

April 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

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**1. PLT News**

**Places We Live Secondary Online Training**

Our new online training program provides educators with a useful tool for placed based education to help create a bond between young citizens and their communities.

[http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/materials\\_and\\_programs/Online\\_Training\\_Program/online\\_training\\_program.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/materials_and_programs/Online_Training_Program/online_training_program.html)

**Literacy and Nature—3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Resources**

Many PLT activities suggest book titles to integrate reading and science but do not provide reading lesson plans or worksheets. Florida PLT created reading and writing exercises to complement popular reading books and PLT activities.

[http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/literacy\\_and\\_nature/index.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/literacy_and_nature/index.html)

**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, PLT facilitator, or business partner of the year for the Annual Florida PLT Awards.

Additional criteria for each award are listed on the nomination forms that can be downloaded from the PLT web site at

[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, 2008**

## **2. Upcoming PLT Events**

### **2009 PLT Conference**

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

### **2009 Facilitator Training 2-day Workshop**

Interested in conducting PLT Workshops in your region? A leadership training session is being planned for 2009. The dates and location have not been finalized yet. Contact Jenny at [jacohen@ufl.edu](mailto:jacohen@ufl.edu) if interested in attending.

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**

### **Plant Genomics and Biotechnology Secondary Educator Workshop**

All costs, except transportation to Gainesville, FL, will be covered and participants will receive a stipend and help with arranging for in-service training credits (~40h).

<http://forestgenomics.ifas.ufl.edu/Genomics%20and%20Biotechnology%20in%20Forestry.html>

### **Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop: April 8-11**

For anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public, here is your chance to add to your knowledge and learn practical techniques, as well as receive certification, through the National Association for Interpretation. The workshop is being held at Nature's Classroom in Tampa. More information and registration form at [www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml](http://www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml) or contact Emilie Joyce at [emkjoyce@hotmail.com](mailto:emkjoyce@hotmail.com).

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

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

### **Woods, Water and Wildlife Earth Day Celebration and Art Festival**

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 and organizations are invited to set-up an exhibit. Contact Karen Johnson-Folsom at [karen.johnson@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:karen.johnson@sdhc.k12.fl.us) for more information.

### **Teacher Program to Galapagos Islands- November and December 2008**

The 2008 Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands will provide a fully-funded professional development experience for 30 educators to this World Heritage Site in the Pacific Ocean. Deadline: May 9, 2008

[http://www.iie.org/programs/toyota/galapagos/galapagos\\_main\\_w\\_links.html](http://www.iie.org/programs/toyota/galapagos/galapagos_main_w_links.html)

#### 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. Deadline: April 30, 2008.

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

##### **Discovery Education Live Green Teacher Grants**

Teachers working in 5–9 grades can submit an essay regarding an environmental project that will "improve instruction, identify and show best practices, and enhance student achievement." Deadline: May 15, 2008.

<http://livegreen.discoveryeducation.com/>

##### **Rachel Carson Intergenerational Poetry, Essay and Photo Contest**

Entries must be intergenerational involving a team of persons related or unrelated and describe the intergenerational project and how this project brought the team in touch with nature. Deadline: June 16, 2008.

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>

#### 5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom

##### **Put a Poem in your Pocket on April 17 (resource for PreK-8's "Poet-Tree" #5)**

The idea is simple: choose a poem during National Poetry Month to carry and share with friends, co-workers, family, even strangers on April 17.

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

##### **Florida Wildfire Awareness Week: 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April (resource for PreK-8's "Living with Fire" #81 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)

##### **Drinking Water Week: May 4-10 (resource for PreK-8's "Every Drop Counts," "Water Wonders," and others)**

The Environmental Protection Agency web site 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.

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids>

#### 6. School Spotlight

On January 18, 2008 Mrs. Alison Waters' 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class planted a tree on Florida Arbor day as part of their PLT projects. The students learned the proper way to transplant a tree, most were surprised to learn that you had to make the hole bigger and undo the roots so they could grow. The tree was planted next to the PLT Outdoor Learning Center

at Lake Butler Elementary School. The PLT Outdoor Learning Center was build with a grant from Plum Creek Timber Foundation, Lake Butler Elementary School Parent Teachers Association, and the Union County 4-H Foundation Inc. To see pictures visit: [http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/schools\\_and\\_centers/schools\\_lakebutler.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/schools_and_centers/schools_lakebutler.html).

*Do you have an event or story to share about your school? Send information to Jenny at [jacohen@ufl.edu](mailto:jacohen@ufl.edu).*

## **7. Resources**

### **Clipart ETC**

Over 34,000 free educational clipart for teachers and students.  
<http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/index.htm>

### **Kids.Gov**

The official kids' portal to the U.S. government geared to students in grades K-8.  
<http://www.kids.gov/>

### **The National Atlas Printable Maps**

Do you need a simple prepared map that you can print at home, at school, or in the office? The National Atlas has a large selection of free maps that are already formatted to be viewed, downloaded, or printed on 8.5" x 11" paper.  
<http://www-atlas.usgs.gov/printable.html>

### **New Environment and Ocean Literacy Web site**

Hosted by the National Geographic Society, this site provides lesson plans, maps, photos, news articles, books, videos, and more.  
[http://www.ngsednet.org/community/index.cfm?community\\_id=128](http://www.ngsednet.org/community/index.cfm?community_id=128)

### **America Walks Webinars**

For teachers and community organizers looking to encourage students to walk and bike to school, the Safe Routes Coaching Action Network is a way for you to learn from people who know how to make things happen.  
[http://www.americawalks.org/Content/10076/Safe\\_Routes\\_Coaching\\_Action\\_Network.html](http://www.americawalks.org/Content/10076/Safe_Routes_Coaching_Action_Network.html)

## **8. Book Review**

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

### **Lovejoy, Sharon "Roots, Shoots, Buckets and Boots: Activities to do in the Garden" ISBN: 0-761-11056-9**

Sharon Lovejoy opens her whimsically inspired garden book with this quote from Rachel Carson's book *A Sense of Wonder* "A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement". Gardening with children is one of the easiest ways to give students an opportunity to explore the natural world. This garden activity book is full of fantastic ideas and activities that will motivate and inspire any teacher to garden

successfully with kids. The activities are artfully illustrated, clearly described, and use earth-friendly gardening practices. Read full review at [http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline\\_2008\\_04\\_Bookreview.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline_2008_04_Bookreview.html).

## 9. Interesting Tree Fact #23

### Plants' Photo-Protection

A team of researchers led by the University of Sheffield and Queen Mary, University of London, has discovered how plants protect their leaves from damage by sunlight when they are faced with extreme climates. The new findings could have implications both for adapting plants to the threat of global warming and for helping humans better harness solar energy.

Photosynthesis in plants relies upon the efficient collection of sunlight. This process can work even at low levels of sunlight, when plants are in the shade or under cloud cover, for example. However, when the sun is very bright or when it is cold or very dry, the level of light energy absorbed by leaves can be used in photosynthesis and can destroy the plant. To prevent this, plants employ a process called *photo-protection*, in which a change takes place in the leaves so that the excess light energy is converted into heat that is harmlessly dispersed.

Read the complete news release at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/mediacentre/2007/927.html>.

Source: National Science Teachers Association. 2008. "In the News". Science and Children 45 (6): 8. <http://www.nsta.org/elementaryschool/>

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