



Minnesota Project Learning Tree Educator Update

September 2007

Welcome back to school!

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

NEWS

GreenWorks! Grants Available Only To PLT Educators – YOU!

PLT has expanded its *GreenWorks!* service-learning program to make available **\$100,000** to schools and youth organizations for environmental neighborhood improvement projects that involve youth with their community. The application deadline for PLT's second round of funding for this year is **October 31, 2007**. Visit http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html for grant guidelines, and an application.

Schools, youth organizations, and other groups may apply online for a grant to implement a "learning-by-doing" environmental project that:

- Partners PLT educators and their students with local businesses or community organizations.
- Combines academics with community service.
- Engages elementary through college-age students in active learning about the environment.
- Provides opportunities for student leadership.

\$1,000 to \$5,000 grants are available. Sample projects include, but are not limited to, outdoor classrooms and gardens, habitat restoration, watershed improvement, energy conservation. To view a list of the *GreenWorks!* projects funded in the Spring 2007 cycle, visit http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/47_191_0.html.



Need money for a community service project?

PLT Conducts "How to Teach in Your School Forest" Workshops.

Minnesota PLT and the DNR's School Forest Program teamed together to conduct two "How to Teach in Your School Forest" workshops this August. These specialized workshops are conducted as an in-service day to educators who teach at a school that has an official DNR School Forest.

Workshops feature not only PLT materials that meet specific school goals, but also connect educators with local DNR staff who help plan future uses for and maintenance of the schools' outdoor classrooms. For many teachers, this was the first time to ever step foot in their own school forest!



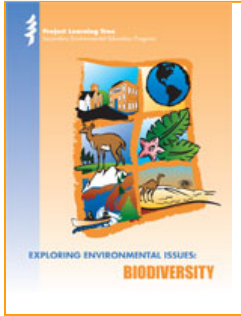
Comparing soils at North Shore Community School.



St. Therese (Minnetonka) school teachers learn to identify and measure trees in their own school forest.

PLT Secondary Module is Online FREE

The complete *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity* secondary module is on the PLT website at http://plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_16.html. It includes:



- Biodiversity background information for educators
- Activity 1 - "**Global Invaders**" - People have intentionally and unintentionally moved plant, animal, and other species to new environments. Many of these species cause environmental, and sometimes economic, harm. In this activity, students will research invasive species in the U.S., and then investigate the presence and impacts of invasive species in their own community.
- Activity 2 - "**Protected Areas: Issues and Analysis**" - By analyzing case studies and describing some of the challenges and conflicts students will learn about the importance to biodiversity of protected areas.
- Activity 3 - "**Potatoes, Pesticides, and Biodiversity**" - Students will develop an understanding of some of the costs and benefits of using pesticides and of how those products affect biodiversity. They will research pesticides and learn about alternatives to the reliance on pesticides for growing potatoes.

GRANTS AND MONEY

Forest Education Grants Available to Minnesota Teachers

Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI) is making available grants of up to \$250 to K-12 teachers *in Minnesota* to help fund forest education activities, such as:

- Classroom projects and activities,
- Field trips,
- School forest improvements, or
- Topics related to forestry or forest products in Minnesota.

Grant applications are attached or on www.minnesotaforests.com.

Deadline for grants is Oct. 5, 2007.

(P.S. MFI is an association representing the state's forest product companies. Check out MFI's web site for free teaching materials and see some of those items at MFI's exhibit at Education Minnesota on Oct. 18.)



RESOURCES FOR PLT ACTIVITIES

NPR Climate Connections

National Public Radio (NPR) and National Geographic host the Climate Connections Web site full of news items, interesting facts, practical ideas, and a daily podcast. An interactive map allows visitors to follow NPR reporting on areas of the world impacted by global warming, and the Wild Chronicles offers videos on a variety of wildlife and global warming issues.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9657621>

Great supplement for PLT Activity # 84, The Global Climate

See pages 3 and 4: UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Minnesota PLT Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt

National PLT Web Site: www.plt.org

Minnesota PLT coordinator: laura.duffey@dnr.state.mn.us



UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Check also the PLT, WET, WILD workshop calendar www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt

Projects WILD/PLT/WET: Bringing Environmental Education Into Your Classroom

Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, 2007; 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. each day

St. John's Arboretum at St. John's University, Collegeville

This workshop will examine methods to incorporate EE into your daily classroom routine and provide hands-on examples of proven activities. Using background information and field experiments, you will gain knowledge and experience to increase your comfort in EE.

