

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

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Name that creek

Lisa Gibson

I have been asked more than once recently about the name of the creek under our suspension bridge. "Creek?" I say. "I think you mean the Wilson River." This year I would not blame a visitor for asking that question. The river is the lowest I have seen in my seven seasons here. We began seeing signs of a hot, dry summer quite early in 2015 as we heard reports of low snow pack levels.

With unseasonably warm spring weather, our wildflowers at the Tillamook Forest Center began popping out two to three weeks earlier than normal. This warm weather prevented snow from piling up at high elevations in Oregon as it usually does. We received near normal amounts of precipitation as rain, which flowed to the ocean rather than remaining as snow pack.

Our staff watched the level of the river drop and then drop again. The fire season began in Northwest Oregon on June 16, three weeks earlier than in recent years. Fire season requires forest operators to have firefighting equipment on hand and to do a fire watch. Fire restrictions began with regulated use on June 19. During regulated use, certain activities are restricted, such as campfires.

Fire restrictions increased in July. We were at Industrial Fire Precaution Level 3 and all our off-highway vehicle trails were closed due to extreme fire danger. More hot weather lead to increased fire restrictions. Signs of this danger were everywhere as August began with low river levels, dry forest plants and stressed trees which shed leaves in the middle of summer. September brought much-needed rain, but conditions remain dry overall.

As we look at the water flowing under our suspension bridge, we have never seen it go so low. So, in this unusually dry fall, we continue to call for exceptional caution with any activity that has potential to start a fire. Find out more at about fire prevention at: www.keeporegongreen.org.



In January, the river level was high due to lots of rain.



Unseasonably warm weather has led to very low river levels this summer.





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Tillamook Forest Center

*Inspiring people to connect
with the Tillamook State Forest.*

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To regularly receive this free quarterly newsletter, please contact us. We appreciate your comments or questions on this publication or other forest activities

Stepping up

If you've visited the Tillamook Forest Center, you might have been lucky enough to attend an interpretive or school program designed and presented by Denise Berkshire. Denise's enthusiasm, dynamic storytelling, and obvious passion for the mission of the Tillamook Forest Center shine through everything she does. She has helped tens of thousands of visitors understand their connections to salmon swimming up the Wilson River to spawning grounds, tree planters who helped regenerate the Tillamook Burn, or wildflowers trying to survive a dry season.

Denise has worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry for over 10 years. She was involved with the development and design of the Tillamook Forest Center and continues to build our interpretation and education program toward a high level of excellence. Whether you have seen Denise wearing a bird beak and bird feet for Nature's Yucky, leading a group up a trail to a small stream to release salmon fry, or training other educators and interpreters, you are likely to remember the experience.

It's no wonder that I'm delighted to announce that Denise has stepped up into a different role at the TFC as our next Interpretation and Education Coordinator. Please join me in congratulating her on her new position.

Fran McReynolds

Fran McReynolds, Director



Helping hands Shawn Bray

Being located in a temperate rainforest means that keeping the local flora from overtaking the center grounds can be a full time job. Thankfully for us, we have the help of a local Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) crew to help maintain the grounds around the center. In addition to trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and general landscaping, they also help with other facility maintenance duties when the

busy fire season leaves us short staffed. We are very proud to be partners with this organization, and immensely thankful for all the hard work their crews perform. Cassi, Sommer, Lina, Alana, Jennifer, Noah, Trent, and Caleb, our hats are off to you!

If you'd like to learn more about OYCC programs in your area, please visit [www.oyccweb.com/
summer-conservation-corps.html](http://www.oyccweb.com/summer-conservation-corps.html).

Naturalist Notes

Brian Moore

It's easy to come to a beautiful outdoor location like the Tillamook State Forest (TSF) and get wrapped up in the **big**—the big trees, big rock outcrops, big rivers and canyons that make this place amazing. We sometimes get so overwhelmed with the big that we forget to take the time to look at the small things that add so much beauty to our outdoor experience.

Did you know that the TSF has hundreds of species of plants and animals that mostly go unnoticed? Observing the little things takes time and all the senses. Listen to the forest and you will hear dozens of different birds.

