



# Minnesota Project Learning Tree Educator Update

February 2009

*"Nature does nothing uselessly." - Aristotle (384 –322 B.C.)*

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

## NEWS

**Governor Pawlenty to Declare Environmental Education Week In Minnesota**  
EE Week is April 13 - 17, 2009.

**The Midwest Environmental Education Conference**

Will be October 14-19, 2009 in Champaign, Illinois [www.eeai.net/annual\\_conf.htm](http://www.eeai.net/annual_conf.htm)

**Temperate Forest Foundation Tour**

The 2009 tour will be June 23 - 26, 2009 in Duluth. For several years, Minnesota PLT has helped send many PLT teachers to this exciting event, so watch for news on this soon!



*A teacher participant extracts a core sample from a tree during a recent TFF tour*

**Be a Minnesota Master Naturalist Instructor**

Three instructor training opportunities in 2009: February 19-20 Grand Rapids, MN, April 6-7 Park Rapids, MN and September 10-11 Metro Area. Registration is required, but classes are free. Register online at [www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org)

**2009 World Forestry Center International Educators Institute**

July 12-17, 2009 in Portland, Oregon

The 2009 World Forestry Center International Educators Institute (IEI) is an innovative forest study tour for environmental educators and forest researchers. Combining content-rich, hands-on experiences in the field with a multicultural exchange of best practices in education and research, IEI seeks to advance effective teaching and learning about social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the world's forests. The course costs \$2,500 not including airfare. Scholarships are available. The application deadline is Feb. 28, 2009.

[www.worldforestry.org/wfi/dm\\_institute.php](http://www.worldforestry.org/wfi/dm_institute.php)

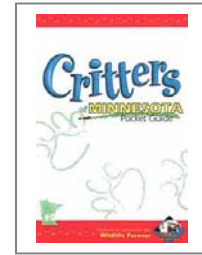
## **TEACHER THRIFTIES: Free and cheap stuff**

### **Invasive Weeds Factsheets**

Free on [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm).

### **Critters of Minnesota Field Guide** Very cheap

[www.wildlifeforever.org/store/product.aspx?p=108821\(base\)](http://www.wildlifeforever.org/store/product.aspx?p=108821(base))



### **Field Investigation Guide**

Free for answering a quick 5-10 minute survey about how you use EE research to enhance your work in the classroom. Survey open until March 1.

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3ygdSjO7egDj...](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3ygdSjO7egDj...)

### **Virtual Deciduous Forest CD**

Very cool. Very cheap. Call the Indiana PLT Coordinator, Sam Carman, at 317-232-4119, or [scarman@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:scarman@dnr.IN.gov), [www.gp.com/EducationalinNature/index.html](http://www.gp.com/EducationalinNature/index.html)

### **Free Booklet: Understanding and Responding to Climate Change**

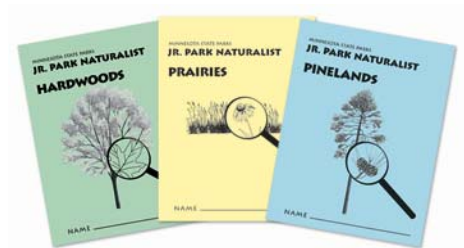
(resource for PreK-8's "The Global Climate," "Our Changing World," and "Tree Cookies")

This is an easy-to-read, 30-page summary of the National Academy of Sciences' 2008 report on climate change. Lots of useful illustrative photos and graphics. Page 13 references tree rings as a means to reveal past climate conditions based on their characteristics! [http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt\\_briefs/climate\\_change\\_2008\\_final.pdf](http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt_briefs/climate_change_2008_final.pdf)

### **Junior Naturalists Books**

Used at Minnesota State Parks everywhere. Free.

[www.mndnr.gov/parks\\_recreation/jpn.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/parks_recreation/jpn.html)



### **Natural Inquirer magazines**

Go to the Web site, ask for a free classroom set, and they'll even pay for shipping! For grades 5 and up.

From the U.S. Forest Service. Newest issues focus on invasive earthworms and climate change.

[www.naturalinquirer.org](http://www.naturalinquirer.org)

### **Free subscription**

To the *Conservation Minnesota* magazine. Go to [www.conservationminnesota.org/](http://www.conservationminnesota.org/) (click on "Magazine"). Choose to subscribe to the on-line magazine or opt to have a paper magazine mailed to you. We recommend you read "Indoors and Out-or-Touch" by researcher Dr. Marti Erickson. The stated mission of Conservation Minnesota is to turn shared conservation values into state priorities.

## ACTIVITY ENHANCEMENTS

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### **Math tips on using data in class activities**

(resource for PreK-8's "The Global Climate," "How Big Is Your Tree?")

Use real data and current events in teaching math. Students who study news and current events in school do better on standardized tests, develop and improve their reading, vocabulary, math, and social studies skills, and continue to follow the news as adults. Tips are on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics website. [www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=16263](http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=16263)

### **Teaching About Trees?**

(resource for PreK-8's "Adopt a Tree")

Designed for younger learners, this site may be helpful for kindergarten or first grade teachers using FOSS. [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees1/index.html](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees1/index.html)

### **Video on Forestry**

(resource for PreK-8's "We All Need Trees," and "Forest for the Trees")

Gives basic information about forestry practices. Good background knowledge for teachers and high school students involved in the Envirothon. [www.forestasyst.org](http://www.forestasyst.org)

### **Carbon Footprint Calculator Designed for Students**

(resource for PreK-8's "The Global Climate")

National EE Week offers a carbon calculator specifically designed for students, classrooms, and entire schools to measure and manage their own carbon footprints while developing creative ways to curb their carbon output and slow climate change. <http://zerofootprint.net/youth/neew>

### **Teaching About Invasive Species?**

(resource for PreK-8's "Invasive Species")

The Minnesota DNR has released a cool presentation on invasive species.

