NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

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5TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES LAUNCHED
AT CRADLE OF FORESTRY IN AMERICA

Asheville, NC- The USDA Forest Service Cradle of Forestry in America announces its 2006 Professional Development Series. The 7 workshops within the series address a range of environmental topics. They are designed for formal and non-formal educators, as well as interested members of communities throughout the region. Individuals may participate in as many of the workshops in the series as they like. Fees range from $8-40 per workshop. Materials, lunch and snacks are included. All workshops address the NC Standard Course of Study, are eligible for continuing or renewing credit and credit toward NC environmental education certification.

The series starts on April 1 with Project Learning Tree. PLT uses the forest as a "window" into the natural world, helping young people gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them, as well as their place within it. Try out hands-on classroom activities that cover a variety of skills, topics and North Carolina standards.

With the increasing number of people who enjoy outdoor activities, there's a great need to teach others how to minimize impact on trails and natural areas. The second training in the series is the Leave No Trace Trainers Course, offered April 22-23. Leave No Trace, Inc. is a national training program in minimum-impact backcountry skills. Once certified, educators can train others in no-trace skills and become part of a national cadre of trainers.

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Get outdoors and learn about migratory birds of the Southeast and how to recognize common birds of western North Carolina forests in <u>Migrants, Raptors and Residents</u>, May 13. Perform bird surveys with a wildlife biologist. Join in on a migrants field trip. No prior birding experience needed.

<u>Green Invaders, Exotic Invasive Plants</u> will be offered Wednesday, June 28. Join us to learn about exotic invasive plant species and the threat they present to the health of our forests and landscapes. Learn from specialists and get up close to these weeds with hands-on activities.

On July 11, you will have an opportunity to get wet as you study a creek bottom in preparation for a class field trip in <u>Creek Ecology, Students-as-Scientists</u>. We will look at the habitat potential of a waterway to determine which organisms may live there. Learn from specialists and gain a better understanding of the bigger picture of the waterway and watershed. Learn how to use the pre- and post-visit activities along with the technology component provided with the Students-As-Scientists program.

Based on the classic writings of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Education Project is an innovative, interdisciplinary educational program for teachers of grades 6-12. There will be a <u>Leopold Education Project Facilitator Workshop</u> held July 21-23 to train trainers in leading workshops in this relevant and inspiring curriculum. This opportunity happens once every two years in North Carolina. The project ties humanity to the natural environment in the effort to conserve and protect the earth's natural resources.

<u>Ground-Level Ozone, Advanced Air Quality</u> will be offered August 8-9. Taught by leading air quality specialists, this workshop is targeted for high school teachers and other interested educators and focuses on ground-level ozone science and issues. Participants look at ozone symptoms on vegetation in the Ozone Bio-monitoring garden and explore related interactive software and web resources.

To register for any or all of the above workshops and for more information reference the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association website at www.cradleofforestry.org or contact Alice Cohen-Goldstein at agoldstein@fs.fed.us or call 828-877-3350, x203.

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