

## Florida *PLTree Line* Newsletter, October 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

### 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 #26

### 1. PLT News

#### ***GreenWorks!* Grants 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. Deadline: October 31, 2008.  
[http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_22\\_18.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html)

#### **MonarchLIVE Partnership – *GreenWorks!* Butterfly Garden Grants**

Through *MonarchLIVE* (<http://monarch.pwnet.org/>), teachers and their classes can join a series of free, interactive field trips that follow the magical migration of monarchs. As part of MonarchLIVE, PLT will provide participating teachers with the opportunity to apply for special *GreenWorks!* Butterfly Garden Grants to create butterfly gardens in their schoolyards and communities. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available. Deadline: December 1, 2008.  
[http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_22\\_235.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_235.html)

#### **November 2-7, 2009 PLT Conference—PLT Extravaganza! in Hernando County**

Get ready for a tree-ific time in 2009! This event is for PLT Trained Educators and Facilitators. Registration and tentative agenda will be posted later this year.

### 2. Upcoming PLT Events

\***October 18:** PreK-2 Educator PLT Workshop at St. Paul Lutheran School in Lakeland (Polk County). For information, including registration, contact Debra Wagner at [Dwagner@stpaulakeland.org](mailto:Dwagner@stpaulakeland.org). *\$15 registration fee.*

\***October 18:** PreK-8 Workshop at Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science in Tallahassee (Leon County). For information, including registration, call (850) 575-8684 x 126. *\$15 registration fee.*

\***November 8:** PLT K-5 Educator Workshop at The Environmental Center at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Jacksonville (Duval County). Workshop is sponsored by the Rayonier and International Paper Foundations. For information, including registration, visit <http://www.jaxzoo.org/education/teachers.asp> and scroll down to the bottom. *\$5 registration fee for Zoo Members, \$10 registration fee for non-Zoo Members*

\***November 8:** PLT Nature and Literacy 3rd-5th Grade Educator Workshop at The Environmental Center at Miami Dade College in Miami (Miami-Dade County). To register call (305) 237-2600. *\$40 registration fee*

\***November 19 and December 3** (must attend both days): PLT K-8 Educator Workshop at Osceola Extension Office in Kissimmee (Osceola County). To register call 321-697-3000 or email Cindy Rutherford at [crut@osceola.org](mailto:crut@osceola.org). Sponsored by Kempfer Sawmill and the Florida SFI Committee.

\***November 22:** PLT K-8 Educator Workshop at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando (Orange County). Register online at <http://ifasbooks.ufl.edu/pltworkshop/>. \$15 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. For information, including registration, visit <http://www.jaxzoo.org/education/teachers.asp> and scroll down to the bottom. *\$5 registration fee for Zoo Members, \$10 registration fee for non-Zoo Members*

\***December 11:** PLT Educator Workshop at the Covenant Presbyterian Church Belleview (Miami-Dade County). Online registration will be up soon at [http://sfrfc.ufl.edu/plt/events\\_calendar/calendar.html](http://sfrfc.ufl.edu/plt/events_calendar/calendar.html). *\$15 registration fee*

For more information about these and other events, please see the Calendar of Events on our Web site at [http://sfrfc.ufl.edu/plt/events\\_calendar/calendar.html](http://sfrfc.ufl.edu/plt/events_calendar/calendar.html).

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

#### **2009 LEEF Annual Conference, Energize Florida!—Call for Presenters Open**

Join us for the 27th Annual LEEF Conference at Wekiwa Springs State Park March 26-29, 2009. Field trips, hands-on workshops, roundtable sessions, fellowship, and campfires will provide opportunities to network, make new friends, and grow in our knowledge of the world we live in. <http://leef-florida.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=47778.0.110.37432>

#### **Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop—December 9-12, 2008**

This workshop is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. Workshop will be at the Barrier Island Sanctuary Management and Education Center, in Melbourne, FL. For requirements and registration information visit <http://www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml> or contact Kathy Gross at [Kgross08@gmail.com](mailto:Kgross08@gmail.com).

#### **National EE Week—April 12-18, 2009**

The theme this year is *Be Water Wise!* Register your school or organization online today at [www.eeweek.org/register](http://www.eeweek.org/register).