Look under a rock (but please put it back) and you might find a millipede, worms or one of twenty different types of amphibians that make the forest home. Get your feet wet and you might find trout fry or even caddisfly larvae which carry their homes on their backs. Observing the small things is what really connects us to the forest and the forest to us.

Happy exploring!



What could be hiding in these "big" rocks?



Look closely! This western toadlet is barely bigger than a dime.

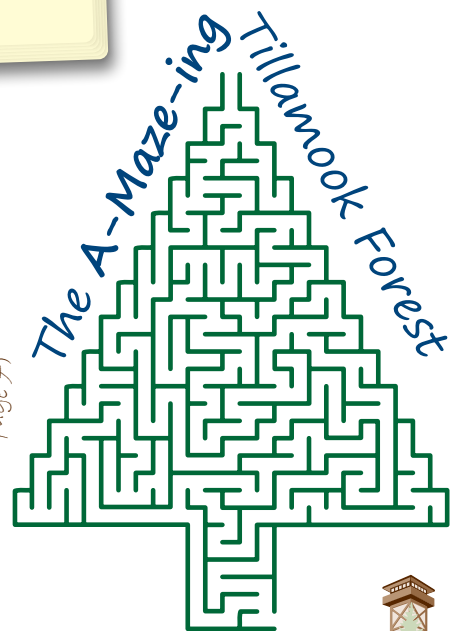


A tiny rough-skinned newt larva found in our pond



Caddisfly larva

Our adorable visitor in September reminded us of a joke...
What sound do porcupines make when they kiss? (Answer on page 7)

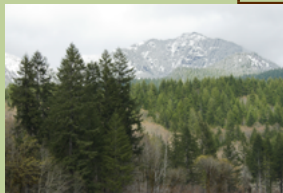
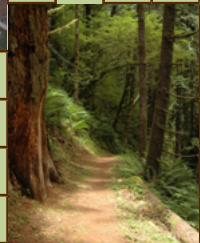




How well do you know the forest?

Camie Westfall

Test your knowledge of the forest by completing the crossword below. Answers are located on page 7.



Down

1. River that Highway 6 follows to Tillamook
2. Name of the closest campground and day use area to the Tillamook Forest Center
5. Wooden structure at the Tillamook Forest Center used to get across the river from #5
6. Local nickname for the cycle of major fires between 1933–1951
9. Contributions made by the public which support the center's programs
11. Most commonly-planted tree during reforestation after the fires
12. Huge steam-powered machine used to retrieve logs during harvest
13. Wooden structure high in the forest used to spot forest fires

Across

3. Name of the State Forest that burned in 1933, 1939, 1945 and 1951
4. Name of mountain that is a popular hiking destination with a summit height of 3,226 ft
7. Non-motorized paths to walk on in the forest
8. Disease-resistant tree commonly used by Native Americans
10. Year when the Tillamook Forest Center first opened
14. Name of the 1933 fire and the four collective fires in the forest



Looking back to move forward

Bonnie Gisler

The Tillamook State Forest is breathtaking with its thousands of acres of rolling hills dense with beautiful green stands of Douglas-fir that seem to stretch on as far as the eye can see. It has been this way for some time, and it was like this before, but it wasn't like this always.

The historic Tillamook Burn, consisting of a series of four fires starting in 1933 and ending in 1951, devastated the forest. Left charred, black and lifeless the Tillamook Burn was desperate for hope. Even as the fires coursed on replanting efforts began; by the end of the massive effort, 72 million tree seedlings had been planted. Today, we once again enjoy the breathtaking and productive sea of green.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) manages the forest for an economic profit, for habitat and for social values like campgrounds and hiking trails. Always in the business of improvement, ODF is currently revising its management plan for forests under its jurisdiction in the Northwest part of the state. You can find out more about the current revision and find the schedule for the Board of Forestry public meetings at www.oregon.gov/odf.



