



Florida PLTree Line Newsletter

July 2009

<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt>

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The PLTree Line Newsletter is back and will be sent periodically to inform the Florida PLT network of educators about program developments, resources, and opportunities. If you are interest in also receiving the national PLT newsletter, subscribe at www.plt.org/cms/pages/35_122_1.html

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Florida PLT News

2009 PLT Extravaganza! This is the PLT conference to attend! Tailored for PLT-trained educators and facilitators, it will be held at the Withlacoochee Training Center, Brooksville, FL, November 4-6, 2009. For those traveling long distances, you may check in the night before on Wednesday Nov. 4th. The ***Facilitator's Training Workshop*** is scheduled from 10:00 – 5:00 on Thursday, Nov. 5th. Thursday evening activities are scheduled. The ***PLT Professional Development Workshop*** is on Friday, Nov 6th, from 8:30 – 4:30. Details about this two-day event will be emailed to you and posted on the PLT web site Calendar of Events.

http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/events_calendar/calendar.html

Submission of Photos and Quotes Needed. Your pictures and quotes speaking about the PLT experience are important, especially to our sponsors. What better way to brag about the PLT program than by hearing it from PLT students and educators? Please send me your photos and quotes as often as you can.

Florida PLT Mentoring Program. Currently, we have five educators participating in the PLT mentoring program! This program partners new workshop facilitators with the seasoned veterans. Program participants are Carrie Kotal, Diana Kyle, Mathew Morris, Antoinette Robinson, and Kelly Wagner. Thanks to their mentors: Eleanor Foerste, Nonie Maines, Mark Miller, Robert Raze, Deb Wagner, Fred Wiechmann and Robin Wills. To learn more about the PLT mentor program go to http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/facilitators/how_to_become_a_facilitator.html

PLT Educator Workshops Requests. PLT Facilitators - please let me know if you are planning to hold a PLT Educator's workshop this year. I have a list of educators who have expressed an interest in attending. Now is a terrific time for us to work together to schedule your workshop.

Florida PLT Pilot Testing On-Line Training Program for 4-H Leaders. FPLT is once again is on the cutting edge of program delivery. Working with 4-H, we are developing an on-line program for 4-H leaders to become certified PLT educators. The program is scheduled to be launched this fall. Additional information will be available through your county 4-H agent.



Florida PLT Piloting GreenSchools Program. Six Florida PLT Schools volunteered to join schools around the country to pilot test the PLT GreenSchools program. Teachers and students investigate environmental issues at their school and engage with their community in service-learning projects that create green and healthy learning environments. Responses from our students, teachers and administrators have been very positive. If you are interested in becoming a PLT GreenSchool, please let me know. The final curriculum should be available later this year. Further information about this program can be found at http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_23_242.html

PLT Early Childhood Education. The long-awaited PLT early childhood education manual will be available later this year! Please let me know if you are interested in this program.

Earth & Sky CD Multimedia Presentation A new multimedia presentation has been created that explains how to access and use the Earth and Sky radio shows with PLT activities. Information is at http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_172_60.html



Billy B Sings about Trees. Teach kids about forests through music. This fun and interactive CD is for educators, parents, grandparents, and club leaders. The CD has 19 high-energy songs about trees, forests, and people who work the land. I had the opportunity to see Billy B perform at the International PLT Conference this past May. He is wonderful. Both kids and adults had a great time. The CD costs \$15.00 and is suitable for all grade levels. Further information can be found at http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_240.html

PLT is now on Facebook!

National PLT has established a PLT Facebook network. Join the growing online community of PLT'ers on Facebook! The PLT Page has attracted over a 100 members since it was launched in early May. Some coordinators, many facilitators and other educators have all become "fans" of our program.

The online social networking website offers features such as the Discussion Board, where a member can pose questions or initiate discussion topics that require other members' feedback or opinion. Upcoming events can be added under an "Events" Tab. Then in three steps you can chose to advertise your event by creating your own ad that will show up as a small ad box on the profiles of a pre-selected demographic you wish to target. Photos and videos can also be uploaded to designated sections on the page, and can be categorized under different "Albums". PLT National recently created an album with some pictures of the recent PLT International conference! Also you can read a success story involving Donna in Indiana under the "Notes" tab, as well as other press releases and videos highlighting the great work you all do.

To view the page and join, and if you already have a Facebook profile, you may simply search for "Project Learning Tree PLT" while logged on. If you do not have a Facebook profile, you may still view the page by clicking the link available under the "Hot Topics" box in the upper right corner of our [PLT Homepage](http://www.plt.org) or by clicking this link <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Learning-Tree-PLT/62996782705?ref=ts>. However, in order to join the group and take full advantage of all the features, you will be required to create a Facebook profile. This takes a few minutes and all you need is a valid email address. Creating a Facebook profile is free of charge.

