



Minnesota Project Learning Tree Educator Update

April 2007

April 22 is Earth Day; April 27 is Arbor Day!

E-newsletter for educators who have attended a Project Learning Tree workshop

NEWS

PLT Wins Another Award!

PLT's newest secondary module "Places We Live," has won the Outstanding Environmental Education Publication award from the Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO). Did you go to the PLT Places We Live workshop at the Minnesota Historical Society last January? If not, watch for another workshop soon!

WET, PLT, WILD Facilitator Training is June 13-14, 2007, Warner Nature Center, Washington County

This FREE training is for people who:

1. Have attended a PLT, WET, and WILD educator workshop in the past.
2. Want to learn or improve workshop facilitation skills.
3. Want to conduct or co-conduct a PLT, WET, and/or WILD workshop in the future to an audience of their choice.
4. Want to become an active DNR volunteer PLT, WET, and/or

WILD facilitator. This is a great way to boost your environmental education resumes!

Even if you have attended a facilitator training in the past, this training will help you brush up on your skills and learn what's new with the programs. The training will include: demonstrating the correlations database, finding and marketing to audiences, how to build an agenda, how to find crucial workshop items on the DNR Web site, and how to prepare an activity. Everything is hands-on. Participants will leave with the latest full suite of DNR education items and fully prepared activity kits from our first "activity potluck." As a requirement of attending this training, participants must agree to conduct or co-conduct at least one early childhood workshop in the next two years.

Application forms are on <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/facilitators/index.html>



PLT, WILD Early Childhood Facilitator Training is July 24, 2007, St. David's Child Development and Family Services Agency, Minnetonka

This FREE training is for people who have:

1. Attended a PLT and WILD educator workshop in the past AND
2. Attended a PLT and/or WILD Early Childhood workshop in the past OR
3. An interest in delivering Early Childhood workshops.

This training is a must for people who work with educators of very young children. Attendees will receive the latest PLT and WILD early childhood supplement, the latest full suite of EE Early Childhood items, including the *Natural Wonders Guide to Early Childhood Education for Environmental Educators*, and fully prepared activity kits from our first "activity potluck." As a requirement of attending this training, participants must agree to conduct or co-conduct at least one early childhood workshop in the next two years.

Even if you have already conducted an early childhood workshop, please come and share your skills.

Application forms are on <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/facilitators/index.html>



RESOURCES FOR PLT ACTIVITIES

Resources for PreK-8's "Who Works in This Forest?" activity #34

Free DVD on Careers in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Perfect for high school students who are showing an interest in a career in natural resources. This short nine-minute video highlights life as a forester, wildlife biologist, hydrologist, park naturalist, minerals geologist, conservation officer, and more. VERY LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE. Please order only if you will be showing this video to senior high school or college students as part of their careers exploration. If you want one, contact laura.duffey@dnr.state.mn.us and give a mailing address.

A booklet from the U.S. Geological Survey engages students in thinking about and planning for careers in science. Photographs and text capture what it means to be a cartographer, a geologist, a biologist, an oceanographer, and many other types of scientists. View the booklet online at <http://mac.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/booklets/scientists/index.html>.

Resources for PLT's "Invasive Species" activity #12

"Alien Invasions - Plants on the Move" online weed curriculum for grades K-12. Developed by Bureau of Land Management staff and a host of experts, this curriculum has been pilot tested in schools throughout Oregon. I have checked it out and the information is general enough for use in Minnesota. http://www.weedinvasion.org/weeds/weed_home.php

Get a full-color, printable, invasive plants guide online – for Minnesota and north central states. http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/index.shtm

Resources for PLT's "Places We Live" secondary module

Wycombe High School, UK Web site links to a variety of physical geography animations from coastal processes to urban sprawl. <http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomePage.asp?GroupID=12426>

New Teacher's Section on the Earth & Sky Web site

You can browse by topic to find radio shows with several correlated PLT activities. You can also click on each PLT activity to find the correlated radio shows. Additional Web site resources are available for most of the correlated radio shows. <http://www.earthsky.org/teachers>

JUST FOR FUN

Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?

EE Week's online Nature Bees, developed in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, offers students in grades K-12 the opportunity to test their knowledge of North American wildlife while encouraging them to get outside and explore their own schoolyards.

- Elementary School Nature Bee (Grades K-4) http://www.eeweek.org/nature_bee/quiz_1/
- Middle School Nature Bee (Grades 5-8) http://www.eeweek.org/nature_bee/quiz_2/
- High School Nature Bee (Grades 9-12) http://www.eeweek.org/nature_bee/quiz_3/

Go to next page!

Give Your Kids a Survey - Are They Denatured?

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, has coined the term, "nature-deficit disorder." In April 2005, The New York Times published an article describing Louv's concern that children these days are "Growing Up Denatured" (http://naturalplaygrounds.com/NaturalPlaygroundsDotCom_Nature_DeficitDisorder.pdf) To find out if his students were experiencing "nature-deficit disorder," Dave Wood, an 8th grade teacher at National EE Week partner Sidwell Friends School in Washington D.C., compiled the following survey and asked his students to take it after reading the article "Growing Up Denatured." You can try this in your school. Have your students read the two-page review and then set them loose to interview their parents and guardians. <http://www.eeweek.org/survey.htm>

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Project Learning Tree and Project WET workshop

July 18, 2007

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

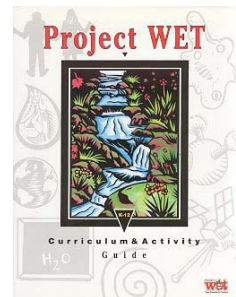
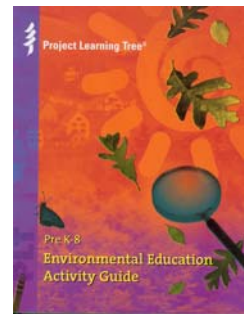
Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

This one-day workshop will train educators to use Projects WET and Learning Tree with their students. Participants will engage in several fun, hands-on indoor and outdoor learning activities appropriate for use with students. The Projects are designed by and for educators.

Cost: \$38

Participants get:

- *Project WET K-12 Activity Guide* (91 activities)
- *Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide* (96 activities)
- A certificate for 8 clock hours of instruction
- Posters and other supplemental resources
- Lunch
- Optional lodging available for \$15



Registration forms are available by clicking on this calendar item on www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt

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www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt

National Project Learning Tree
www.plt.org