

Thanks for all your support,  
Jenny Seitz  
Florida PLT Coordinator

Inside:

1. National Environmental Education Week
2. Workshops & Conferences
3. Resources for Educators
4. LEEF Mini-Grants
5. PLT Online Store
6. Interesting Tree Fact #2

1. National Environmental Education Week: April 10 – 16, 2005!!

National Environmental Education Week will take place April 10 – 16, 2005 and will be the single largest environmental education event in the U.S. It is a full week of educational preparedness for Earth Day and will involve some 400,000 educators and 15 million students. (courtesy NEETF)

2. Workshops & Conferences

Excellence in Environmental Education Workshop

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center in West Palm Beach is hosting this workshop scheduled for March 3-4, 2005 from 8:30-3pm. Cost is \$125 per person for both days. Participants receive a set of books covering the following guidelines valued at \$55: Non-formal EE, Promoting EE in the K-12 School Systems, Creating EE Materials, and Training EE Staff. For additional information please call Joan Hourican at 561-686-6600 or email her at [hourican@fau.edu](mailto:hourican@fau.edu).

Annual LEEF 25th Conference

Come celebrate this milestone with educators across the state. The conference is scheduled for April 7-10, 2005 in Pinellas County.

Visit the LEEF website (click above) for registration information.

Project Learning Tree E-Learning Workshop

February 21 - April 3, 2005 ~ Online

The course syllabus is available on the website. \$125.00 - No travel required! This special online workshop is designed for educators in grades preK-8. Educators from the following states are invited to participate in this workshop: Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maine,

Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia. The only prerequisites for this six week course are: access to the Internet and ability to send and receive e-mail. Registration deadline: February 11, 2005. For more information, please contact Sandi Sturm at [ssurm@creative-conservation.com](mailto:ssurm@creative-conservation.com).

#### NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, Dive into Education

The workshop will be hosted by NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary on Tybee Island, Georgia at the Ocean Plaza Beach Resort, May 13-14, 2005. Education Coordinators from each of the 14 sites within the National Marine Sanctuary Program will present their programs that are being specifically adapted to address science performance standards in ocean science and other disciplines. These national level educators will bring their unique programs, materials and perspectives from their part of the country, which includes Hawaii, American Samoa, California, Washington, Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Michigan.

(courtesy SIFT)

### 3. Resources for Educators

#### New Guide Helps Educators Integrate 21st Century Skills into K-12 Science Education

NSTA and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a public-private organization focusing on skills necessary for student success in the 21st Century, have worked collaboratively to release a Science Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy Map. The map demonstrates how educators can develop science lessons that combine 21st century-learning skills, such as information and communication skills, with 21st century tools, such as the Internet and multi-media production tools. It guides K-12 educators through a wide range of learning skill examples, as emphasized in the Partnership's report, Learning for the 21st Century, and cites specific student outcomes demonstrating ICT Literacy success for grades 4, 8, and 12. The map is the fourth in a series of ICT Literacy Maps.

(courtesy NSTA Express)

#### BioKIDS: Kids' Inquiry of Diverse Species

Grade(s): 5 - 8 ENC#: 031172

Synopsis: Follow the signs of the times, or at least the signs of the critters, at this site that celebrates biodiversity. In the Critter Catalog, you can get acquainted with representatives of several different classifications of creatures, including birds, fish, insects, and reptiles. The Sign Guide lets you consider various animal artifacts--bite marks, perhaps, or pawprints--to help determine what kind of animal left that particular imprint behind.

(courtesy ENC Online)

#### "Mathematics Across the Curriculum"

This features an "electronic bookshelf" of materials for teaching math in art, history, literature, & music, as well as science, engineering, & other disciplines traditionally associated with math. Topics include misleading averages, bar codes, crime statistics, DNA, data analysis, expert systems, gasoline, information theory, medical testing, music & computers, nutrition, polls, population growth, probability, remote sensing, SIDS, & vaccines.

(courtesy SIFT)

#### FREE multimedia resources

Teachers' Domain is an award-winning collection of FREE multimedia resources for the science classroom. Teachers can access over 500 multimedia resources including streaming video clips, lessons plans, interactive activities, audio clips, diagrams, essays, and photographs, all correlated to national and state science standards, and organized by grade band.

(courtesy SIFT)

#### Trees Love Care! Posters

Have it made in the shade with your free Trees Love Care! posters. The four-poster set, which is available in both English and Spanish versions, provides information on how to spruce up trees for optimum health and growth. To order go to the Florida Urban Forestry Council's website (<http://www.fufc.org/>). On the left side look under Educational Info category and click on Trees Love Care Posters.

#### 4. LEEF Mini-Grants

The LEEF Mini-Grant Awards program was established to promote EE and conservation through formal and non-formal educators and organizations committed to preserving earth's biodiversity. Preference will be given to: projects that are part of an Environmental Education program, projects that relate to the development of a multi-disciplinary EE programs, and new classroom initiatives or projects that may lead to the development of a multi-disciplinary EE program. If you wish to submit, please note that deadline for receiving applications is February 14, 2005. Visit <http://leeflet.brinkster.net/> to download application and requirements.

#### 5. PLT Online Store

Visit the PLT Online store and receive a 10% discount! The code for this discount is PLTdiscount. We hope this site will serve as a useful source for educational materials to enhance your PLT classroom activities, as well as provide you with a unique website for purchasing nature related products. Every purchase you make supports Project Learning Tree and will help young people learn the skills they will need to become responsible environmental decision makers. To view items in the store visit <http://shop.plt.org/default.aspx>.

(courtesy National PLT)

#### 6. Tree Fact #2

Did you know that the Jamaica Dogwood, aka Florida Fishpoison-Tree, (*Piscidia piscipula*) has some value for fuel, charcoal, and boat timbers. An extract of the bark has been used by the West Indies Indians to stupefy fish in order to catch them in nets more readily.

Interesting tree fact information courtesy from Guide to Southern Trees by E.S. Harrar and G. Harrar.