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest\\_health/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest_health/index.html)



*Oak being defoliated by gypsy moths*



## **SHOW ME THE MONEY!**

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### **PLT GreenWorks! Grant**

[www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_22\\_21.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html)

**Deadline is April 30, 2009.**

Projects are for PLT educators and students who want to engage with their local community and “learn by doing” environmental projects. Grant are: \$250 - \$1,000 or \$1,001 - \$5,000.

### **Outdoor Classroom Grant Program**

[www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p>AboutLowes/outdoor/index.html](http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p>AboutLowes/outdoor/index.html)

**Deadline is Feb. 13, 2009**

To provide K-12 schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom.

### **21st Century Community Learning Centers - Cohort 4 Grant Competition**

<http://education.state.mn.us/PAIEGMS/searchGrants.do?command=allactive>

**Deadline is July 7, 2009.**

From the Minnesota Department of Education. \$3 million is available to establish or expand high-quality afterschool programs that offer services and activities designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students before and after school. Eligible applications must include a collaborative between a school or school district, and one or more community-based organizations, faith based organizations or other public or private entities. Applicants must serve youth who attend high poverty schools or schools eligible for Title I schoolwide programs.

### **Middle School Sustainability Challenge**

[www.wecanchange.com/about-challenge/challenge-description](http://www.wecanchange.com/about-challenge/challenge-description)

**Due March 15, 2009.**

For middle school students who want to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities. Awards include, but are not limited to, Savings Bonds, TV appearances, cameras, and travel.

### **Shade Structure Grant Program**

[www.aad.org/public/sun/grants.html](http://www.aad.org/public/sun/grants.html)

**Deadline is April 10.**

To help create sun-safe outdoor areas, has announced the availability of grant applications for its Shade Structure Program. Any U.S. nonprofit organization or educational institution may apply for permanent shade structures for outdoor areas not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools, and eating areas. From the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD).

## Green America Awards

[www.naturehills.com/green\\_america\\_awards.aspx](http://www.naturehills.com/green_america_awards.aspx)

**Deadline is April 1, 2009.**

For groups and organizations that are making a difference in their communities, especially by planting trees, bushes, and vegetable seeds to make their communities a better place to live.

## Student Achievement and Learning & Leadership Grants Programs

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016125/neafdn>

[www.neafoundation.org/](http://www.neafoundation.org/)

**Deadlines are February 1, 2009; June 1, 2009; and October 15, 2009**

From the NEA Foundation. The Learning & Leadership Grants - for teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to engage in high-quality professional development and lead their colleagues in professional growth. Grants to individuals fund participation in professional development experiences such as summer institutes (**such as forestry tours and PLT events!**) and action research.

The Student Achievement Grants (\$5,000 each) - for improving the academic achievement of students by engaging in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen knowledge of standards-based subject matter. Proposals for work resulting in low-income and minority student success with honors, advanced placement, and other challenging curricula are particularly encouraged. Grant funds may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, **transportation**, software, and scholars-in-residence.

## **JUST FOR FUN**

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### **What happens to plastic when you recycle it?**

Somewhere on plastic is stamped a recycling symbol and a number. Looking at the numbers, here's what happens to them once they reach the recycling plant.

- #1 - recycled into carpeting and polar fleece
- #2 - recycled into lawn edging, drainage pipes, and food containers
- #3 - recycled into pipe, decking, gutters, and floor tiles
- #4 - recycled into shipping envelopes and landscape timbers
- #5 - recycled into auto parts, garden rakes, and bicycle racks
- #6 - recycled into thermal insulation, camera cases, and packaging

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

Registration forms are on [www.mndnr.gov/plt](http://www.mndnr.gov/plt)

### **PLT Workshop**

For grade K-8 educators  
Feb 9-10, 2009  
5 - 8:30 pm each day  
Ridgewater Community College,  
Hutchinson  
Cost: \$49, which includes dinner (both evenings), PLT Activity Guide, 6 CEUs.

### **Project WET Workshop**

For grade K-9 educators  
Feb. 24, 2009  
9 am - 4 pm  
Century Junior High, Forest Lake  
Cost: \$30, which includes lunch, Project WET Activity Guide, 6 CEUs

### **PLT, WET, WILD, WILD Aquatic Workshop**

For grade K-8 educators  
March 4 - 5, 2009  
9 am - 3:30 pm each day  
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve,  
Bethel  
Cost: \$100, which includes lunch and breakfast (both days); activity guides for Project WET, PLT, Project WILD, and Project WILD Aquatic; and 12 CEUs.  
Optional graduate credit and overnight lodging are available.

### **Project WET Workshop**

For grade K-12 educators  
March 21, 2009  
6 hours  
Academy for Science and Agriculture  
High School, Vadnais Heights  
Cost: \$30, which includes lunch, Project WET Activity Guide, 6 CEUs

### **PLT, WILD, and WILD Aquatic Workshop**

For Grade K-8 educators  
June 16, 2009  
8 am - 3:30 pm  
Jeffers Pond Elem. School, Prior Lake  
Cost: \$70, which includes activity guides for PLT, WILD, and WILD Aquatic; lunch; 7 CEUs.  
Optional graduate credit available.

### **Summer Institute: PLT, WET, WILD, WILD Aquatic Workshop**

For High School educators  
July 14 - 17, 2009  
Vermilion Community College, Ely  
Cost: \$250, which includes 4 days lodging, dinner on 7/14; breakfasts and lunches; high school activity guides in PLT, WET, WILD, and WILD Aquatic; all field trips, and 25 CEUs. Two optional graduate credits are available.

