

August 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

Inside:

1. PLT News
2. Upcoming PLT Events and Workshops
3. Conferences/Events/Workshops-
4. Grants/Contests/Awards
5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom
6. Resources
7. Book Review
8. Interesting Tree Fact #19

1. PLT News

New PLT and WILD FCAT-like Prompts

PLT and Project WILD received a combined correlations grant from the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) to fund the creation of new FCAT-like prompts to be used with our activities. A total of 17 new sets of science, math, and language arts prompts for PLT were created and 24 for WILD. Visit the PLT Correlations page to view the new connections:
http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/correlations/FCAT_like_prompts/index.html.

In addition, the existing FCAT-like prompts on our Correlations page are being redesigned to make them easier to access and use in the classroom.

Project WILD FCAT-like prompts can be found at <http://myfwc.com/educator/sss.htm>.

2. Upcoming PLT Events and Workshops

* August 3: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at The Roy Hyatt Environmental Center in Escambia County. Contact Craig at (850)983-5219 or iversec@doacs.state.fl.us to register.

* August 16: PreK-8 Educator PLT and WILD Workshop in Miami. To register call Kathie at (305) 888-5010.

* September 8: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at the Environmental Center at the MDC Kendall Campus. Contact Karina at kbecerra@mdc_edu to register.

*September 22: PreK-8 Educator Workshop at Austin Carey Memorial Forest in Gainesville. Register at ufplt@ufl.edu or call (352) 338-4575.

* September 28: PreK-8 Educator and Preservice students Workshop in Tallahassee at Leon County Extension office. Contact Robin at robin_will@fws.gov to register.

* October 12: PreK-8 Educator and Preservice students Workshop in Tallahassee at Leon County Extension office. Contact Robin at robin_will@fws.gov to register.

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

NSA Sponsored FREE Online Astronomy Workshop September 12 - October 10, 2007

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASTC) and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory are currently accepting applications for science center and other informal educators to be considered for the free workshop. Note: Class created for educator/docent/volunteer from a small- or medium-sized nature center, science center or museum in the United States. To learn more, visit <http://astrosociety.org/afgu/distance.html>.

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.fcass.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>

4. Grants/Contests/Awards

Kidsgardening Photo Contest

Polish your lenses, shutterbugs! The top prize in each of two categories is a \$250 gift certificate to the Gardening with Kids Store Visit Web site for details: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/special/photo/index.asp>.

Disney Minnie Grants

The Walt Disney Company and Youth Service America are pleased to announce grants of up to \$500 to support youth-led service projects. These grants support youth (ages 5-14) in planning and implementing service projects in their community. Deadline to apply is August 30. Visit <http://ysa.org/AwardsGrants/tabid/58/Default.aspx> for full details.

2007 Organic School Garden Awards

Do you use organic methods in your school garden? If so, you are eligible to enter this contest sponsored by The Rodale Institute. Three winning schools will receive cash prizes of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. Deadline to apply is October 31, 2007. Visit <http://www.kidsregen.org/gardens/index.shtml> for additional information.

2008 Youth Garden Grants

Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden in 2008 with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Deadline to apply: November 1, 2007. Visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp> for more details.

Mantis Awards

Mantis sponsors this award program in support of charitable and educational garden programs that enhance the quality of life in their host communities. We welcome applications from all nonprofits; past winners include community gardens, schools, ministries, colleges, master gardening groups, and hospices. Deadline to apply: March 1, 2008. <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp>

5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom

EPA's Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign

(use with Municipal Solid Waste module and "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" activity #37)

This campaign aims to ensure that all schools are free from hazards associated with mismanaged chemicals. The downloadable SC3 Toolkit gives K-12 schools the information necessary to responsibly manage chemicals including:

- How to remove inappropriate, outdated, unknown, unnecessary chemicals from maintenance closets and science labs.
- How to prevent future chemical mismanagement issues through training, curriculum, and policy change.
- How to raise awareness of chemical issues in schools and promote sustainable solutions.

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserveschools/index.htm

Science Careers Web site

(use with “Who Works in this Forest” activity #34 and all secondary modules)

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics created a web site that suggests possible careers for students interested in science. Careers described include pharmacist, chemist, environmental scientist, etc. Relevant statistics, educational background and experience, likely salaries, and more, are given for each career. For more information visit www.bls.gov/k12/science.htm.

