

June 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,
Jenny Seitz
Florida PLT Coordinator

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1. Florida PLT Annual Awards

An Educator of the Year, Facilitator of the Year, and Partner of the Year are chosen by the Florida PLT Steering Committee to recognize an outstanding individual or organization in each of these categories. The recipients must meet high standards for helping with workshops or using PLT in the classroom. Congratulations to the following individuals for their excellent contributions to PLT!!

Educators of the Year: Michelle Hunter and Amanda Betz (Shadeville Elementary)
Facilitator of the Year: Marcia Bisnett (Miami Norland High)
Business Partner of the Year: St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

2. PLT Schools Conference

Mark your calendar for the bi-annual PLT School's Conference, October 5-7, 2005 at Withlacoochee Training Center in Brooksville. The theme for this year's conference is "H2O Watch it Flow!" Learn how water and trees work together in forest ecosystems. Details coming soon.

3. Resources for Educators

EcoLibrary

Founded by Dan L. Perlman, EcoLibrary is a source for free educational materials on ecology, conservation, and the environment. Its goal is to help people of all ages, especially teachers and students, learn more about the world in which we live. All EcoLibrary materials are available for free download and use, as long as they are used for noncommercial educational purposes.

EcoLibrary is being built in partnership with Discover Life and currently contains a database of several hundred images with associated text. In the near future EcoLibrary plans to add case studies, maps, curriculum ideas, lesson plans, and interactive teaching materials.

(Courtesy of PLT Listserve)

Earth Healing: Florida Natural History Workshop

The League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) is sponsoring its 5th Florida Natural History Workshop, to be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 21-23, 2005. Entitled Earth Healing, this workshop will address the needs of today's environmentalists, environmental educators, and nature lovers. The workshop is set at beautiful Camp Crystal Lake, less than an hour north of Gainesville, Florida. The workshop is designed to provide interested nature lovers with nature-immersion education alongside some of Florida's most esteemed naturalists. This year, the workshop will be augmented with discussions of Deep Ecology, Despair and Empowerment Exercises, and a number of various therapies for body, mind and spirit.

The cost of the workshop includes all workshops, organic food & drinks, and lodging Friday evening through Sunday breakfast, in addition to LEEF membership. It is \$100 per person, and current LEEF members get a \$20.00 discount. To register, contact Maria Minno in Gainesville at (352) 375-3028, email mminno@bellsouth.net. For more information you can go online to the LEEF web site and look under "News and Events." The registration deadline is September 20th 2005. If space is available after the deadline, the cost is \$125 per person.

(Courtesy of LEEF)

Kid's Gardening

What do aspirin, paper, cotton t-shirts, and velcro have in common? They are all derived from or were inspired by plants! This month's lesson, "Plants with a Purpose", explores these and other plants that have served various roles in human history.

(Courtesy of Kids Gardening)

Urban Forestry

LGEAN, in cooperation with American Forests, hosted a webcast in May 2004 called "Seeing Green with Trees: The Economic and Environmental Benefits of Urban Forests." The webcast demonstrated how trees have been used by local governments to meet environmental regulatory requirements, save money, and improve community quality of life. A free multimedia CD-ROM recording of that webcast is now available.

(Courtesy of St. Johns Water Mgmt district)

SciGuides

The National Science Teachers Association unveiled SciGuides an online "science toolbox" for science educators. Each SciGuide, available to members for \$4.95 and to nonmembers for \$5.95 a unit, breaks down a major topic, such as "genetics" or "organisms," into subcategories with links to age-appropriate Web sites and suggestions on how to integrate the Internet into classroom activities.

(Courtesy of SIFT)

NSRC's Curriculum Resources

The National Science Resources Center (NSRC) Curriculum Development Center researches, develops, and publishes inquiry-centered science education curricula that can be used by school districts to construct core instructional programs. The NSRC has developed two comprehensive science curriculum programs for K-8 students, Science and Technology for Children (STC) and

Science and Technology Concepts for Middle Schools (STC/MS). Module topics are placed into two categories: Life and Earth Sciences and Physical Sciences and Technology, and are aligned to the National Science Education Standards.

(Courtesy of NSTA)

Animal Diversity Web

A searchable encyclopedia of thousands of photos, descriptions, sound recordings, & other information about individual animal species. Find out about amphibians, arthropods, birds, fishes, insects, mammals, mollusks, reptiles, & sharks. Explore special features on mammals, skulls, & frog calls. Students are invited to contribute. This site is kid-friendly and great for classroom use.

(Courtesy of SIFT)

Fisheries & Aquatic Resources

Provides information about managed fish populations throughout the U.S., as well as watershed-based data & state-by-state fishing resources. Learn about freshwater & marine fishes, aquatic invertebrates, water quality & habitats, & dams & fish passage. Fishbase, a global database, provides names, pictures, & key facts about more than 25,000 fish species.

(Courtesy of SIFT)

A Walk in the Woods

Now that summer has arrived, the idea of taking a science class outside is appealing. The Digital Dozen selection A Walk in the Woods can prepare students in grades 4 and 5 for understanding what they see on a nature trail. They can examine lichens and moss; find out what a conk is and what it means about the health of a tree; and learn the difference between poison ivy and look-alike plants. Nature Notes provide even more details about some of the things to explore and enjoy in the woods.

(Courtesy of ENC)

4. Tree Fact #5

Did you know...

- Every 1,000 urban trees we plant in the Northwest today will save the region more than a million dollars in storm water management, pollution abatement, and energy costs. (Source: Center for Urban Forest Research, Davis, California)
- A typical tree produces about 260 pounds of oxygen each year. Two trees can supply a person's oxygen needs. This is a conservative estimate based on the average annual oxygen consumption for a person at rest at 20 degrees Celsius and at standard pressure is an average of 400 pounds a year. (Source: David Nowak, USDA Forest Service, Syracuse, NY)

Interesting tree fact information courtesy of www.friendsoftrees.org.