New smiles



Hi! I'm **Brian Moore** the newest seasonal naturalist here at the Tillamook Forest Center. Growing up in northwest Oregon, I was the kid that spent every weekend, and all summer, exploring the outdoors; coming home dirty despite my mother's best wishes. I never let that passion for nature die and received a bachelor's in Fish and Wildlife from Oregon State University. I've spent time helping others explore nature in South Africa, at a Zoo in Idaho and with the National Park Service in Arizona and California. I'm really excited about getting to teach about my passion—nature—in the state that made me fall in love with it in the first place.

Hello! I'm **Camie Westfall**. I grew up in western Montana and have always been very fond of the outdoors. In December 2015 I will be graduating from Pacific University with a degree in Environmental Biology. Although I am in a new position, I'm a familiar face at the Tillamook Forest Center. For the summer, I was hired on as the Visitor Services Assistant, but I have previously worked as a work study student since fall 2012. I enjoy studying all wildlife, especially watershed biology. During my free time, I enjoy exploring Oregon, hiking in the Tillamook State Forest, and snorkeling in ponds with rough skinned newts.



Hello! I'm **Kristen Penner**, the newest addition to the Tillamook Forest Center team. It's an honor to be assisting this amazing staff behind the scenes, and you'll also see me in the gift shop or making the rounds on our beautiful on-site trails. Growing up near the "Cradle of Forestry" in Western North Carolina, I spent much of my childhood in the woods or in the kitchen with my mother cooking produce from our garden or wild fruits from the forests. This inspired a career in the culinary industry that led me to the bounty of northwest Oregon. I'm excited to now call the coastal village of Garibaldi my home. Here, the beautiful Tillamook State Forest rolls down toward the sea, allowing us to enjoy this area's incredible array of outdoor recreation, foraging, hiking, and paddling opportunities. Autumn is a particularly beautiful time to travel Highway 6, so if it's been a while since you traversed this way, please stop by the Forest Center to say hello!



Springville service learning

Dan Shedden & Penny Patrick

“Field study this Friday! Bring lunch, water, snack; dress for the weather.” This is what our Springville K-8 sixth graders have heard for the past six years. Our partnership with the Tillamook Forest Center (TFC) and the Oregon Forestry Resources Institute (OFRI) has allowed our students to actively learn science and social studies content in the Tillamook State Forest. Springville K-8, part of the Beaverton School District, is an Expeditionary Learning School (ELSchools.org). It’s important that our students have authentic experiences in the field and create high-quality products that meet a real world need.

For the 2014-2015 school year, each student was assigned a common plant or animal species from a list we received from Denise Berkshire, interpretation and education program coordinator at the TFC. Our product, modeled on Joyce Sidman’s book *Ubiquitous*, required each student to research and write non-fiction text and poetry and complete a watercolor painting of their organism. The focus of our book is interdependence of species in the forest.

Over the course of the school year, thanks to OFRI’s generous support, kids were able to experience six field studies in the Tillamook Forest. TFC staff guided hikes which were tailored to our interdependence focus and to middle school students’ interests. Some of the topics were birds, the riparian zone and wildflower interdependence. Each student also released salmon fry in Jones Creek.

We were awarded a Beaverton Education Foundation grant which we used to hire artist Peggy Ross, who taught our students observation, drawing and painting skills. She joined us for our first spring field study and visited both sixth grade classrooms an additional six times.

In addition to covering our learning targets, we want our students to become stewards of the amazing natural world that is Oregon. We strongly support the Oregon No Child Left Inside philosophy and the five environmental literacy strands found in the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan (<http://bit.ly/1KAeaju>).

Working with the TFC staff, we have already planned and set dates for the upcoming school year. Looking forward to our continued partnership!

Dan Shedden and Penny Patrick are 6th grade teachers at Springville K-8, an Expeditionary Learning School. They are solid supporters of the No Child Left Inside initiative and the Tillamook Forest Center and are grateful for the generous support of the Oregon Forestry Resources Institute. Dan and Penny love getting outside with their students!



Strong support

Barbara Casteel

My family arrived in Oregon in 1852, 100 years before I was born. I grew up in the central Willamette Valley and became a science teacher because I love learning about nature, especially plants. After I retired, I took the Oregon Master Naturalist class. There is a volunteer component to this class, and since I have always thought the Tillamook Forest Center was a wonderful resource, I believed that I would enjoy being a part of it.