Soil-Net (use with Prek-8’s “Soil Stories” activity #70 and Florida Urban Forest Supplement’s Soil Stories on page 59)

National Soil Resources Institute in the United Kingdom created Soil-Net.com as an educational resource about soil, with extensive teacher aids supporting many curriculum-based interactive student activities. For grades 1-9.

<http://www.soil-net.com>

6. Resources

Free Online Course: “Watersheds: Connecting Weather to the Environment”

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) in partnership with the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education & Training (COMET(r)), has released the first in a series of free online courses relating weather to the environment. Watersheds: Connecting Weather to the Environment is part of an innovative program to provide environmental education and resources to broadcast meteorologists, enabling them to become "station scientists" who can integrate environmental science information into weather forecasts. <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/broadcastmet/watershed/>

Maggie’s Earth Adventures

Maggie's Earth Adventures (MEA) LLC, is a free educational web site offered to teachers worldwide in both English and Spanish. MEA's animated stories address important environmental issues such as over-fishing, invasive species, animal habitats and the Chesapeake Bay. Online interactive games and FREE downloadable standards-based activities in four subject areas are available. www.missmaggie.org

Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future

Published by UNESCO, this multimedia teacher education program has 25 modules and more than 100 hours of interactive activities to enhance educator understanding of sustainable development. Download the full program and toolbox from the UNESCO web site.

<http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/?jmid=1015763978>

New Ocean Currents Tutorial Now Online

The NOAA National Ocean Service has launched an online tutorial and roadmap to data resources. The tutorial identifies the major factors that cause coastal and open ocean currents and two lesson plans which focus on the causes of ocean currents and navigating in coastal ocean currents. For more information, visit <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/currents>.

Everyday Mysteries

This great online resource by the Library of Congress helps us understand answers to common questions such as: Why are summers hot and winters cold? What does "the universe is expanding" mean? How does GPS work? How does sunscreen work? Why does hair turn gray?

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/>

Secret Lives of Wild Animals

This web site looks at new technologies being used to observe animals in their natural environments. See video clips and stories about tracking white-tailed deer, ocelots, agoutis, dragonflies, zebras, and seals.

http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/animals/index.jsp

U.S. South Pole Station

This site offers a multimedia look at research underway on earth's coldest, highest, driest, and windiest continent -- and the least hospitable to human life. Find out what makes the South Pole a unique place for studying astronomy, air and ozone, seismic science, off-world simulations, and life sciences.

http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/livingsouthpole/index.jsp

National Poetry Map

Take a journey through the country's vast array of poetry resources and discover local landmarks, evocative poems, neighborhood celebrations, and hometown heroes. With countless new information added, each state page now features local conferences, festivals, event listings, poetry-friendly bookstores, journals, presses, as well as state-specific poets, poems, and poetic history.

<http://www.poets.org/map>

League of Environmental Educators in Florida New Web Site

LEEF's web site is new and really has its act together. In addition to information on LEEF, it provides a search engine to locate environmental education programs around the state with ease.

<http://www.leef-florida.org>

7. Book Review

Kelley Weitzel, PLT Facilitator and author of *author of Journeys with Florida's Indians and The Timucua Indians - A Native American Detective Story*, provides this review of The Omnivore's Dilemma:

Humans agonize over our diet. As omnivores, we can eat almost anything, and we often fall prey to two powerful lures: commercial advertising and the newest, most popular diet craze. So how do we humans solve the omnivore's dilemma? How do we choose what to eat?

Michael Pollan, author of The Omnivore's Dilemma, tries to answer this question by investigating the three basic food chains available to modern man: the "industrial," the "pastoral," and the "personal." He might have easily called them "big agriculture," "small farming," and "hunting / gathering."

To read the complete review visit our web site

http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline_2007_08_Bookreview.html and to learn more about Kelley's work visit www.kelleyweitzel.com.

8. Interesting Tree Fact #19

Landowning Tree. In the city of Athens, GA, one of the oldest property owners is a White Oak. The deed dates back to 1820 and says the tree owns the 64 square feet of land on which it grows in addition to owning itself. The deed was granted in the will of Col. William H. Jackson to protect the beloved oak. The original tree blew down during a storm in 1952, but the citizens of Athens planted another, grown from one of the original tree's acorns.

(From Northwest Missouri State University Arboretum Tree Facts at

<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/arboretum/FACTS.HTM>)

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