

Florida *PLTree Line* Newsletter, August 2008 Issue

This bi-monthly newsletter is for you. Let me know what type of information you would like to see. I invite everyone to submit a blurb about how your school or center is using PLT with youth.

Thank you for all your support,
Jennifer Seitz
Florida PLT Coordinator

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1. PLT News

GreenWorks! Grants

These grants engage PLT educators and their students with their local community in "learning-by-doing" environmental projects. Student leadership, service-learning, and community participation are the cornerstones to *GreenWorks!* projects.

http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html

2. Upcoming PLT Events

*September 13: PreK-8 Workshop at Austin Cary Memorial Forest in Gainesville (Alachua County). For information, including registration, contact: Jenny Seitz, jacohen@ufl.edu. *\$10 registration fee includes lunch!*

*October 3 and 10 (same workshop offered different days): PreK-8 Workshop at Leon County Extension Office in Tallahassee (Leon County). Sponsored by the Leon County Extension Service. For information, including registration, contact: Robin Will, Robin_Will@fws.gov. *\$15 registration if not yet registered.*

*November 8: PLT Nature and Literacy 3rd-5th Grade Educator Workshop at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Jacksonville (Duval County). Sponsored by Rayonier, Inc. and International Paper Company. Registration details will be posted soon. *\$5 registration fee for Zoo Members, \$10 registration fee for non-Zoo Members*

*November 8: PLT K-5 Educator Workshop at The Environmental Center at Miami Dade College in Miami (Miami-Dade County). To register call (305) 237-2600. *\$40 registration fee*

* December 6: PLT and Energy & Society Workshop for Middle School Educators at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Jacksonville (Duval County). Energy kits are sponsored by JEA. Workshop is sponsored by Florida SFI Committee. Registration details will be posted soon. *\$5 registration fee for Zoo Members, \$10 registration fee for non-Zoo Members*

* January 19, 2009: PLT Biodiversity Workshop for Middle and High School Educators at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Jacksonville (Duval County). Sponsored by Florida SFI Committee. Registration details will be posted soon. *\$5 registration fee for Zoo Members, \$10 registration fee for non-Zoo Members*

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

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.

4. Grants/Contests/Awards

Sylvan Dell Publishing Announces Educational Resource Grant

The grant provides a free, one-year site license (2008/09 school year) for unlimited access to 35 Sylvan Dell eBooks, featuring flipviewer technology with selectable English and Spanish text and audio.

<http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ResourceGrant.htm>

5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom

LandScope America (use with PreK-8's Then and Now #40, Planning the Ideal Community #55, People, Places, Things #74)

This interactive conservation Web site links maps, data, and stories about natural places of America's lands and waters. This online resource for the land-protection community and the public is a collaborative project of NatureServe and the National Geographic Society.

<http://www.landscape.org/preview/Home.html>

Papermaking Video (use with PreK-8's Make Your Own Paper #51)

The video is a great resource for teachers; it integrates footage of a teacher doing PLT's activity (slightly modified version) and footage of the commercial paper-making process.

http://www.paperrecycles.org/school_recycling/index.html

PLT Activities Correlated with Dawn Publication Books

Books sold by Dawn Publications have been correlated to PLT activities by our Colorado PLT State Coordinator.

<http://www.dawnpub.com/2DetailLinks/ProjectLearningTree.cfm>

Earth & Sky Radio Program

This successful short format science radio program highlights the wonders of science and nature through daily radio shows. The radio shows have been correlated directly to PLT activities to help enhance teachers' use of the radio shows and PLT materials.

<http://www.earthsky.org/teachers/topic/forests>

TerraCycle and Eco-Capitalism (use with PreK-8's Pollution Search #36, Renewable or Not #14, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle #37 and the Municipal Solid Waste Secondary Module)

Students can learn about eco-capitalism and earn money by recycling! Terracycle buys plastic wraps, candy wrappers, and a whole slew of plastic containers from groups and schools to reuse for their business making everyday items out of trash. Visit

<http://www.terracycle.net/brigades/> and <http://www.terracycle.net/> to learn more.

