

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

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Nature play

Three Tillamook Forest Center staff recently attended the Nature Play Conference in Vancouver. The conference was about kids playing in nature. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods* and the keynote speaker for the conference put it all into perspective.

For our team, the highlight of his talk boiled down to two words: *loose parts*. More children today are playing with toys that have *manufactured* parts or parts that are bolted and secured, encased and battery powered—from playground equipment to Nintendo. The natural environment, on the other hand, is full of loose-parts that are open-ended: rocks, dirt, leaves, twigs, flowers, water, and seeds.

An example of the power of nature and loose parts is to observe a child in a constructed playground. The purpose of the play area is to have the child play on the structure. The lure, however, is the bark chips that were intended as a soft ground cover and unintentionally become the instrument of play. The child digs holes, gathers the chips into piles, buries their legs, plays with branches that blew into the area, climbs the shade tree rather than the play structure, etc.

There's no doubt about it; nature can be messy and risky. But risk leads to confidence-building by pushing and challengin oneself to try new things.

What's unfortunate is that adults and our rules suppress risk and ultimately, creativity.



Consider these words overheard at the workshop: "If we want children to read, they need to be exposed to print. If we want children to be good stewards of the environment, they need to be exposed to nature."

During the week of September 24 – 30 we will have a special focus on nature play during *Take a Child Outside Week*. We hope you will join us.



The Tillamook Forest Center provides many opportunities for nature play.





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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

Thoughts from the Director

New Poster Celebrates the Tillamook State Forest

A new, full-color poster, featuring a photograph by renowned Oregon photographer Steve Terrill, is now available through the Tillamook Forest Center. The photograph, taken along the scenic North Fork Wilson River, is stunningly beautiful and serves as a celebration of the Tillamook State Forest.

Produced through funding and support from the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust, the poster will be presented as a gift to anyone who donates \$10 to the Trust. All proceeds from the poster will directly support the ongoing educational and interpretive programs of the Tillamook Forest Center.

Early fall is a beautiful season to come out and explore the forest. All of us at the Center hope you will plan to come out to visit again soon. And, while you're here, we think you'll want to pick up a copy of the poster and take it home with you.

All the best from all of us at the Center,



The new poster is available with either black or white backgrounds, allowing a wide range of matting and framing options.


Jim Quiring



The view from the new overlook trail.

A new perspective on Kings Mountain

This summer there was an energetic crew of young people building more than a strong work ethic and teamwork skills at the Tillamook Forest Center. Hired as members of the Tillamook Options Program, Oregon Youth

Employment Initiative, Joel Vieyra, Jonathan Mays, and Steven Zipfel constructed a short trail, small bridge, rustic staircase, and viewpoint off of the Wilson River Trail. Hikers now have easy access to a spectacular view of the suspension bridge over the Wilson River and Kings Mountain. Be sure to check out the breathtaking scene this fall.

In the words of the trail builders:

"It was a great experience working in the forest, by the river."

"We are proud of our project, especially the bridge and stairs."

"We will totally come back here and say 'We did that.'"

Thanks to Darryl Anderson, facility maintenance specialist at the Center, for his design expertise, technical guidance, and encouragement.



What you can do to support the Tillamook Forest Center

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 (see order form on this page).



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 to the Wilson River and the surrounding forest. An attractive brass 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.

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.

For more information on making a gift, contact the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust at (503) 701-0236.

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.

For more information on making a gift, contact the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust at (503) 359-7474.



Rain is a gooooood thing — especially for mushrooms

Mushrooms flourish in the wet climate of Oregon's Coast Range mountains, especially near the Tillamook Forest Center where average annual rainfall exceeds 100 inches per year. One of the most delicious, and the easiest to identify safely, is the Pacific golden chanterelle, Oregon's official state mushroom.