Cost: \$60. All participants get:

- *Project WET* (water education) *K-12 Activity Guide*
- *Project WILD* (wildlife education) *K-12 Activity Guide*
- *Project Learning Tree* (forestry & EE) *PreK-8 Activity Guide*
- *Project WILD Aquatic* (aquatic wildlife education) *Activity Guide*
- A certificate for 12 continuing education units (CEUs)
- Optional **graduate credit** from Hamline University (\$110)



Registration forms are on www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt

Project Learning Tree & Project WET Workshop – Grade 5-8 Educators

Nov. 7, 2007, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

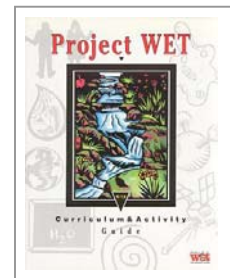
Southeast Services Cooperative, Rochester

This workshop will help teachers use EE techniques and activities with students in grades 5-8.

Learn the connections between what people do on land and its impact on both the quality and quantity of water.

Cost: \$10 (sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service). Participants get:

- *Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide*
- *Project WET K-12 Activity Guide*
- Lunch
- A certificate for 7 continuing education units (CEUs)
- **Substitute stipends** available for teachers in these districts: Byron, Chosen Valley, Dover-Eyota, Hayfield, Kasson-Mantorville, Kingsland, Pine Island, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Rochester Catholic, Rochester Public, Stewartville, Triton, Zumbrota-Mazeppa.



Registration forms are on www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt

Project Learning Tree for Preschool – Grade 5 Educators

Nov. 10, 2007, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

St. David's Child Development and Family Services Agency, Minnetonka

Participants will: 1) Learn how the activities address academic benchmarks in science, social studies, language arts, and mathematics, 2) Get valuable planning time to integrate activities into your regular curriculum, and 3) Have fun both indoors and outside in St. David's School Forest!

Cost: \$35. Participants get:

- *PLT PreK-8 Activity Guide*
- *Minnesota PLT Early Childhood Supplement* guide
- *Natural Wonders Guide to Early Childhood for Environmental Educators*
- Lunch
- 6 hours continuing education units



Registration forms are on www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt



UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS *page two*

Check also the PLT,WET WILD workshop calendar www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt

How To Teach Forestry To Kids – Project Learning Tree

Dec. 13, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Forest History Center, Grand Rapids

Jan. 23, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Bemidji State Park Visitor Center, Bemidji

Feb. 27, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Heintz Center, Rochester

This workshop is designed for **Foresters & Natural Resources Professionals** who do field days and occasional learning with kids. This workshop features fun, hands-on activities designed to teach how to appeal to different learning styles, improve field day activities, how to work with teachers, use age-appropriate activities, and more.

FREE to DNR staff; \$20 for others. Participants get:

- *PLT PreK-8 Activity Guide*
- Lunch
- Optional: Five (5) Society of American Foresters CFE contact hours
- Optional: One (1) Woodland Advisor WAE13 elective credit

Registration forms are on www.dnr.state.mn.us/plt



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Education Minnesota Conference

October 18, 2007, St. Paul Excel Energy Center

Stop by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources booth for lots of free posters, magazines, and more. Project Learning Tree is presenting, "Love It Before You Learn It: Environmental Education for Early Childhood."

http://www.educationminnesota.org/index.cfm?page_id=312

Midwest Environmental Education Conference

October 18-20, 2007, University of Wisconsin at Steven's Point, Wisconsin

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods, Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*, is keynote presenter. PLT is presenting, "Make Environmental Education Effective for the Early Childhood Audience" on Oct. 20. Scholarship money is available to pay for teacher and administrator registration and up to \$200 for substitute reimbursement.

www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee.

GeoFest

October 27, 2007, Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota

The Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education (MAGE) is holding its second annual conference for middle and high school teachers. More information is on

<http://www.macalester.edu/geography/mage/teachers/geofest/2007/index>

Minnesota Environmental Education Week is April 13-19, 2008

Governor Pawlenty has announced Minnesota will recognize for the first time National Environmental Education Week. The purpose is for educators to raise awareness about the benefits of environmental education; tips are on http://www.eeweek.org/EE_benefits.html