

June 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. School Spotlight
7. Resources
8. Book Review
9. Interesting Tree Fact #24

1. PLT News

PLT 2008 Awards

Project Learning Tree applauds all educators, facilitators, and partners whose efforts make our Florida PLT program successful. Each year we recognize two individuals and one organization at the Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting. The recipients must meet high standards for helping with workshops or using PLT in the classroom.

Educator of the Year: Ed Lewis

Facilitator of the Year: Joan Hourican

Business Partner of the Year: Family of Orange Lake Resorts Orlando

Congratulations to our 2008 Florida PLT Award Recipients!

New PLT Schools and EE Center

PLT is more than a collection of activities that can be used with students as classroom filler. It is a means to engage students in critical thinking and hands-on explorations of our natural world. The Florida PLT School and Environmental Education Center programs provide opportunities for PLT to reach an entire community.

The Florida PLT School is a special designation to signify that at least fifty percent of teachers have participated in a PLT workshop from an elementary school or from a subject or grade level in a middle or high school, the school has chosen either one week each year as "PLT Week" or the teachers incorporate at least six activities from PLT in their lesson plans throughout the year, and the school has selected a "PLT Coordinator" from the faculty.

The PLT Steering Committee is excited to bestow the PLT School designation onto Walden Community School and Ft. Lauderdale Preparatory School.

The PLT Environmental Education Center signifies that approved PLT Centers have at least one staff member or volunteer who has attended a PLT Facilitator Training Workshop and commit to host at least one PLT educator workshop a year. Centers demonstrate their commitment to education through existing educational programs and provide another link between teachers and important community environmental education resources.

Florida PLT is proud to announce that Family of Orange Lake Resorts Orlando is our newest PLT EE Center. We look forward to continuing our partnership with PLT Facilitators on staff, Shelia Bolin and Neal McDonald.

For information on how your school or center can receive one of these designations visit http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/schools_and_centers/index.html.

Updated Water Wonder Files on Web Site

The 2006 and later editions of the PreK-8 Guide include a glacier station in place of a mountain station in the activity Water Wonders. Updated station pictures and station slips can be found on the Activity Materials page at http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/resources/activity_materials.html.

2. Upcoming PLT Events

2009 PLT Conference —PLT Extravaganza

Get ready for a tree-ific time in 2009! This event is for PLT Trained Educators and Facilitators. We will be hosted by the Division of Forestry's Center for Wildfire and Forest Resources Management Training in Hernando County.

- November 4–6, Facilitator Leadership Training
- November 5–7, PLT Conference

Registration and tentative agenda will be posted later this year.

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.

3. Conferences/Events/Workshops

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop: July15-18,2008

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 will be held at Nature's

Classroom in Tampa. Visit www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml for more information and a registration form or contact Emilie Joyce at emkjoyce@hotmail.com.

4. Grants/Contests/Awards

2009 Youth Garden Grants Program

Gifts of teaching materials and merchandise credits of up to \$1,000 will be given to schools and community organizations providing gardening programs for children between the ages of 3 and 18.

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/YGG.asp>

Toshiba America Foundation Science and Math Education Project Proposals

Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to public and private schools working to improve instruction and learning in science and mathematics for grades 7-12.

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

Samsung's Hope for Education Technology Program Invites Essay Entries

Grants worth up to \$200,000 in cash, software, technology, and television programming will be awarded to K-12 schools in the United States; essay nominations about technology and the environment are welcome from all members of a school's community.

<http://pages.samsung.com/us/hopeforeducation/index.html>

World Wide Wolves Essay Contest

The International Wolf Center is holding a classroom essay contest (for ages 10-14 & 15-18) to celebrate the addition of two new wolf pups to their Exhibit Pack this spring.

<http://www.wolf.org/wolves/learn/educator/essaycontest.asp>

Entomological Society of America Mimi-Grants

Grants will be awarded up to \$2,100 for small curriculum development efforts or professional development workshops emphasizing practical and innovative uses of Arthropods in K-12 formal and nonformal educational settings.

http://www.entfdn.org/awards_request_proposal.php

5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom

National Energy Awareness Month: October- Plan for next year!

