

February 2008

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 #22

**1. PLT News**

**Thank you to our Facilitators for volunteering their time to lead workshops and conduct activities with youth throughout Florida!**

Christine Allen, Dale Armstrong, Megan Auchter, Florie Babcock, Mary Bahr, Karina Becerra, Marcia Bisnett, Sherrie Blackwater, Shelia Bolin, Marcus Boston, Heather Callahan, Catherine Carey, Authur Clothier, Colan Coody, Carolyn Durbin, David Finney, April Frederick, Cheryl George, Glen Harris, Lori Haynes, Mark Hebb, Linda Hebb, Gayle Hoffman, Joan Hourican, Michelle Hunter, Dawn Hurley, Todd Ireland, Craig Iversen, Karen Johnson-Folsom, Becky Jordi, Bill Kleinhans, Jane Kriegbaum, Debbie Lawrence, Joe MacKenzie, Nonie Maines, Cindy Maytrott, Jan McCurdy Schultz, Neal McDonald, Mark Miller, Martha Monroe, David Moody, Elizabeth Moore, Jennifer Oetting, Jody Owens, Annie Oxarart, Tara Powers, Robert Raze, Jr., Christina Reategui, Mike Renwick, Royanne Reusch, Kathie Roberts, Jean Rogalsky, Stan Rosenthal, Teresa Schroder, Deb Sparbeck, Shaun Stewart, Elaine Suber, Audrey Swindal, Amy Taylor, Chris Verlinde, Karen Weigelt, Zulema Weiher, Kelley Weitzel, Fred Wiechmann, Robin Will, Kelliann Whitney.

**Florida PLT Awards- Nominations Open**

Here's your chance to recognize an individual or organization for their efforts in promoting and enhancing environmental education.

-Nominate an educator that incorporates PLT activities into the classroom or their programs and encourages the use of PLT activities by their colleagues.

-Nominate a facilitator that has energized you to bring the environment into the

classroom by using PLT.

-Nominate an organization or business that has supported your efforts of using PLT in your school, center, or programs.

Additional criteria for each award are listed on the nomination forms that can be downloaded from the PLT web site ([http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/facilitators/awards\\_and\\_nominations\\_complete.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/facilitators/awards_and_nominations_complete.html)).

**Deadline for all nominations: April 28**

### **2009 PLT Conference**

Get ready for a tree-ific time in 2009! This event is for PLT Trained Educators and Facilitators. Location and date will be announced later this Spring.

## **2. Upcoming PLT Events and Workshops**

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

\*March: PreK-8 Workshop at Pensacola Junior College in Milton (Santa Rosa County) during the Forestry Conclave and Lumberjack Festival. Download the registration form from the PLT Web site (see below). For additional information contact: Chris Verlinde, [chrismv@ufl.edu](mailto:chrismv@ufl.edu). *\$15 registration fee*

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/calendar.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/events_calendar/calendar.html).

## **3. Conferences/Events/Workshops**

### **Florida Forestry Teachers Tour: June 19-22**

Join teachers from around the state in this behind the scenes tour of forestry in Florida. This is an exclusive opportunity for educators to visit paper, engineered wood and solid wood mills, as well as private, public and industrial forests, including logging operations. For additional information and an application visit [http://www.fl-dof.com/calendar/forestry\\_teachers\\_tour.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/calendar/forestry_teachers_tour.html)

### **World Forestry Center's International Educators Institute: July 14-19**

An intensive week-long study tour that brings together some of the most successful classroom teachers in the US and abroad to the World Forestry Center to exchange information about utilizing best practices in forestry education. [http://worldforestry.org/wfi/dm\\_institute.php](http://worldforestry.org/wfi/dm_institute.php)

**League of Environmental Educators in Florida Conference: March 27-30**

Join fellow park naturalists, outdoor educators, homeschoolers, and K-12 teachers at Camp Crystal Lake in north central Florida!

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

**Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop: February 26-29**

This workshop is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. It combines both the theoretical foundations of the profession with practical skills in delivering quality interpretive programming to visitors. Workshop will be at the Tibet-Butler Preserve in Orlando, FL. For requirements and registration information visit [www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml](http://www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml) or contact Kathy Gross at [kgross2700@yahoo.com](mailto:kgross2700@yahoo.com).

**National Environmental Education Week: April 13-19**

Participate in the largest environmental education event in U.S. history.

<http://www.EEWeek.org>

**Nature Art and Earth Day Event at Nature's Classroom: April 19-20**

Interested in spending time among wildlife in Hillsborough County? Nature's Classroom is hosting an Earth Day Event April 19-20 from 9 am to 5 pm. Volunteers are needed for a variety of positions. Contact Karen Johnson-Folsom at [karen.johnson@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:karen.johnson@sdhc.k12.fl.us) for more information.

**4. Grants/Contests/Awards**

***GreenWorks!* Grant from National PLT**

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 April 2008.

[http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_22\\_18.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html)

**Call for Nominations: 2008 AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize**

This \$1,000 prize honors a high school science teacher who has contributed to the AAAS goal of advancing science education by developing an innovative and effective strategy, activity, or program.

[http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs\\_scied\\_leadership/hs\\_scied\\_leadership.shtml](http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs_scied_leadership/hs_scied_leadership.shtml)

**New Wuzzleburg Preschool Garden Grant**

Schools and daycare centers that actively engage at least 10 children aged 3 to 5 in garden projects are eligible to apply for grant packages that include \$1000 of pre-selected products from NGA's Gardening with Kids Store.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/2008-wubbzy.asp>

## 5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom

### ***National Invasive Weed Awareness Week: February 24-29***

Jump start your lesson with PLT activities! PLT PreK-8's "Invasive Species" and Changing Forest: Forest Ecology's "Home Sweet Home" with Florida information on our resource page at

[http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/resources/activity\\_materials\\_invasive\\_species\\_photos.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/resources/activity_materials_invasive_species_photos.html).