Please contact Imad (iaoun@forestfoundation.org) if you have any questions or are experiencing technical difficulties!

Educational Resources

Educational Materials on Solid Waste (resource for PreK-8's "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," "Waste Watchers," "Renewable or Not?," and the Municipal Solid Waste secondary module)

The EPA's [Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery](#) website provides educational materials for promoting an increased knowledge of solid waste issues, with an emphasis on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. This EPA webpage provides resources and ideas for K-12 students, including detective adventures, interactive games, and ideas for environmental campaign. The website also informs teachers about student award programs and grants, as well as references, tools, and data students can use in environmental research projects and reports.

World View of Global Warming (resource for PreK-8's "The Global Climate," "Our Changing World," and "Picture This," or try it with Forest of the World's "Seeking Sustainability")

Gary Braasch, an environmental photographer, has been documenting evidence of climate change for more than 10 years. His collection of images from around the world show the effects of global warming in vivid detail. Explanatory text from climate scientists accompanies all photos. Visit www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org to check it out!

Middle School Science PowerPoints (resource for PreK-8's "Energy Sleuths," "How Big is Your Tree," and more) an eighth-grade science teacher from Texas shares his teaching materials, including many PowerPoint presentations. Find ready-to-use PowerPoint presentations and other resources for teaching the scientific method, measurement equations, energy and more. Visit his [Dallas Community School Website](#) and scroll down to find over 30 PowerPoint's on various science topics!

Our Generous Garden – now available in Spanish! (resource for PLT's PreK-8 activities "Pass the Plants, Please" and "Improve Your Place," and *GreenWorks!* and *GreenSchools!*)

Parents and educators now can introduce English and Spanish readers to the joys of gardening with the dual-language edition of the nationally acclaimed children's book, [Our Generous Garden](#). *Nuestra Huerta Generosa*, available through Amazon, GardenABCs.com and book distributors, follows children as they plant and harvest a school vegetable garden and in the process change their community. The 8.5 x 11-inch book features easy-to-read text in both English and Spanish, as well as hands-on activities for the outdoor classroom.

Professional Development Opportunities

6th Annual National Urban Service-Learning Institute

August 5-7, 2009

New Foundations Charter School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

How can the principles of service-learning be applied in inner-city environments? What are the issues and opportunities that educators and students face in urban areas? Join the [National Youth Leadership Council](#) for this annual two-day event that focuses on applying the principles of service-learning in urban environments. This event brings together community members, young people, and school leaders to discuss service-learning outreach and application techniques that help urban students achieve academic excellence and become strong community leaders. Participants have an opportunity to explore current trends and topics affecting urban communities, and to share and learn from colleagues from other urban districts.

[Awards and Contests](#)

SCA's Green Your School Contest

Application Deadline: October 9, 2009

The Student Conservation Association's [Green Your School Contest](#) launched April 1st. Supported with a grant from the NBC Universal Foundation, the Green Your School Contest recognizes conservation service projects designed by high school students that improve or restore or beautify or conserve their high school environment. Prizes will be awarded to winning high schools and include one grand prize of \$5,000 and two first prizes of \$2,500. Submissions must be received by October 9th and winners will be announced in mid-November, 2009.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards

Application Deadline: December 31, 2009

Since 1971, EPA has sponsored the [President's Environmental Youth Awards](#) (PEYA). The program recognizes young people across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Young people in all 50 states and the U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program. Projects submitted in the past have covered a wide range of subject areas including recycling programs in schools and communities; construction of nature preserves; major tree planting programs; videos, skits, and newsletters created by students that focused on environmental issues; and environmental science projects. To be eligible to compete, a student or students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to their local EPA regional office evidence of a completed project as defined in the PEYA application, as well as a [completed application](#).

Calling ALL Youth Photographers!

Application Deadline: July 31, 2009

Adobe Youth Voices, a global youth media initiative, and the nonprofit, "What Kids Kids Can Do, Inc." have announced their first-ever [international photo competition](#).

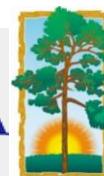
When written in Chinese or Japanese, the word "crisis" is composed of two characters, one representing danger and the other representing hope. "Crisis and Hope" offer an exciting opportunity for youth around the world to express themselves through photographs--and make their voices heard--on both what is challenging and what gives hope in today's world. Winning photographs will be showcased online, in a traveling exhibit, and in a book. The contest is open to all young people between the ages of 12 and 19. Winners will be announced by August 31, 2009.

*Share your ideas and successes! Please send information to
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