The presence of these mushrooms depends on rainfall and their symbiotic relationship to conifers (Douglas-fir, hemlock, and spruce). The rain storms during October and November will prompt the chanterelles to emerge from the ground, usually in small clusters of 5-6 mushrooms. Their bright orange color makes them fairly easy to locate until the red, yellow, and brown leaves of alder and vine maple trees begin to blanket the forest floor. Also, as early as late August and September, some mushrooms may appear near streams after a heavy rainfall.



No permits are required to pick chanterelles as long as it is for personal use, however pickers are limited to one gallon of mushrooms per vehicle. Many recipes exist from casseroles to sautéed over a barbecued steak or as a topping on crackers and cheese.

Host opportunities for 2011

We are currently looking for site hosts for our 2011 visitor season and you might be just who we're looking for! Our host schedules are flexible and range from a couple weeks to several months in duration. We'll work with you to establish a work schedule that meets everyone's needs and suits your skills. If you think this might be for you, give our Volunteer Coordinator a call at (503) 815-6808.



Host Season

- April — October

Host Amenities

Spacious Campsite Featuring:

- Full hook-ups
- Telephone
- Internet access
- Picnic table
- Laundry and shower facility

Host Duties

- Greet visitors
- Answer questions about displays
- Assist with sales in the Gift Shop
- Support staff with assorted clerical tasks (phones, mailings, filings, etc.)
- Perform routine cleaning and grounds keeping
- Complete maintenance tasks & projects
- Help with special events (set-up, kids crafts, info stations, etc.)

What changes color?

Season Walk

walking in the forest is calm
silent and still
but the leaves crackling under my feet
and the chirping birds. In the fall your
leaves will drop
and by winter
you are covered in snow
with dim skies
Covered with clouds. When summer comes along
you become a sunny paradise
with trees full of green leaves
and grass
covered in morning dew. That's what
makes you special
Forest

Season Walk was written by 5th grade student, Caleb Mark, from Springville School in Beaverton. It is the result of a very special partnership that brought students to the Tillamook State Forest to work on a riparian rehabilitation project over the course of several months. The poems were written from observation notes students made during their visits to the forest.

Vine maple

Big leaf maple

Red alder

Wild strawberry

Oregon grape

Tillamook Colors

The Tillamook State Forest is known for its vast stretches of evergreen, spreading as far as the eye can see. Yet this forest is more than just Douglas-fir. Hidden treasures show their true colors as the days become shorter and the air grows cooler. Vibrant reds, yellows, and oranges wake from their green slumber. The seasons are changing and autumn is here, allowing bigleaf maples, vine maple, red alder, Oregon grape and wild strawberries to show their true colors. These are just a few of the plants that will capture your attention here in the vibrant green forest. But have you ever wondered how the leaves get their color?

When leaves make their own food, or photosynthesize, they make use of chlorophyll, which appears in the leaf as a green pigment. In the fall, the days grow shorter, and the tree produces less food, relying increasingly on the food it has stored in its wood. As the leaf "shuts down" it uses less chlorophyll, and its vivid green color fades. The yellow, orange, and red hues that can be seen in many fading leaves were there all along, but were masked by the chlorophyll. Fall is their moment of fame as they finally come out of hiding and can be enjoyed by all.

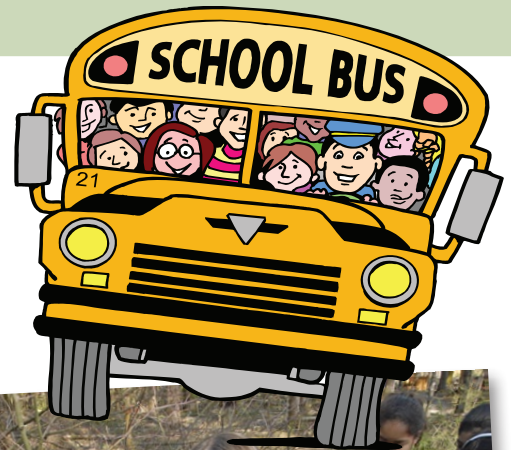
Come walk under the autumn kaleidoscope of changing colors here in the Tillamook State Forest.



