

October 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. PLT News**

***GreenWorks! Grant***

Schools, youth organizations, and other groups may apply online for a grant to implement a "learning-by-doing" environmental project that combines academics with community service.

Grants up to \$5,000 are available. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2007. Visit [http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_22\\_18.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html) for grant guidelines, and an application.

**Looking for High School Teacher Pilot Testers**

We are developing a web-based module for high school teachers for our Places We Live guide. The module helps create a bond between young citizens and their communities. Students explore current and future community environmental issues, enabling them to make informed decisions about those issues.

Module is geared for Social Studies and Environmental Science classes. Pilot testing to begin in mid-October and end in November 2007. Stipend and resources are available. For more information contact Jenny Seitz, Coordinator, at [jacohen@ufl.edu](mailto:jacohen@ufl.edu) or 352/846-2329 for details.

**PLT Needs Help from Educators and Facilitators**

Based on numerous requests, we are developing web-based informational tools to assist educators and facilitators in presenting the PLT materials.

- Teachers, tools will provide more background content to lead a variety of activities.

- Facilitators, tools will provide either more background information or tips on how to do incorporate a topic into a workshop.

Some of the topics covered include: Tree Products, Wildfire in Florida, Forest Ecosystems, Florida Trees, Birds in Florida's Forests, Water Cycle, Stormwater and Water Quality, and SSS and FCAT.

We need pilot-testers to go through these short tools and give us feedback. Pilot testing to begin in mid-October and end in November 2007. For more information contact Jenny Seitz, Coordinator, at [jacohen@ufl.edu](mailto:jacohen@ufl.edu) or 352/846-2329 for details.

## 2. Upcoming PLT Events and Workshops

\* October 12: PreK-8 Educator and Preservice students Workshop in Tallahassee at Leon County Extension office. Contact Robin at [robin\\_will@fws.gov](mailto:robin_will@fws.gov) to register.

\*October 15-16 (two afternoons): PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Roy Hyatt Environmental Center in Escambia County. Contact Craig Iverson at 850/983-5219 or [iversec@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:iversec@doacs.state.fl.us).

\*October 19: PreK-8 Educator and Urban Forestry Workshop at Nature's Classroom in Thonotosassa, Hillsborough County. Contact Judy Owens at [jowens02@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jowens02@tampabay.rr.com).

\* November 2: PreK-8 PLT and Project WILD Workshop at Orange Lake Resort and Country Club in Orlando, Orange County. Contact Neal McDonald at 407/239-0000 x 1194 or [Nemcdonald@orangelake.com](mailto:Nemcdonald@orangelake.com). Registration deadline October 26<sup>th</sup>.

\* December 1-2: PreK-12 Elementary Educator PLT, WILD and WET Workshop at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Duval County. Registration details coming soon.

For more information about these and other events, please see the Calendar of Events on our Web site at [http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/events\\_calendar/2007-2008\\_calendar.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/events_calendar/2007-2008_calendar.html).

## 3. Conferences/Events/Workshops

### **Florida Council for the Social Studies Conference October 11-23, 2007**

Join PLT for the Pre-conference Places We Live workshop or our 50-minute presentation at the 50th Annual Florida Council for the Social Studies Conference. The conference will feature over 80 exciting and valuable sessions to enhance the teaching of all the social sciences and FCAT skills. Visit [www.fcss.org](http://www.fcss.org) for more information.

### **National Character Counts Week—October 21-27, 2007**

A celebration of the importance of developing good character in youths, sponsored by the Josephson Institute of Ethics. Receive free resources for conducting local activities. <http://www.charactercounts.org/ccweek/index.php>

**“From Devastation to Reforestation: Withlacoochee State Forest”  
—through November 14th**

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum opened this new exhibit exploring the history of the Withlacoochee Forest. A scavenger hunt is planned for the kids, with a flora and fauna checklist for fun and discovery. For additional information contact Laurie Diestler at (352) 341-6429. <http://www.cccourthouse.org/oldcourthouse.asp>

**League of Environmental Educators in Florida Conference**

Join fellow park naturalists, outdoor educators, homeschoolers, and K-12 teachers at Camp Crystal Lake in north central Florida! The conference begins Thursday evening, March 27th and ends Sunday afternoon, March 30th, 2008. Visit <http://www.leef-florida.org> for more information.

