

August 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. Highlights in PLT

National PLT is in the process of revising the PreK-12 Activity Guide to feature reading and technology correlations, improved assessment suggestions, and a new look. The new book plans to be published within the next two years. Updates on how to obtain a new guide will be mentioned in future issues of PLTree Line.

In addition to the Activity Guide, the secondary modules are being revised to include up-to-date facts and case studies. Two new modules coming out this year entitled Places We Live and Forests of the World, will focus on the changes in our community and world forests respectively.

The Florida PLT web site has added a new resources section. Listed under resources you can find supplemental information to various topics to enhance all PLT activities. In the coming months we will be adding an Activity Materials page with downloadable worksheets, activity sheets, and handouts to go with the PreK-8 Activity Guide and an Activity Enhancement page with modified PLT activities and enhancements related to fire education and Florida issues. Thanks to Gwen Ryskamp, PLT Assistant, for all of her hard work creating these new pages!

#### 2. Welcome to New PLT Facilitators!!

On July 21-22 at Stephen Foster State Park in White Springs, Project Learning Tree held a facilitator training workshop with Projects WET and WILD. We are happy to have 23 new and energetic facilitators for the PLT program! Look for new workshops to be scheduled around the state.

#### 3. PLT School's 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. Deadline to register is September 15.

#### 4. Upcoming Workshops

\*August 20: Brooker Creek Preserve (Pinellas County) Fire Education

\*September 10: Brevard Zoo (Brevard County) PreK-12 Educator

\*September 24: Austin Cary Memorial Forest (Alachua County) Fire Education

\*October 8: Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (Duval County) PreK-12 Educator

\*November 19: Mizzel Lodge (Nassau County) Advanced Educator Workshop

This workshop is for formal and nonformal educators that have already attended a PLT Educator workshop. A flyer describing the day long workshop and registration information will be available on the FL PLT web site by August 30.

\*November 21: ACSI Florida Teacher's Convention at the Rosen Center (Orange County) PreK-12 Educator

#### 5. Resources

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) Institute

A scholarship is available for students to attend the upcoming 5th annual "Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", to be held August 12-21, 2005, in Glorieta, NM. The Institute is an intensive, hands-on, science-based, 10 day program for talented teens, aged 16-18, selected competitively from across the country. Materials are posted on the NHEC web site and contain all materials necessary for a student to apply to the Institute. Students should particularly read the "Fact Sheet". Contact NHEC -- either the Programs Coordinator, Juan Rodriguez, at [jrodriguez@nheec.org](mailto:jrodriguez@nheec.org) or Roger Rivera, at [rrivera@nheec.org](mailto:rrivera@nheec.org) if you have further questions.

#### NAAEE Launches New EE Resource Reviews

NAAEE is offering a new service to materials and program developers: the National EE Resource Reviews. Receive constructive feedback on your resources from a panel of reviewers trained in using NAAEE's EE Materials: Guidelines for Excellence. See web site for details.

Be among the first to submit your resources and you'll automatically be entered in a drawing to win a \$150 NAAEE Basic Institutional Membership! Each Friday, between July 29 and August 19, 2005, NAAEE will draw the name of one organization that has submitted its resources for review. The winner will receive a free NAAEE Basic institutional membership valued at \$150. Each week, the names from the previous week "roll over" to the following week, so the sooner you send your submission, the more chances you have to win! Click here for more information.

#### 2005 Refuge Photo Contest

The National Wildlife Refuge Association and Swarovski Optik are sponsoring a photo contest! Photos must be taken at a National Wildlife Refuge and can be of birds, mammals, insects, fish,

other animals, plants, people, or refuge scenery. Submissions accepted from July 8th to December 1st, 2005. For contest details and prizes [click here](#).

#### K-12 Teachers to Get Hands-on Experiences at 34th Annual Conference

Sessions featuring fun and exciting hands-on activities specially designed for those who work with children are among the more than 230 presentations offered on the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) conference agenda from October 25-29. Teachers who attend an NAAEE conference often are able to use the environment as an integrating context for learning to help improve student test scores and attendance rates. Teachers will be feted in a gala reception in the Exhibit Hall at 4 p.m. on Friday, October 28. Then, a full day of workshops has been arranged on Saturday, October 29, just for teachers to network and exchange ideas, with a box lunch provided. Teachers should register early to guarantee their place in any of these workshops, which are expected to sell out quickly. Teachers who register for the one-day workshop session on Saturday receive a 6-month trial membership in NAAEE as part of their registration fee. For those who select a three-day conference registration, a full year's membership is included. To register for the conference, or obtain additional information, please visit the NAAEE Web site.

#### AGI Kicks off National Contests

To celebrate Earth Science Week, AGI will host three national contests. The contests encourage students and the public to become involved in Earth Science Week by submitting artwork, an essay or a photograph. Entries must be received by October 7, 2005. A grand prize winner in each category will win \$300 and a one-year subscription to Geotimes, AGI's monthly newsmagazine for the Earth sciences. More information on the Earth Science Week contests, including rules and submission guidelines, can be found [here](#).

#### New York TIMES

The Learning Network powered by the New York Times helps get current National and World issues into your classroom. Download free lesson plans that include printable handouts and discussion questions for grades 3-12. Find activities that take up entire class periods, or just news "snapshots" to get your students thinking about the news. No matter what the subject area, this resource website is sure to have something that will work for you.

#### If Trees Could Talk

Duke University, in collaboration with the Forest History Society has created a middle school curriculum that explores the history of human development and how trees played a roll in this process. There are 8 modules that investigate different historical periods in America from prehistory to present day. More than purely scientific environmental education, these lessons teach students how trees and forests play a roll in economics and society and can be tied into the subject areas of social studies and geography.

## 6. Grants

### GreenWorks! Grants

Deadline: September 30, 2005

Grant opportunity from GreenWorks! for Project Learning Tree trained educators to implement community action and service-learning projects from \$50 to \$1000. Projects should address an environmental issue and involve students from pre-school to high school in hands-on community action. Visit the website for guideline details.

## 7. Tree Product Sighting

Need a quick art project to go with PLT activities? Oriental Trading Company has added new products to their catalog that would compliment PLT Activities! Leaf rubbing plates, leaf stamps, leaf stickers, leaf-shaped sticky notes, leaf weaving mats, leaf-shaped buttons, leaf-shaped key rings, and leaf sun catchers are a few of the new products you can purchase from this organization. Use keyword "leaf" to find a complete listing.

Do you have a tree product sighting you would like to share? Contact Jenny at 352-846-2329 or [jacohen@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:jacohen@ifas.ufl.edu).

## 8. Tree Fact # 6

"The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day."

—U.S. Department of Agriculture

"There are about 60-to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs."

—National Wildlife Federation

"In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension."

—Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University

Interesting tree fact information courtesy of The National Arbor Day Foundation.