Learning is fun at the Tillamook Forest Center

While fall means going back to school for many kids, at the center it means bringing the students to the forest with our educational programs. Last year was a successful one in which over 6300 students were served in guided programs, self-guided programs, large group events, a teacher workshop, a career presentation, and student job shadows. The largest groups served were those participating in guided programs led by Tillamook Forest Center staff. The activities are designed to help students learn about the forest while also helping them achieve state curriculum standards.

The programs have been well received. One teacher who participated reported, "They [the students] said it was the best day of their lives!" The most popular program in 2009 was the Past & Present program for third and fourth graders, which teaches students the history of the Tillamook State Forest through a series of skits that the students create and perform for their classmates. As they portray explorers, Native Americans, homesteaders, loggers, firefighters, tree planters, the governor, and current recreational users of the forest, students quickly engage with and absorb forest history and changes over time.



Students do a tree report in the Trees of the Tillamook program.



Students act out forest succession.

Self-guided visits have been valuable as well. These groups are given an orientation to the center and then guide their own activities. Many teachers find this is a great opportunity to design a field trip that best fits the educational needs of their students.

All educational visits to the Tillamook Forest Center are free, as they are for the public. This gives students an opportunity to experience the forest for themselves. We find that there are students in nearly every group who have never been to the forest before. One teacher commented, "I am so grateful that this program was free to our students; so many would not be able to participate otherwise."

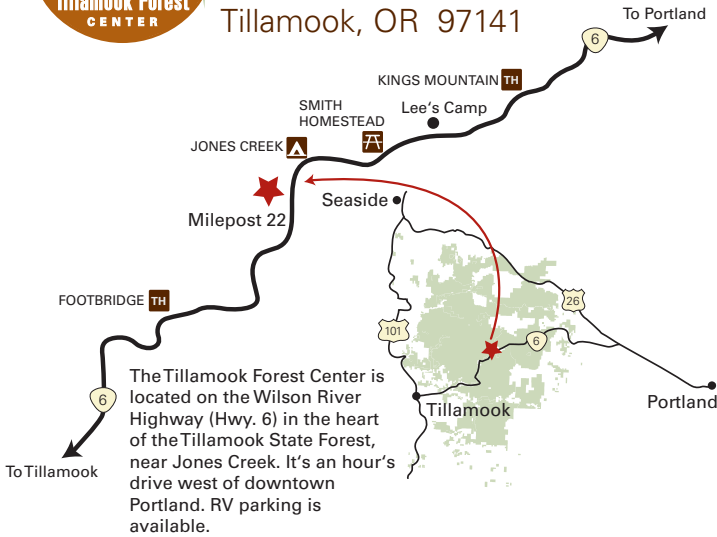
The center began taking teacher reservations for programs on August 16. They are expected to fill up fast, as they did last year. We look forward to a great school year full of learning about the forest!





Tillamook Forest Center

45500 Wilson River Highway
Tillamook, OR 97141



Please Note!

Fall operating hours begin September 8, 2010.
We will be **open** Wed — Sun, 10 AM to 4 PM

The Center will be **closed**:

- November 11, 2010 for Veteran's Day
- November 25, 2010 for Thanksgiving
- November 26, 2010 for a mandatory unpaid furlough day.

The Center will be **closed** for the winter starting November 29, 2010.

We will **reopen** for spring on March 2, 2011.



Mark Your Calendar

Don't miss an issue!

Please contact us to update your address.

Important DATES!

Take a Child Outside Week September 24 — 30

Enjoy the beauty of nature and rediscover the wonder with a child. Check our [website](#) for details on activities.



Holiday Wreath Making November 27 & 28

Join us to make wreaths together in a fun holiday environment. Learn how with our staff or amaze us with your craftiness. Check our [website](#) for program times and details, and then call (866) 930-4646 to complete the required pre-registration and pay the materials fee.



The Fungus Among Us October 17, 1 PM

See our guest presenter, Dane Osis from Fort Stevens State Park, as he shares examples of local mushrooms and helps find them on the trail.

Check our [website](#) upcoming programs!