



Minnesota Project Learning Tree Educator Update

March 2008

In like a lion, out like a lamb...

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

NEWS

Rob Marohn IS the NATIONAL PLT Outstanding Educator of the Year!

Back in November, I nominated Rob Marohn, a fifth-grade teacher in Duluth for this big award. And guess what? He won! For this National award, Rob gets two all-expenses paid trips to the International PLT Coordinators' Conference (in Jackson, Mississippi) and the World Forestry Center's International Educators' Institute in Portland, Oregon.

Why did Rob win this award? Let me count the ways. He uses PLT (and the other Projects, too). He takes his class outside for lessons in the Bay View School Forest at least once a week. He started the Forest Buddies program, in which his fifth graders teach younger students environmental education activities. He started the Bay View School Forest Club, which involves several students, parents, and community members in fun recreational and education activities. He leads kids on trips into the BWCA. And that's just a start!

I'm so proud of Rob and all educators who make environmental education part of their strategy!

Northrup Urban Environmental Learning Center Wins a PLT GreenWorks! Grant

Amidst all the notice you get from me over the year, I'm glad some of you actually read them. Especially when it comes to grants! Northrup is using this grant to plant native trees next to their urban school, and create and install durable interpretive signs that describe the trees and their functions. This is part of their "Naturally Native Arbor Day."

FREE DNR Tree Seedlings are Available in MARCH ONLY

These seedlings are for schools and communities who want to do a planting project along with an educational lesson. To get the seedlings, don't call me! Call your local DNR forester THIS MONTH! (Orders stop April 1.) Seedlings are available for pick up on April 23. Find out who your local forester is by visiting www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/forestry

Arbor Day is Friday, April 25. Minnesota Arbor Month is May.



Winner of the PLT Outstanding Educator of the Year!
Rob Marohn, at ease in the Bay View School Forest.





GRANTS

GreenWorks! Grants

Available ONLY to PLT teachers! **The next grant deadline is April 30.** \$250 - \$5,000 grants are available for tree plantings, building trails, and enhancing outdoor learning areas. www.mndnr.gov/plt

Grant Wrangler

Grant Wrangler™ is a free grants listing service for teachers, librarians, and parents to find funding, including grants and awards for arts, history, mathematics, science, technology, and more. <http://www.nimble-net.com/>

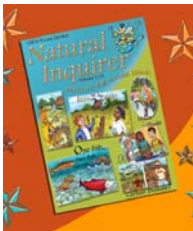
Jeffers Foundation Grants Due April 1

The Jeffers Foundation is offering grants to Minnesota schools who want to improve their environmental education teaching capacity—that is, through funding teacher workshops (like PLT, WET, or WILD), outdoor learning sites, school-based food waste reduction programs, and school/community festivals designed to increase environmental awareness. A easy application is on www.jeffersfoundation.org. (Notice- there is a typo on the grant application, be assured that all schools *and* 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations are eligible. I checked for you!)

FREE STUFF

FREE 2008 Calendar on Invasive Species in Minnesota

OK, I know it's March! But this calendar is a useful source of info and photos of invasive species that are having a big impact in Minnesota ecosystems. Get a free calendar by contacting the DNR Info Center. 651-259-5100 or eco@dnr.state.mn.us
www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/pubs_invasives.html



FREE *Natural Inquirer* Magazine

The USDA Forest Service writes these magazines for 5th grade readers and above. This issue features the relationship of carbon, photosynthesis and tree roots. www.naturalinquirer.usda.gov/pdf/12.pdf
You can also order free classroom sets of this and past magazines using the order form on www.naturalinquirer.usda.gov/educators.cfm

RESOURCES FOR PLT ACTIVITIES

Paper-Making Video Demonstrates a PLT Activity

This five-minute video integrates footage of a teacher doing PLT's activity #51 "Make Your Own Paper" (slightly modified version) and footage of the commercial paper-making process www.paperrecycles.org/tools_for_teachers/index.html

For Users of the PLT Secondary Module: *Focus on Risk*

Activity 2, "Things Aren't Always What They Seem" has been revised. The new activity is available for download on http://plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_14.html, under Student Activities.

BioQUEST Library Online

This is an ongoing peer-reviewed community publication of software simulations, tools, datasets, and other supporting materials from educators and developers engaged in education and research in science. Use it to complement the PLT Secondary modules (Risk, Forest Ecology, Forests of the World, others).

www.bioquest.org/BOLibrary

On-line Groundwater Demonstration

It's worth looking at, especially here in Minnesota. Great for PLT's Water Wonders (Activity #44). www.dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/wq/groundwater-animation.htm

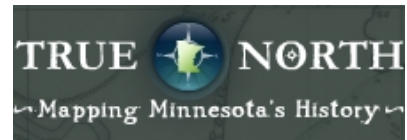
FOSS Kit Users!

PLT has added some FOSS Kit correlation information to the PLT website. You will find "FOSS Kit Correlations (National and State)" added as a link at

http://plt.org/cms/pages/33_43_29.html.