Department of Energy's K-12 Energy Lesson Plans and Activities (use with Energy and Society Kit and Prek-8's Energy Sleuths #39, Renewable or Not #14, On the Move #53, In the Driver's Seat #85)

Offers 350 lessons on energy efficiency and renewable energy organized by grade level and topic. Learn about passive solar buildings, advanced photovoltaics, or basic wind turbines.

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/>

Educator Share Page

Have you adapted parts of a PLT activity for your classroom or program? Did you find an interesting prop to use with an activity? Send your finds and ideas to PLT Central for posting on the Educator Share Page.

http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/resources/educator_share_page.html

6. School Spotlight

Shadeville Elementary School (Crawfordville, FL) held a Global Trek PLT Week at their school in late April. PLT School Coordinators Michelle Hunter and Julia Parker invited community members to lead a variety of sessions with students such as Atomic Specturm, Web of Life, Who Polluted the St. Marks River, Turtle Trek, and Trees for the Forest.

Shadeville Elementary School is one of 11 Florida schools designated as a PLT School. For more information on your school can receive this designation visit

http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/schools_and_centers/schools.html.

7. Resources

Online Magazine for Elementary

To fill a national void in the elementary school curriculum and capitalize on student interest in the polar regions, Ohio State University and the National Science Digital Library launched a new online magazine for teachers in the early grades.

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=111303&govDel=USNSF_51

Schoolyard Geology

Use your schoolyard to teach geology. Activities include mapping a schoolyard using USGS's The National Map, locating and identifying rocks, and learning geologic concepts such as glacial striations, layers, and sinkholes.

<http://education.usgs.gov/schoolyard/>

Exploring Trees

Teachers exploring the relationship between carbon, photosynthesis, and the roots of trees for grades 5-8. The research presented in this monograph explores the processes trees use to capture the sun's energy and turn it into energy used for growth and maintenance. Download a free copy from

<http://www.naturalinquirer.usda.gov/pdf/12.pdf>

EPA Multimedia

The multimedia portal is EPA's one-stop location for environmental video, audio/podcasts, and photography. The portal also includes interactive features such as "Ask EPA".

<http://www.epa.gov/multimedia>

South Florida History Ecosystem Project

This site details the cross-dependencies of an ecosystem and explains the effort to restore the fragile South Florida Ecosystem by USGS and other cooperators. Photos, games, and a dictionary are featured.

<http://sofia.usgs.gov/flaecohist/kidscorner/>

8. Book Review

By Summer Solomon, Garden Specialist, Learning Gate Community School

Holly Phaneuf Ph.D. "Herbs Demystified" ISBN 1569244081

Dr. Phaneuf explores the fifty most common herbs used for herbal remedies. The guide is set up to be very readable; you do not have to be a biologist, botanist, or chemist to understand her description of how and why aloe works to soothe skin irritations. This guide would be useful for middle and high school teachers to use with their students as they go through PLT's Places We Live exercises. I have found that when a teacher helps their students understand their connection to the environment; their respect and stewardship of the environment increases. Read full review at

http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline_2008_06_Bookreview.html.

9. Interesting Tree Fact #24

A Tree's Role in Improving Air Quality

According to the USDA Forest Service's Urban Forest Effects model and based on the average urban forest characteristics, condition, and location of trees in Gainesville, Florida during 2006:

- A tree with an 8 in. diameter can store 126 lb and annually sequester 4 lb of carbon and remove 27 g of particulate matter (less than 10 microns in diameter).
- However, a tree that is 26 in. diameter can store 3, 500 lb and annually sequester 75 lb of carbon and remove 181 g of particulate matter (less than 10 microns in diameter).

In other words the larger a tree, the better its condition and the growing location, and the less gasoline and diesel is used in its maintenance; the greater a tree's role in improving air quality!

Courtesy of the Florida Urban and Urbanizing Forests Program unpublished research. For additional information contact flurbanforests@ifas.ufl.edu.

Items are from the EdInfo listserv, NAAEE listserv, SIFT listserv, National PLT listserv, and a variety of education focused newsletters.