I like teaching, so I do some roving interpretation at the center. I understand that everyone helps keep things in order, so I am sure I will be folding costumes and putting away magnets on a regular basis. On sunny spring days, I may learn to do some wildflower or tree walks. One of the fun parts of being a volunteer is the variety of choices.

I think volunteering is a crucial part of society. I look at it sort of like a plant or tree. Professionals are the trunk, stem or taproot. They connect with volunteers who are secondary roots who connect with those little tiny roots at the end. Then the reverse happens. The tiny roots draw in nutrients and water (or in the case of volunteers, information and service) that move up the tree and into the branches to produce leaves, flower and fruit. That is how a healthy society works. Everyone shares what they have so that everyone gets what they need.



John & Judy Shilling

A year ago, at the suggestion of friends, we visited the Tillamook Forest Center. We were so impressed by the site that in late August this year we contacted Center staff to inquire about volunteering. We wondered if the Center might have an opportunity for us to be RV site host volunteers for six weeks starting in early September.

We have been volunteers at the Tallac Historic Site on the south shore of Lake Tahoe for 12 summers. There, Judy is the lead gardener and oversees the small gift shop. John conducts tours and assists with maintenance. Both of us are on the board of trustees of the Tahoe Heritage Foundation.

Judy has worked as a high school teacher, real estate appraiser, and administrator in the Peace Corps small projects administration in Washington D.C. She retired as the administrative assistant to the CEO of a software company.

John received his BS in Forest Management from Humboldt

State College and a MS in Outdoor Recreation Management from Utah State University. John likes to say he "worked in the woods" as a timber cruiser and laying out high-lead timber sales in the north coast of California. He also worked in a saw mill as a log scaler. When he retired in 2004, after 40 years in the US Forest Service, he was the regional director of recreation for the Forest Service in California.

From the homestead settlements, to the Burn, to the replanting, and now, to modern timber harvest, we find the Tillamook State Forest a fascinating story.

Crossword answers: 1. Wilson, 2. Jones Creek, 3. Tillamook, 4. Kings, 5. Suspension Bridge, 6. Six Year Jinx, 7. Hiking Trails, 8. Western Redcedar, 9. Donations, 10. 2006, 11. Douglas-fir, 12. Steam Donkey, 13. Lookout Tower, 14. Tillamook Burn; **Porcupine joke:** OUCH!





2015 Tillamook Forest Center Fall Program Calendar

october

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Tim W. Moore "Forest in Focus" Photography Exhibit Opens! (Through October)	2	3 11:30 Batty About Bats
4 1:30 Batty About Bats	5 Closed	6 Closed	7	8	9	10 11:30 Tillamook Tales (Fall Leaves)
11	12 Closed	13 Closed	14	15	16 	17 11:30 Rainforest Walk
18 1:30 CCC in the Tillamook	19 Closed	20 Closed	21	22	23	24 1:00 Tim W. Moore Photography Presentation
25	26 Closed	27 Closed	28	29	30	31 11:30 Batty About Bats Halloween

november

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Closed	3 Closed	4 Wildfire & Watershed Teacher Workshop (registration required)	5	6	7 11:30 Cougars
8 1:30 Cougars	9 Closed	10 Closed	11	12	13	14 11:30 Tillamook Tales (Hibernation)
15 1:30 Forest Hibernation	16 Closed	17 Closed	18	19	20	21 Salmon Release (est. date)
22 Salmon Release (est. date) 	23 Closed	24 Closed	25	26 Closed Thanksgiving	27	28 Holiday Wreath Making registration required 
29 →	30 Closed until March 2016					





The gift that gives back

If you have enjoyed or been touched by a program, exhibit or special moment at the Tillamook Forest Center and want to make sure the center can continue to provide excellent forest education opportunities, please consider offering your financial support. One hundred percent of all gifts go directly to education programs and activities at the center. Here is a menu of ideas...every gift counts.

Donor Trees: A great gift idea...

