

December 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

PLT Resources Online

PLT has put together a bundle of resources to help you better meet your students' needs for environmental education, such as PLT activities and classroom lessons.

- **Activity Enhancements:** Activities and lesson plans that can be used by themselves, or as additions to existing PLT activities.
- **Activity Materials:** Find premade PLT handouts and materials here! Cut down on your prep time.
- **Resource Links:** Web resources on agriculture, energy, fire, forests, general environmental education, Florida issues, invasive species, land use, recycling, service learning, urban forestry, water, and wildlife.

Visit <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/resources/index.html> for additional information.

2. Upcoming PLT Events and Workshops

*January 8, 2008: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Dallas B. Townsend Agricultural Center in LaBelle, Hendry County. Contact Sonja Crawford, (863) 674-4092 or sycr@ufl.edu. \$10 registration fee.

* January 11: 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. Registration deadline is January 4. \$20 registration fee.

* January 12: PreK-8 PLT Workshop at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Hillsborough County. Contact Laura Paner, (813) 935-8552 x 308 or laura.paner@lowryparkzoo.com. Registration deadline is January 4. \$15 registration fee.

* February 1, 8 and 12 (same workshop offered different days): PreK-8 Workshop at Leon County Extension Office in Tallahassee in Leon County. Registration details coming soon. For information, including registration, contact: Robin Will, Robin_Will@fws.gov. *Sponsored by the Leon County Extension Service*

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.

3. Conferences/Events/Workshops

Pisgah Forest Institute 2007 Workshops

A variety of earth and environmental science education programs for educators. Funding from the USDA Forest Service and others allows this to be a FREE learning experience (room and board are included). Limited Spaces Available!
<http://pisgahforestinstitute.org/>

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.

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop—February 26-29, 2008

This workshop is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. Workshop will be at the Tibet-Butler Preserve in Orlando, FL. For requirements and registration information visit www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml or contact Kathy Gross at kgross2700@yahoo.com.

National Environmental Education Week—April 13-19, 2008

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

4. Grants/Contests/Awards

NASA Explorer School

Applications are now available for educators interested in joining NASA Explorer Schools during the 2008-2009 school year. This is a three-year partnership designed for grades 4-9. <http://explorerschools.nasa.gov/portal/site/nes/>

HP Technology for Teaching Grant Guidelines

In 2008, a total of nearly \$7 million in cash and equipment will be awarded to K-12 schools in the U.S. Deadline to apply is February 2008.

http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html

5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom

Materials from the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academies of Science (resource for PreK-8's *The Global Climate #84* and *Risk Module's* upcoming *Biotechnology Supplement*)

The museum houses three exhibits: Wonders of Science; Global Warming: Facts and Our Future; and Infectious Diseases: Evolving Challenges to Human Health. Find teacher-tested classroom resources to integrate in lesson planning (grades six through college) and engage students through virtual field trips.

<http://koshlandscience.org/teachers>

Exploring Florida (resource for *Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live* and PreK-8's *People, Places and Things #74* and *Planning the Ideal Community #55*)

A collection of over 5,000 historic maps representing many different time periods from the Educational Technology Clearinghouse. All maps are available as GIF or JPEG files for screen display as well as in PDF for printing. <http://etc.usf.edu/maps/> Florida history comes alive with Florida in 3-D, reading passages, and multimedia resources at <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/>.

United Nations Announces 2008 "International Year of the Potato" (resource for the "Potatoes, Pesticides, and Biodiversity" activity in PLT's online *Biodiversity* module)

The potato's outstanding nutrition profile, health benefits, and ability to feed the masses were key to the UN's declaration of 2008 as the "International Year of the Potato." The designation was approved as a way to help the UN meet its Millennium Development Goals. For more information about the designation, visit

<http://www.potato2008.org>.

6. Resources

eField Trip: Caves, An Underground Wonderland

January 2008 trip is free to educators. Each trip consists of three major components: eFieldTrip journal, virtual visit, and posting questions via the "ask the experts web form".

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

BioWorksU

Introduces students to life science careers.

<http://bioworks.com/>

NOAA Photo Library—New and Improved

The NOAA Photo Library is new, updated, and significantly different from the old version which it is replacing. Now with more than 10,000 new images for use in the classroom.

<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/>

Biotechnology Education Magazine Now Online

Download or read articles online for FREE!

http://www.biotechinstitute.org/resources/your_world_magazine.html

Children's Literature: Digitized Print Materials

50 digitized texts of rare books such as *The Arabian Nights* and *Ballad of the Lost Hare*.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/digitalcoll/digitalcoll-children.html>

Lit2Go

A free online collection of stories and poems in Mp3 (audiobook) format.

<http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>

Don't Let it Loose

Aimed primarily at 7th and 8th grades, this activity guide encourages teachers to explore the role of introduced species in our natural ecosystems (highlights the Florida Everglades). <http://www.nps.gov/ever/forteachers/dlil.htm>

Fossil Fuels to Products

Guide provides background and activities on the exploration and production of oil and natural gas and the many uses for petroleum products.

<http://www.need.org/needpdf/FossilFuelsToProducts.pdf>

Downloadable Lesson Plans from SPICE

SPICE supports inquiry-based teaching and learning. Lessons available in ecosystem health, life science, chemistry/physics, earth-space science, and general science.

<http://www.spice.centers.ufl.edu/modules.asp>

Residuals-Biosolids-Sludge Curriculum Infusion unit

Guide helps teachers understand and educate students about the wise recycling of this little known resource. Contact the author, Dr. Kane, at

phil.kane@dep.state.fl.us for possible in-person training or download for free from <http://www.lulu.com/content/163583>.

Adopt-an-Author Program

A free nationwide program designed to excite young adults about reading and writing through the use of best-selling thrillers, heroic non-fiction stories, motivational books and direct contact with the authors via personal appearances, classroom phone calls, e-mails, and interactive websites.

<http://www.adoptanauthor.com/>

Butterflies and Moths of North America

A searchable database of verified butterfly and moth records in the United States. This site includes dynamic distribution maps, photographs, species accounts, and species checklists for each county in the US.

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

Children's Butterfly Site

Interesting site written for children.

<http://bsi.montana.edu/web/kidsbutterfly/faq>

7. Interesting Tree Fact #21

Sustainable Underwater Logging



"Mother Nature never intended for trees to be underwater," explains Christopher Godsall, president and CEO of Triton Logging. But trees -- perhaps as many as 300 million worldwide -- are submerged in reservoirs and Triton has come up with an innovative, eco-friendly method for harvesting them.

Triton has been recovering Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, hemlock and other species that have been preserved by cold water and turning a profit without damaging the surrounding environment. Key to his efforts is the Sawfish, an underwater logging machine invented by the company. Operated by remote control, the Sawfish attaches inflatable air bags to the trees, then cuts them underwater with an electric chain saw. The air bags float the logs to the water's surface, where they are loaded onto barges.

The Rainforest Alliance has certified Triton's milled wood under our [SmartWood Rediscovered program](#), which recognizes environmentally sound practices for the recovery, recycling and reuse of wood products. The eco-friendly logging method doesn't emit carbon dioxide the way that conventional logging does, doesn't pollute the water and leaves the lake floor undisturbed.

Courtesy of Rainforest Alliance, August 2007 *Rainforest Matters*.

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