### **4. Grants/Contests/Awards**

#### **Become an Eco-Hero with the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge**

Student teams of two to three students in grades 6-8 can register for this challenge. Participating teams will identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools. <http://www.wecanchange.com>

### **Florida School Garden Competition**

Encourage your school and colleagues to participate by getting involved with the competition. Grow great kids with school gardens.

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/schoolgardens/competition/eligibility.shtml>

### **Voices and Visions from the Next Generation of Conservationists—Video Contest**

Persons ages 12 to 25 (individuals or groups of up to 5) are invited to submit a short video (up to 5 minutes) focusing on how today's youth are and will be addressing the challenges that threaten biodiversity. Deadline: October 31, 2008.

<http://ncseonline.org/Conference/Biodiversity/cms.cfm?id=2549>

### **The Disney Minnie Grants 2009**

Grants of up to \$500 to support child-led service projects are available to teachers, older youth, and youth-serving organizations. Deadline: October 30, 2008.

[http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/grants/disney/disney\\_gysd\\_2009\\_preview.pdf](http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/grants/disney/disney_gysd_2009_preview.pdf)

## **5. Connecting PLT to the Classroom**

### **Global Warming 101**

**(use with PreK-8's *The Global Climate #84, Our Changing World #86.*)**

Visit their education section to read about ideas for living a low-carbon lifestyle, as well as review fact sheets and frequently asked questions about global climate change. This web site offers lesson plans designed specifically for middle school students, news updates and resources.

<http://globalwarming101.com>

### **Soils Sustain Life**

**(use with PreK-8's *Soil Stories #70, Watch on Wetlands #71, The Forest of S.T. Shrew #8* and with *Forest Ecology's "Cast of Thousands"*)**

This web site provides educators with lessons, activities, resources, facts, definitions, and other links pertaining to the vital role soils play in our lives. A "state soils" directory is available where you can learn about the substrate profile of your particular state! <http://www.soils.org>

### **Meet The Greens**

**(use with PreK-8 Guide's *Improve Your Place #96, Our Changing World #86, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, #37* and many more)**

A new students' guide to looking after the planet. Students can watch The GREENS' cartoon adventures and discover related green games, news, action tips, links, and much more.

<http://www.MeetTheGreens.org>

### **Local Resources for "Places We Live" Secondary Module**

Tim Rayworth, PLT contact in Massachusetts, wrote an article that highlights over 20 different web sites that can be used to enhance *Places We Live* activities. Use his recommendations to find great photographs to discuss community character, review his resources to obtain local maps for your community, and test out his collection of online mapping tools to trace your community through time. [http://massmees.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=712&Itemid=558](http://massmees.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=712&Itemid=558)

### **Doodle! Studio**

**(use with PreK-8's *Shape of Things #1, Picture This! #6, Adopt a Tree #21*)**

This program allows students to create pieces of artwork, and even show them in an online studio. Any activity that incorporates drawing can use *Doodle!* as an educational tool. It combines the technology of a computer with fundamental art concepts, vocabulary, and techniques.

<http://www.doodlestudio.com>

## 6. School Spotlight

Led by PLT School Coordinator, Katie Schlotterbeck, teachers at St. Michael Lutheran (Ft. Myers, FL) have incorporated an array of PLT activities into their classrooms. Here is a sampling of what teachers have had to say about using PLT activities with their students.

### **How Big is Your Tree?, Activity 67**

"This is a wonderful activity to instruct the students on scale models, proportions and how we can work and use the environment around us. The kids loved using the outdoor space for their activity and were able to relate the lesson to several other objects."

*Kayla Swetz, Middle School Teacher*

### **Pollution Search, Activity 36**

"We tied this lesson on pollution with our lesson on natural resources. The kids enjoyed the *Cat in the Hat Comes Back* book. We picked up litter on the playground and identified what kind of pollution it was. Some continue to pick up litter every time we go out to play."

*Lisa Lindsay, Fourth Grade Teacher*

St. Michael Lutheran 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](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/schools_and_centers/schools.html).

