



Learning In Florida's Environment

LIFE Update Newsletter: November 17, 2010



Florida Science Teachers Learn About LIFE

LIFE program partners and staff conducted two teacher professional development sessions at the recent Florida Association of Science Teachers (FAST) Conference. **Christina Veresan** (upper left), teacher at Southport Middle in Port St. Lucie, co-presented with **Tessa Sheridan** and **Henry Mauricey** of Savannas Preserve State Park on "More than a Field Trip: Connecting Students to Nature through Sustained Field-based Science in Florida State Parks" and engaged participants in a sample field lab in which students create their own plants using solar cells.



(lower left) **Mark Dosmann**, teacher at Chasco Middle School in Port Richey, co-presented with site coordinator **Mark Butler** for the LIFE Werner Boyce Salt Springs State Park program and **Brittany Gray** of OEE on the "Effective Application of the LIFE Program Model." Chasco was the first LIFE site to implement a cross curricular program with teaching teams that stay with the same students as they progress from the sixth to the eighth grade.



Office of Environmental Education Welcomes New Staff!

Brittany Gray (upper left) started out as an intern in OEE while earning her B.S. in Environmental Studies from FSU. She has been involved in EE programs such as GEMS, Sea-to-Sea, and Saturday at the Sea, and spent three months developing EE courses at Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center in MS through the Student Conservation Association.



Jessie Phillips (center left) received her B.A. in Environmental Studies with a minor in Education from Florida Gulf Coast University, and will be graduating in December with her Master's in Environmental Science. She has worked in EE, both in formal and non-formal educational settings, for over three years. Jessie was a counselor at the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp, led nature tours as a FGCU Student Naturalist, and developed and taught EE curriculum as a Lee



County Mosquito Control EE Resource Teacher.

Will Fairhurst (lower left) is a Tallahassee native and graduated this year from Amherst College with degrees in English and Political Science. He has been involved in science education with the Center for Integrating Research and Learning at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. He has worked as an America Reads tutor for at risk youth in neighboring public schools, and has been involved in early elementary literacy with the WFSU SuperWhy camps.



LIFE: Enhancing Education Through Technology

Suwannee County School District invited the Office of Environmental Education (OEE) to include the LIFE program in its Enhancing Education Through Technology Project funded by the US Department of Education. The OEE will provide teacher professional development, design water quality field labs using the Vernier LabQuest, and co-present a session at the 2011 Florida Educational Technology Conference.



Back to School: Back Outside!

This [report](#) by Kevin Coyle of the National Wildlife Federation examines the role of outdoor learning on student success.

(left) Students from Collier County schools get back outside as part of the LIFE: Big Cypress Watershed Project. **Sandy Mickey** from the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge joined students, teachers, and park rangers at Collier Seminole State Park.

Workshops/Events/Conferences/Resources:

Jan 31 – Feb 3, 2011	2011 Florida Educational Technology Conference	Orlando, Florida
Get Involved:	Siemens We Can Change the World: Challenge	Service Opportunity for Middle School Students
EE Around the Gulf:	Gulf of Mexico Alliance: Environmental Education Diversity Projects	Web Resource

The LIFE Program includes 17 sites around Florida. If your LIFE site has an update to share, send it (along with pictures and captions) to Greg Ira at Greg.Ira@dep.state.fl.us. For more information on the LIFE Program, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/ed/lifeprogram.htm>