Virtual Water Treatment Plant Tour

(use with PreK-8's Every Drop Counts #38 and Water Wonders #44)

A free CD-ROM illustrates how source water moves through the water treatment and distribution processes and ends up in your home, school, or business. The CD is also equipped with fun water facts and other classroom activities. Go to the EPA web site to request a free copy:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/owrccatalog.nsf/e673c95b11602f2385256ae1007279fe/067bfd5f59e06a1b85257176004fb94c!OpenDocument>

6. School Spotlight

Medart Elementary School (Crawfordville, FL) held a "Conservation is Key" PLT Week at their school. Led by PLT School Coordinators, Charlotte Hoover and Brooke Mohr, students were exposed to a variety of presentations such as boat safety, taking care of pets, camouflage, animal habitats, renewable resources, blacksmithing, and how to be green at home.

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

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

7. Resources

Science Friday on NPR

Every week during the school year, the Kids' Connection program translates information from National Public Radio's Science Friday into curriculum for middle school teachers.

<http://www.kidsnet.org/sfkc/>

Download "Take a Cloud Walk" Book for Free!

In this full-color, 30-page book, readers learn the basic names and shapes of clouds, why they move, why they are white, how they affect climate change, the difference between weather and climate, and weather terms and conditions such as hail and fog. Download your free PDF copy from <http://www.nostudentleftindoors.com/Cloudbook.html>.

National Science Digital Library Continues Rollout On iTunes U

iTunes U is a free service that gives users of Apple's iTunes access to audio and video from leading educational institutions. The Beyond Campus section of iTunes U includes museums, public radio and television stations, and other non-profit educational providers. For instructions on how to download a free copy of the software and get started visit <http://nsdl.org/iTunesU/>.

Energy and Material Cycles Visualizations

This site provides animations, images, graphs, and photos on the carbon cycle, greenhouse gases, sea ice, sea level change, interglacial cycle, continental drift, tectonic cycle, and the hydrologic cycle.

<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/visualization/collections/Cycles.html>

Nuclear Energy Learning Resources for Schools

A list of resources for learning about nuclear energy topics. Find information about how nuclear reactors work, what makes certain materials radioactive, the importance of nuclear energy in the 21st century, and more.

<http://students.ne.anl.gov/schools/>

Secrets of Plant Genomes Revealed!

A lively, upbeat video exploration of how plants got to be the way they are and how we can make better use of them in the future. Find out how scientists are unlocking the secrets of corn, cotton, potatoes, and other plants that are important in our lives.

http://nsf.gov/news/mmg/mmg_disp.cfm?med_id=61504&from=vid

New NASA Global Climate Change Site

This web site is devoted to educating the public about Earth's changing climate, providing easy-to-understand information about climate change and how NASA studies it.

<http://climate.jpl.nasa.gov/>

8. Book Review

By Summer Solomon, Garden Specialist, Learning Gate Community School

Paul Fleischman "Weslandia" ISBN 0763600067

This is a fantastical tale of ingenuity, sustainability, and perseverance. During the school year, Wesley learned that every civilization has a staple food crop. He decides that he will plant a garden and start his own civilization. His summer is spent learning about the plants in his garden, how they meet his needs from clothes and food, to a natural pesticide that he sold to his "former tormentors". This story would be a fantastic match for the PLT activities that explore what products we use from plants and trees. Read full review at

http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline_2008_08_Bookreview.html.

9. Interesting Tree Fact #25

Longleaf Pine Facts

*Scientific name: *Pinus palustris* [Pie-nus pa-lus-trus]

*Just over 200 years ago covered up to 90 million acres from southwest Virginia through east Texas.

*Reduced to 3 million acres by harvest for timber, early hog grazing, production of naval stores such as turpentine, and conversion of land for agriculture, pine plantations, and development.

*Longest needles of any southern pine contain a high level of combustible resins.

*Seedlings initially do not grow in height but remain on the ground in a grass stage, which can last from 2 to over 10 years.

*After grass stage, seedlings go into early height growth, when they can grow as much as 4 to 6 feet a year.

*Longleaf pine ecosystem supports over 300 threatened and endangered species.

*Sporadic seed production: every few years, all the longleaf pine pines in a region will produce seeds.

Information taken from: Burton, K. W. 2005. *Crowning Glory. Compass*, Summer: 1–5. Asheville NC: Southern Research Station, USDA, Forest Service.

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