## 7. Resources

### **Children and Nature Webpage**

A clearinghouse of materials and research that support and promote the benefits of environmental education. The web site includes a comprehensive fact sheet on the health benefits of getting kids outdoors <http://www.neefusa.org/assets/files/NIFactSheet.pdf> and a helpful list of resources [http://www.neefusa.org/health/children\\_nature.htm](http://www.neefusa.org/health/children_nature.htm).

### **Recycle Caps with Aveda**

Send in plastic bottle caps and Aveda will repurpose the caps into new packaging for their products. To enroll your school, send an email to [capcollection@aveda.com](mailto:capcollection@aveda.com). <http://aveda.aveda.com/aboutaveda/pdf/ReCap-letter-teachers.pdf>

### **Simple Steps**

This web site features easy actions individuals can take in their everyday lives to help the environment and protect their health. Visitors can ask for advice through an online Q&A feature. <http://www.simplesteps.org/>

### **Let's Change Our Daily Habits!**

This latest report by the Youth Eco-Parliament identifies and analyzes actions being taken by youth in the participating countries to promote sustainable development. <http://www.eyep.info/IndexR.asp>

### **CLEARING Magazine**

A quarterly magazine for formal and non-formal educators that features thought-provoking perspectives, insightful resource reviews, and grade- and subject-specific activities and lesson plans. Available in print and online. <http://www.clearingmagazine.org/>

### **Green Schools Initiative Back to School News**

The latest Green Schools Initiative newsletter, A Green Back to School, is packed with helpful information on shopping green for the start of the new school year. <http://www.greenschools.net/news/BacktoSchoolTips.htm>

## Green Your School

Publications available from the US EPA provide tips and resources for promoting "Green" at your school. *Make a Difference in Your School* (EPA-530-K-06-003), *Tools to Reduce Waste in Schools* (EPA530-K-07-002), *Let's Go Green Shopping* (EPA530-K-04-003), and *Greenscaping* (EPA-530-K-03-002) can be ordered for FREE from EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/ordering.htm#order>.

## 8. Book Review

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

### **Barbara Kingsolver, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life" ISBN 0060852550**

If you are trying to find a way to get inspired to make big changes in your life, pick up this book. You will want to get a garden growing for your family and your friends to feast out of. I was delighted to pick up Kingsolver's latest novel and urge you to do the same. You will find quirky stories of real to life garden experiences. I know I delighted the first time we harvested lady bugs with our lettuce. Imagine the surprise in the kitchen! This book will inspire you to engage children in gardening. Read full review at [http://sfrfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline\\_2008\\_10\\_Bookreview.html](http://sfrfrc.ufl.edu/plt/newsletter/PLTreeline_2008_10_Bookreview.html).

## 9. Interesting Tree Fact #26

### **Fun Florida Oak Facts (*Quercus* spp.)**

\*White oak: (*Q. alba*) The wood is used for furniture, flooring, and specialty items such as whiskey barrels. During colonial times this wood was used for shipbuilding. The acorns are a favorite food source for deer, squirrels, and birds.

\*Chapman oak: (*Q. chapmanii*) This tree is named for A.W. Chapman who first described this species in his *Flora of the Southern United States*. The largest known specimen grows in the Ocala National Forest.

\*Sand live oak: (*Q. geminata*) This species is utilized as lumber and landscape plantings. The largest sand live oaks (co-champions) are both located in Gainesville, Florida.

\*Swamp laurel oak: (*Q. laurifolia*) Often used as an ornamental tree, President L.B. Johnson planted one at the White House in Washington, D.C. One of the largest known specimens is found in Okaloosa County, Florida.

\*Bluejack oak: (*Q. incana*) Bluejack oak acorns provide food for birds, raccoons, squirrels, and deer. The largest known specimen grows in Pasco County, Florida.

\*Turkey oak: (*Q. laevis*) Well adapted to drought stress and fire, it has no commercial value but acorns provide food for turkey, deer, and small mammals. The largest known species grows in Pasco County, Florida.

Mystery question: Are there any oaks found in Florida not listed here?

If yes, send an email to Jenny at [jacohen@ufl.edu](mailto:jacohen@ufl.edu) with the names of the oak trees.

Information taken from: Stein, J., D. Binion, and R. Acciavatti. 2003. *Field Guide to Native Oak Species of Eastern North America* (FHTET-2003-01). Morgantown WV: USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team.

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