### ***Florida Prescribed Fire Awareness Week: March 10-14***

Use PLT PreK-8's "Living with Fire" and the Burning Issues CD-ROM. The Fire in Florida web site has additional resources for educators.

[http://fireinflorida.ifas.ufl.edu/resources\\_extension\\_and\\_educators.html](http://fireinflorida.ifas.ufl.edu/resources_extension_and_educators.html)

### ***World Water Day: March 22 ( <http://www.worldwaterday.org/page/121>)***

#### **Drinking Water vs. Groundwater**

**(resource for PreK-8's "Every Drop Counts," "Water Wonders," and others)**

The Environmental Protection Agency has a webpage dedicated to water education. The website has pages for both K-12 educators and students. Navigate the website to find a flash animated water cycle, steps for how to create a water cycle terrarium using everyday items, and review water trivia facts. Do you know how much one gallon of water weighs? Visit [www.epa.gov/safewater/kids](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids) to find out!

## 6. Resources

### **MIT OpenCourseWare: Highlights for High School**

A variety of online materials available such as video science demonstrations, content knowledge to supplement coursework and more.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/hs/home/teachers/index.htm>

### **Rising Tides**

An oceanographic education journal developed with high school science teachers and students in mind. Each issue includes a collection of cutting-edge research articles as well as classroom and laboratory activities, scientist interviews, further reading, and links to a plethora of oceanography topics.

<http://phytoplankton.gsfc.nasa.gov/risingtides/>

### **"Test Drive" Resources in the National Science Digital Library**

Project Tomorrow is seeking educators to participate in Project TestDrive, a national research study on the classroom effectiveness of the online K-12 science, technology, engineering, and math resources from the National Science Digital Library (NSDL).

<http://www.tomorrow.org/programs/testdrive.html>

### **Flora Delaterre—The Plant Detective Radio Show**

Shows provide general information about medicinal plants, including efficacy, benefits, risks, and lore. Past shows are archived on the web site.

<http://www.floradelaterre.com/index.php?id=6>

### **Florida Public Archaeology Network**

Regional offices offer school programs, host workshops, and lead tours.

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

### **Project Budburst—Begins February 15**

Project BudBurst is a national field campaign for citizen scientists designed to engage the public in the collection of important climate change data based on the timing of leafing and flowering of trees and flowers. Student and teacher friendly!

[http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen\\_science/budburst/](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/)

### **Environment and Ocean Literacy**

The National Geographic Society's web site with a variety of teacher resources.

<http://www.ngsednet.org/oceans>

### **NCBYS Web Portal**

This Web portal is meant to serve as a centralized clearinghouse of information and resources to assist you in engaging and inspiring blind youth to greater achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and careers. <http://www.blindscience.org/ncbys>

### **Everyday Mysteries**

This site presents questions asked by researchers and answered by librarians. All questions deal with everyday phenomena often taken for granted, and each can be answered scientifically.

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

### **Your Climate, Your Future from the World Wildlife Fund**

High school curriculum divided into 15 lessons.

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/seclimatewitness>

### **National High Magnetic Field Laboratory**

All teachers need to add new gear to their toolbox every now and then, whether it's a nifty gizmo, a catchy activity or just a fresh way of thinking about an old topic. We offer teachers in search of that extra something a variety of resources, from classroom visits to guided tours by our scientists.

<http://www.magnet.fsu.edu/education/teachers/>

### **Songs for Teaching**

A website that offers music related to science, other academic subjects, and classroom management.

<http://SongsforTeaching.com>

### **BioQUEST Library Online**

This peer-reviewed publication of curricular materials for biology education. The modules are downloadable and freely accessible for educational use per our agreement with individual authors. <http://www.bioquest.org/BQLibrary/>

## 7. Book Reviews

*By Summer Solomon, Garden Specialist, Learning Gate Community School*

### **Cherry, Lynne "How Groundhog's Garden Grew" ISBN 0-439-32371-1**

Lynne Cherry's How Groundhog's Garden Grew is a beautifully illustrated garden tale to share with preschool through third grade children. The illustrations of varieties of seedlings germinating on the inside cover of the book is inspiring. The narrative of leads children on a journey that will help them better understand the process of growing food. Read full review at [http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline\\_2008\\_02\\_Bookreview.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline_2008_02_Bookreview.html).

### **Stephens, J "Vegetable Gardening in Florida" ISBN0-8130-1674-6**

James M. Stephens' Vegetable Gardening in Florida is a wonderful resource for anyone endeavoring to learn or teach students how to garden in Florida. A teacher, a parent, or student can read this resource and get back out into the garden to successfully turn out crops from a container garden or an acre. This is an essential quick reference book. Read full review at [http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline\\_2008\\_02\\_Bookreview.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline_2008_02_Bookreview.html).

## 8. Interesting Tree Fact #22

### **Nature's Air Filters**

You can spend a lot of money on fancy filters that clean the air in your home, or you can let Mother Nature have her hand at it. Houseplants are more than decorative home accessories; they are green machines working 24-7 to suck in polluted air and release clean, oxygen-rich air for us to breathe. Who would have thought those plants sitting in the corner are doing more than just looking good!

Studies done at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) prove that many common houseplants actually reduce gases and pollutants in the air. The pollution derives from carpet, furniture, building materials, smoke, and cleaning supplies. NASA found that two to three plants placed in an average sized room remove up to 87 percent of air pollutants, thus improving air quality. And for those of you in newer homes, where air exchange may be minimal, this is great news.

Courtesy of the National Gardening Association:

<http://www.garden.org/celebratingtheseasons/?page=natures-filters>.

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