True North Curriculum

Great supplement to PLT Activity #86 "Our Changing World." The Minnesota Historical Society has created this excellent on-line curriculum for those who teach Minnesota history. The curriculum is aligned with state social studies standards and integrates historical stories, hundreds of historic photos, and a nifty on-line GIS mapping system for student use. www.lmic.state.mn.us/ghol/



Science and Math Terms Translated Into Many Different Languages

This online tool has a good-sized vocabulary list translated into (currently) 13 different languages... with definitions! The languages so far include Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (traditional), Creole, English, Hmong, Korean, Portugese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese. www.glencoe.com/sec/science/mlg/mlg.php?site=19

Teach About Pre-Disaster Preparedness With On-Line Game

Flooded out last year? This is a great connection to Activity 7, "Decision Making: Ecological Risk, Wildfires, and Natural Hazards" (*Focus on Risk* secondary module) 'This is a web based simulation/game for teaching about pre-disaster preparedness. The scenarios include hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires. I tried it. It's fun!

www.stopdisastersgame.org

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What did the tree wear to the pool party?

A: Swimming trunks!

Q: What did the beaver say to the tree?

A: It's been nice gnawing you!

Q: Why did the leaf go to the doctor?

A: It was feeling green!

Q: What is a tree's least favorite month?

A: Sep-timber!

Q: How do trees get on the Internet?

A: "They ""log"" in."

See pages 4 - 6: UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Minnesota PLT Web Site: www.mndnr.gov/plt

National PLT Web Site: www.plt.org

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

UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS *from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

Also check the workshop calendar www.mndnr.gov/education/teachers/calendar



Project WILD Aquatic for Early Childhood Educators

April 26, 2008

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

To register, contact Jan Welsh at jan.welsh@dnr.state.mn.us or 651-982-9720 x5

Project WILD for Early Childhood Educators

April 29, 2008

Hutchinson Fire Station, Hutchinson

To register, contact Jan Welsh at jan.welsh@dnr.state.mn.us or 651-982-9720 x5

MinnAqua and Leopold Education Project Workshop

April 9, 2008

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Rochester

To register, contact Nadine Meyer at 218-740-2063 or nadine.meyer@dnr.state.mn.us

Projects WET and WILD Aquatic for K-8

June 26, 2008

Carlos Avery Field Station, Forest Lake

To register, contact Jan Welsh at jan.welsh@dnr.state.mn.us or 651-982-9720 x5



SUMMER INSTITUTE! Projects WILD/PLT/WET for Middle and High School Educators

July 15-18, 2008; check in is 12:00 noon on 7/15
Vermilion Community College, Ely, Minnesota

This workshop will examine methods to incorporate environmental education (EE) into your daily middle and high school classroom routine and provide hands-on examples of proven activities. Expert speakers from wildlife, forestry, and the water sciences will lead field trips each day. Past workshops have included field trips to the Soudan Underground Mine and the International Wolf Center. Using background information and field experiments, you will gain knowledge and experience to increase your comfort in EE.

Cost: \$225. All participants get:

- Four days room and board (dinner on 7/17 on own)
- *Project WET* (water education) *K-12 Activity Guide*
- *Project WILD* (wildlife education) *K-12 Activity Guide*
- *Project Learning Tree* (forestry & EE) *High School Modules*
- *Project WILD Aquatic* (aquatic wildlife education) *Activity Guide*
- A certificate for 12 CEUs
- Optional Saturday canoe trip into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (July 19)
- **Two optional graduate credits** from Hamline University (\$224)

Registration forms are on

www.mndnr.gov/education/teachers/calendar

Other Workshops

Worm Workshops

Exotic earthworms in Minnesota are a very serious threat to the health of our forests. Visit the worm workshops calendar on www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/

Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls

June 9 – 13 (8:00 am – 4:00 pm each day)

Workshop participants may teach any grade level and will have the opportunity to apply their new skills each day with a small group of interested students. Participants receive 30 hours of clock hour instruction, one graduate credit (optional; fee), and other workshop materials. Dormitory lodging is available for \$15 per night. Class teachers Dave Ellis and Chip McAllister; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Instructional Systems Specialist Molly Stoddard and Environmental Education Specialist Teresa Jaskiewicz. Call Molly Stoddard at (218) 736-0938 x14, or e-mail molly_stoddard@fws.gov.

Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls

Monday, June 16 (12:30 pm – 4:30 pm)

For K-12th grade teachers and environmental educators. In this mini-workshop, we will explore several ways to use an outdoor classroom to enhance

and strengthen a child's education. We will compare and contrast teaching in the indoor and outdoor classrooms and be introduced to field protocols and journals. Participants receive a journal. Those who also attend the June 17 Nature Journals and Observation Skills for the Classroom Workshop are eligible for 1 graduate credit. Dormitory accommodations are available on-site for \$15 per night. Free! Instructors: Fergus Falls School District Prairie Science Class teachers Dave Ellis and Chip McAllister. Call Molly Stoddard at (218) 736-0938 x14, or e-mail molly_stoddard@fws.gov.

Minnesota Master Naturalists Training Course Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls

Tuesdays & Thursdays June 19 through July 24 (6:00 pm – 8:30 pm) (No class July 3); AND Saturday, June 28 and Saturday, July 12 field trips (All day)

Graduates are expected to complete 40 hours of volunteer service per year to be considered active Master Naturalists. There are four basic areas of service: Stewardship Projects, Education/Interpretive Projects, Citizen Science Projects, and Program Support.

Participants receive course manuals and supplies. Cost: \$200.00. Scholarships are available.

www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org Lead Instructor: Steve Henry, Shoreland Specialist in the Soil and Water Conservation District office of East Otter Tail County.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Minnesota Environmental Education Week is April 13-19, 2008

Governor Pawlenty has announced Minnesota will for the first time recognize 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