



A Resource List

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

The Brown Bag Lunch Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation and USDA Forest Service. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

Correctly planting and protecting trees is a good thing to do. However, planting and protecting trees also requires coordinating time and resources. ACT minimizes such requirements by sharing the innovative ideas and organized approaches of successful projects and models for members to replicate. We invite you to join the Alliance for Community Trees for more ways to get involved. Together, we create a strong voice on behalf of the urban forest and make a great difference in the health, beauty, and livability of our communities. We strengthen communities by offering action-oriented approaches that bring people together around a common purpose.

TOPIC

There are many reasons to partner urban and community forestry with traditional education, but probably they all come back to laying the foundations of future citizens who are learned, capable, and responsible. Such experiences are valuable to our students. But there's also something in it for you. Community partners can benefit from collaborative arrangements with schools by gaining visibility and recognition for contributions, pre-screening summer workers, influencing curriculum, and improving the community's quality of life and economic development in general. More information at: www.actrees.org/site/stories/urban_forestry_partnerships_in_education.php

TRAINERS

Peggy Davis Coates

Executive Director
Friends of Hilltop Arboretum
P.O. Box 82608
Baton Rouge, LA 70884
225-767-6916
pdavis@lsu.edu

Nancy Wolf

Consultant
JLN Wolf, Inc.
87 State Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-834-4589
jlnwolfinc@aol.com

Peggy Davis Coates

While the Education Director at Baton Rouge Green, the organization ran about 10 in-service Saturday workshops for classroom teachers each year. Each session was 2-3 hours, and utilized the Project Learning Tree curriculum. The program was run through the local school board and also included a tree planting aspect. Now the Executive Director at Friends of Hilltop Arboretum, Peggy is developing a similar program using Project Learning Tree and partnering with the LSU Forestry Department.

Nancy Wolf

Nancy Wolf is an independent consultant now facilitating a number of urban forestry-related projects in New York City. She is the Facilitator and Organizer of the New York City Arbor Day/John Bowne High School Nursery Project, and is Co-Facilitator of Green Horizons and Green Futures, both environmental career days held in October of each year. Ms. Wolf recently wrote and co-edited "Make Every Day An Arbor Day- Be One in a Million," which is the official curriculum guide for students and others involved in the New York City Million Trees Initiative. Nancy has been active in the environmental education field for over 30 years and was previously the Executive Director of the Environmental Action Coalition (an ACT founding member) and Executive Director of the NYS Urban and Community Forestry Council. She is on the Board of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center, which a present ACT member-group. She is a graduate of Hollins College in Roanoke and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She received her professional teacher training at the College of William and Mary.





A Resource List

SUCCESS STORIES

New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council- John Bowne High School (Flushing, NY)

Started by the NY State U&CF Council, John Bowne High School operates a Grow Out Nursery based on the National Tree Trust model. Using Arbor Day seedlings, students care for the trees for at least three years prior to distributing containerized trees to other schools in the region as well as New York City. The nursery is tied into the plant science curriculum, and also developed a manual for how other schools can start and operate a similar nursery. As an extension of the program, Bartlett sponsors one student each summer, and trains him/her in the arboriculture field.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Resources/bowne_manual.pdf

Casey Trees (Washington, DC)

One of the many ways Casey Trees educates young people is through ROOTS – Restoring Our Own Trees Through Service. The goal of this program is to increase student environmental stewardship. The program emphasizes place-based environmental education to involve students in planting trees in and around their schoolyards. Project ROOTS students actively engage their communities to help Casey Trees fulfill its mission to restore, enhance and protect the tree canopy of the District of Columbia. Casey trees also hires high school students every summer as Urban Forestry Interns. These paid interns, selected from across the city, receive instruction about trees and tree care, then work outdoors in city neighborhoods caring for trees and teaching residents how they can help regreen DC. The program helps students gain job experience, learn about a broad range of forestry and environmental careers, and be stewards for trees planted by Casey Trees.