The Trust invites you to show your support for the Tillamook Forest Center by “planting your tree” in a unique forest landscape sculpture located in the center’s entry plaza. In recognition of your \$75 gift, your name or the name of the person you honor or memorialize will be engraved on a tree medallion which will be set against the forest backdrop created by the sculpture.

Trailside benches available for sponsorship...

Made from Douglas-fir trees grown in the Tillamook State Forest, these benches provide visitors a moment to pause, rest and reflect with views of the Wilson River and the surrounding forest. An attractive bronze plaque is inset into the back of the bench and can be used to honor or memorialize individuals or organizations. A limited number of rustic benches are available for a sponsorship gift at the \$2,500 level.

Donor Tree Order Form

Yes! I want to help support the Tillamook Forest Center

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ tree(s) @\$75 per tree

Here is my check

Please charge my Visa/Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp _____ CCV _____

Signature _____

In Memory of... In Honor of... Name Only

Name to appear on tree:

Line One:

Line Two:

Line Three:

The Trust is pleased to recognize donations made as gifts, or to honor or memorialize a special person. Send recognition of this donation to:

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donor trees are available on a first-come basis. If requesting more than one tree, please make photocopies of this form.

Consider a planned gift...

A charitable gift may play a part in your overall estate plan. The Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust’s experienced team is pleased to work with donors on life income gift plans, such as charitable remainder trusts, or estate gifts and bequests. Our team can also assist with charitable gifts of specialty assets.

Cultural Trust partner means tax credit...

Keep in mind that the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust is a qualified partner in the Oregon Cultural Trust, an innovative and widely supported program for strengthening and preserving Oregon’s arts, heritage and culture. Gifts to the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust, made in concert with a gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust, qualify you for a tax deduction for both gifts and a tax credit, all while supporting important work related to our state’s culture and arts.

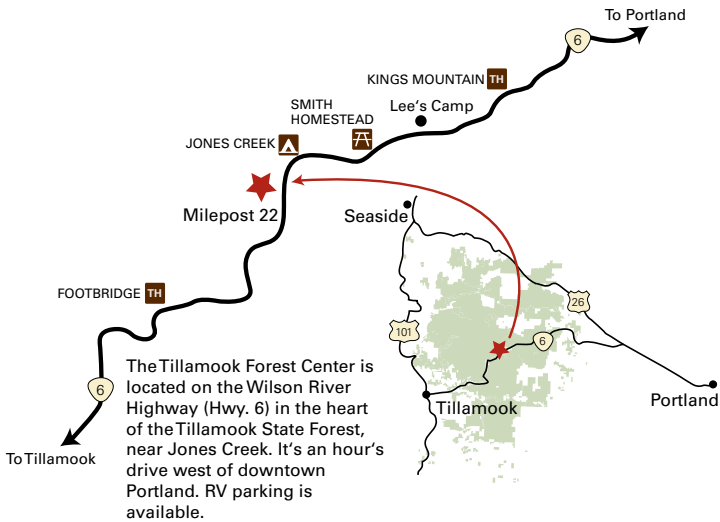
To make a gift, or for more information contact the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust at (503) 815-6800 or on the web at: www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_04.html



Tillamook Forest Center

45500 Wilson River Highway
Tillamook, OR 97141
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www.tillamookforestcenter.org



The Tillamook Forest Center is located on the Wilson River Highway (Hwy. 6) in the heart of the Tillamook State Forest, near Jones Creek. It's an hour's drive west of downtown Portland. RV parking is available.

Please Note!

Fall hours began September 14.

We are currently **OPEN**
Wednesday through Sunday,
10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The center will be **CLOSED** on
November 26 for Thanksgiving.

The center **CLOSES** for the season
November 30 and will **REOPEN** March 2, 2016

mark your calendar



Our wreath making event is fun for the whole family!



Don't miss your chance to release a baby fish



Win this photo! call for details



Photographer, Tim Moore

Save the date!

Tim W. Moore "Forest in Focus"
photography exhibition
Month of October
October 24 – Presentation & raffle!

Wildfire & Watershed Teacher Workshop
Wednesday, November 4
Registration required

Salmon Release
November 21 & 22 (estimated dates)

Holiday Wreath Making
November 27-29
Registration required



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