**National Environmental Education Week—April 13-19, 2008**

Participate in the largest environmental education event in U.S. history. <http://www.EEWeek.org>

**Tree Hill Nature Center and Comcast’s Family Saturdays**

Fight nature deficit disorder while spending time with you family every Saturday by joining others in a FREE outdoor adventure! The day begins at 10am. Visit [www.treehill.org](http://www.treehill.org) for details.

#### **4. Grants/Contests/Awards**

**School Video Contest**

QuantumShift.tv is challenging K-12 students and teachers to document their work on a social or environmental project through a series of short videos over the 2007-08 school year. The winning schools will receive a prize package worth \$50,000 in cash and educational resources. Visit <http://quantumshift.tv/schools> to learn more.

**Target Corporation Expands Student Field Trip Grant Program**

Grant-funded field trips may involve museum, environmental, or science projects; artistic and cultural experiences; and civics or community service projects. Up to 1,600 grants of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded in 2008. Deadline: November 1, 2007.

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537>

#### **5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom**

**Biodiversity Counts (use with Prek-8’s School Yard Safari #46 and Biodiversity Module)**

The American Museum of Natural History helps teachers get middle school students out into their own backyards (or school yards) to gather and identify plants and arthropods (spiders, insects, and more). Curriculum provides lesson plans, essays, and interactive web sessions.

<http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/biocounts/>

### **Introduction to Dendrochronology (use with Prek-8's Tree Cookies # 76, Tree Factory #63 and with the Florida Urban Forestry module)**

A web page to be used by both teachers and students interested in learning more about dendrochronology. The target audience for this page is middle and high school science teachers and students, and anyone else interested in a non-technical review of tree-ring dating. <http://tree.ltrr.arizona.edu/lorim/lori.html>.

### **PLT's *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity***

This online secondary module is complete! Items available include: Biodiversity Background Information for Educators, "Global Invaders", "Protected Areas: Issues and Analysis", "Potatoes, Pesticides, and Biodiversity", and more.

[http://plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_21\\_16.html](http://plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_16.html)

## **6. Resources**

### **The National Park Service's "Along the Georgia-Florida Coast"**

The travel itinerary helps explain the key developments in America's past: encounters between Europeans and Native Americans, European settlement, plantation agriculture, and African American culture.

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/geo-flor/g-fintro.htm>

### **Mixing in Math**

An offering of 40 activities that can be used to "slip a little math" into kids' everyday routines. Activities are designed for kids ages 5-13.

<http://mixinginmath.terc.edu/>

### **Bioed Online**

Featured lessons include the water cycle and global warming, the X chromosome, sleep and daily rhythms, muscles and bones, and food and fitness. Experts offer presentations (streaming videos) on cloning, viruses, infectious diseases, genomes, asthma, ecosystems, populations, energy, and more.

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

### **Science ideas**

Students are engaged in a variety of inquiry-based hands-on, reading comprehension, writing and concept mapping activities to build students' conceptual understanding of core science concepts while improving their ability to read challenging content area texts. <http://scienceideas.org/>

### **Cable in the Classroom Pod Cast Series**

More than 20 interviews with leaders in education and the cable industry discussing how their fields intersect and can complement one another. For example, Alton Brown, host of the Food Network's Good Eats explains why science is a major part of his program and how teachers can apply his techniques to teach real-world science in the classroom. <http://www.ciconline.org/podcasts>.

### **Watersheds: Connecting Weather to the Environment**

This is the first in a series of free online courses relating to weather and the environment. <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/broadcastmet/watershed>

### **Climate Classroom**

National Wildlife Federation's new Web site features guidelines for parents, proposed new national global warming educator guidelines, age-adapted sources of useful curricula, a downloadable slide presentation for kids, and more. <http://www.ClimateClassroom.org>

## **7. Interesting Tree Fact #20**

### **Moon Trees!**

In 1971, astronaut Stuart Roosa orbited the moon with over 400 tree seeds as part of a joint project by NASA and the US Forest Service. Five different types of trees were experimented with. They were germinated and compared to a group of control trees 20 years later and showed no discernable difference! Many of the seedlings were planted in the US and around the world as part of the country's bicentennial celebration in 1975. Six "moon trees" are still growing Florida, including a sycamore on the University of Florida's campus.

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Items are from the Kids Gardening web site, EdInfo listserv, NAAEE listserv, National PLT listserv, Rainforest Alliance newsletter, and a variety of education focused newsletters.