More information at: <http://www.caseytrees.org/education/index.php>

Urban Resources Initiative (New Haven, CT)

Urban Resources Initiative’s educational program, Open Spaces as Learning Places, rests on a simple premise: nature is all around, even in the city. Through this place-based, hands-on program, hundreds of sixth grade students from around New Haven have explored city parks and community greenspaces. The Open Spaces program balances classroom learning on key ecological concepts with outdoor experiences that bring these ideas to life. Students search their schoolyard for overlooked plants and birds, witness vacant lots reinvented as community gardens, identify trees and habitats at a city park, experience the watershed on a canoe, explore the community living in a pond, and connect human history to the environment by visiting a historic cemetery. This program opens kids’ eyes to the nature in the city, and teaches them how they can protect their urban resources.

More information at: <http://www.yale.edu/uri/programs/osalp.html>

Trees for Tucson (Tucson, AZ)

Students at Manzo Elementary School learn about the Sonoran Desert habitat at an outdoor learning center and community space adjacent to the school. In 2007, Manzo Elementary leased the 110-by-50-foot lot, which belongs to the city of Tucson, for 50 years for \$1. With contributions from The Home Depot, Trees for Tucson, Desert Survivors, and Bach’s Greenhouse Cactus, thirty second- to fifth-grade Manzo students planted native trees and plants and turned the lot into a Sonoran Desert Biome complete with rainwater harvesting landscape. Students learn about desert ecology from observing this recreated native habitat and the desert wildlife that live within.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/elementary_students_will_learn_through_planti.php





A Resource List

SUCCESS STORIES (cont.)

City of Denver (Denver, CO)

“Tree by Tree - The Mile High Million” Grade School Tree Education and Planting Program is a part of Greenprint Denver, a mayoral initiative launched in 2007 to plant one million trees throughout the Denver region by the year 2025. Administered by the Department of Denver Parks and Recreation, the goal of this regional program is to plant trees and to educate residents of all ages about the importance of trees in urban ecosystems. The program helps educators teach students the important function of trees, as part their traditional classroom instruction. Denver Public School fourth graders have been identified to participate in the program to tie in with the ecosystems portions of their science curriculum. The children are learning about what trees are made of, what trees do for the environment, and the benefits in terms of air, water and energy savings provided by trees. A group of volunteer educators from the community developed this pilot educational program.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/denver_public_school_children_plant_trees.php

Trees New York (New York, NY)

In 2008, 18 high school students pioneered the Bronx Youth Urban Forestry Empowerment Program. This 7-week internship was created by Trees New York in partnership with the NYC Housing Authority Garden and Greening Program, the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, Rocking the Boat, Black Rock Forest, and NYC’s Youth Services Employment Program. It was funded through the USDA Forest Service’s 2008 More Kids in the Woods grant program. The Program’s goal was to increase the students’ understanding of their local environment and related social issues by empowering them to become stewards of and advocates for their community’s urban environment, starting with the landscape at the Soundview public housing development in the Bronx and moving outward to local and regional open space resources. This hands-on program educated students in tree care and parkland habitat restoration, and in doing so aimed to also enhance students’ reading, critical thinking, work readiness and problem-solving skills.

More information at: <http://www.treesny.com/programs.html?#youth>

Parkway Partners (New Orleans, LA)

Parkway Partners’ Schoolyard Program has established working, educational gardens at eight schools across New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. At the schoolyard garden at Lusher High School, the Lusher Urban Farmers Club cleared the site to prepare for spring planting under the guidance of faculty sponsor Amy Wanner and Parkway Partner Horticulturist Macon Fry along with community gardeners. The students harvest and eat fresh beans, tomatoes, cauliflower, okra, and cucumbers. The garden will be used to enhance the Science, Math, and Art curriculum. Other Parkway Partners schoolyard gardens are located at: Lafayette Academy, Hynes Charter, The International School of Louisiana, Benjamin Franklin, Lusher Elementary, Sophie Wright, and MacDonogh 15. These gardens provided curriculum support through outdoor classroom experiences.

More information at: <http://www.parkwaypartnersnola.org/schooyard.html>





A Resource List

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12.

More information at: <http://www.plt.org/>

Arbor Day Foundation Youth Education

Arbor Day Foundation's website has a section dedicated to youth education, featuring activities for children of all ages and training resources for educators.

More information at: <http://www.arborday.org/kids/>

Urban Resources Initiative Open Spaces as Learning Places Curriculum

This comprehensive curriculum includes scientific background and hands-on activities for six units based on urban open spaces. Through the curriculum, students will study and explore local schoolyards, greenspaces, parks, rivers, ponds, and cemeteries. Teachers may download the curriculum materials here for use in their own classrooms.

More information at: <http://www.yale.edu/uri/programs/osalp.html>

Trees New York Environmental Literacy Programs

Trees New York's Youth Environmental Literacy Programs teach urban youth to protect, enhance and advocate for their neighborhood trees and environmental resources. Students participate in hands-on activities as well as classroom studies that expand their knowledge of the environment while advancing their reading, language and investigative skills. Course curriculums are customized to accommodate students' age and classroom schedules. Programs range from one to twelve sessions and include learning materials.

More information at: <http://www.treesny.com/youthenvironmentalliteracyprogram.html>

California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC)

CREEC is a statewide project of the California Department of Education's Office of Environmental Education. This project supports environmental educators throughout California at all levels of instruction. The CREEC Network is a clearinghouse of information. It also acts as a conduit to connect teachers with resources such as individuals, agencies, and organizations that provide quality environmental education programs and products.

More information at: <http://www.creec.org/>

EPA Environmental Education

The Environmental Protection Agency's website has a variety of educational resources for students and educators. Be sure to check out "Environmental Education Where You Live" for resources specifically tailored to your region. You will find curricula, video and other media, programs, grant information, and more.

More information at: <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/students.htm>





A Resource List

FUNDING RESOURCES

More Kids in the Woods Grants

Through this funding program, U.S. Forest Service continues its commitment to help children begin to investigate and understand the benefits of our nation's forests and grasslands. The Forest Service contribution plus matching funds and services from partners will top \$2 million. Partners in these projects represent schools, environmental and youth non-profit organizations, Native American Tribes, and other federal, state and local governments.
More information at: www.fs.fed.us/emphasis/kidsprojects.shtml

Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree's (PLT) GreenSchools! initiative provides training and funding for students and teachers to investigate environmental issues at their school and engage with their community in service-learning projects that create green and healthy learning environments. Specifically, GreenWorks! is the service-learning, community action program of PLT that partners PLT educators, students, and communities in environmental neighborhood improvement projects. GreenWorks! blends service activities with the academic curriculum and addresses real community needs as students learn through active engagement.
More information at: www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_23_242.html & www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html

Home Depot 2010 Youth Garden Grants Program

The National Gardening Association (NGA) has announced that Home Depot will return as the Youth Garden Grants sponsor for 2010. NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. For the 2010 grant cycle, there are 100 grants available, which include gift cards for supply purchases at Home Depot.
More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/home_depot_2009_youth_garden_grants_program.php

Target Take Education on the Road Field Trip Grants

Target is helping teachers bring learning to life for students through its Target Field Trip Grants program. Educators across the country recognize the importance of taking their students on field trips and are in need of additional funding to enhance regular classroom studies. This is a great opportunity to help teachers find funds to teach students about urban ecology by bringing them to your urban forestry educational facilities.
More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/target_take_education_on_the_road_field_trip.php

Captain Planet Foundation

Committed to supporting hands-on environmental projects for young people, the foundation provides grants from \$250 to \$2,500 to school and community groups.
More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/captain_planet_foundation_1.php

Nature of Learning Grants

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funds community-based environmental education initiatives that seek to use National Wildlife Refuges as outdoor classrooms.
More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/nature_of_learning_grant_supports_outdoor_cla.php

Seeds for Education Grant Program

Wild Ones is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the use of natural landscaping with native plant species as an ecologically better alternative to traditional landscaping practices. Wild Ones Seeds for Education program offers small grants to schools, nature centers, and other educational nonprofits to landscape with native plants.
More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/seeds_for_education_grant_program.php

