

# The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

## inside

### From the Director

Page 2

### Shop talk

Page 2

### News from the Trust

Page 3

### Donations make a difference

Page 4

### Recognizing our volunteers

Page 5

### Naturalist notes

Page 6

### Welcome to the team!

Page 7

### Save the date

Page 8

## Underneath the ice

As ice covers waterways and snow caps Oregon's Coast Range mountains, you might think that everything hunkers down for winter. Beneath the water's surface, however, beavers still hum along building their magnificent lodges. Behind closed doors our busy beaver center staff doesn't stop working either; our lodge is diligently prepped for next season.

Our lodge needs caretakers. Facilities staff charge forward, fixing everything to make our buildings work correctly. Exhibit repairs and cleaning are a top priority, reducing disruptions for visitors during the year for things like shampooing our highly trafficked carpets. Large construction projects and fine detail work also happen, like cleaning the pond or delivering wood heating pellets to our silo, because staff can focus on these tasks with eagle-eyed precision.

Our lodge needs planners. Do you love coming to our programs and events? How about seeing new displays and exhibits? Every logistical piece of our programmatic offerings is reviewed and reworked by our interpretation and education team. Flawlessly functioning programs result from a strong foundation laid in winter during many meetings and brainstorming sessions.

Our lodge needs curators. Meticulous care goes into selecting items we sell in our gift shop. Visitor services staff inventories remaining stock, crunches numbers, and works with vendors to order for next season. With volunteer help, they restock and beautify the store for the springtime rush.

Our lodge needs a foreman. While the rest of the staff is chugging along on various projects, our fearless leader is organizing strategic planning, staff enrichment opportunities like trainings and workshops, and gearing up for staffing the upcoming season.

All this happens in twelve weeks that include Christmas, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day and other longer vacations that staff can't take during our busy open season. It's quite an impressive balancing act to ensure we're ready to open in March. Not too shabby for a small crew of busy beavers, eh?



Wood pellets being delivered into the silo for our boilers.



Stuffed animals don't stock and tag themselves.





Winter 2019 Issue  
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## Tillamook Forest Center

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

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Cam Amabile

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#### Visitor Services Coordinator

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#### Visitor Services Assistant

Megan Lacy

#### Facilities Coordinator

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#### Facilities Assistant

Katrina Bielenberg

#### Pacific University Work Study

Bianca Bermejo-Gonzalez

Lailani Buchanan

#### Executive Director, Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust

Ross Holloway



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tillamookforestcenteroregon](http://www.facebook.com/tillamookforestcenteroregon)

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

## From the Director

### Winter rejuvenation

I love the renewal that winter rains bring here in the Coast Range. Along the trails, moss-covered vine maple trunks, no longer hidden by leaves, create verdant free-form sculptures. Intriguing species of fungi are hard at work, breaking down the detritus of the growing season. One can hear the river as a wild tumultuous creature fed by each storm, rearranging the placement of rocks and trees along its path.

The seasonal winter closure at the center gives staff time for renewal as well. We are hard at work over the winter, catching up with facility needs, refreshing programs, refurbishing the gift shop, and brainstorming fresh ways to build forest connections. With the new pavilion, there is an additional canvas on which to create memories for visitors.

We're grateful to our many supporters who are helping to build and furnish this beautiful new shelter. Just as the rain refreshed the forest, there are many ways for you to help keep the center at its best. You can volunteer your time (see our story on page 7 and get more information on our website [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about\\_05.html](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_05.html)) or remember us in your holiday giving (read more about donation opportunities on page 4 and make a donation online at [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about\\_04-1.html](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_04-1.html)) and be part of the winter renewal in the heart of the forest.

*Fran McReynolds*



*Mosses sparkle with winter rain*

Fran McReynolds

## Shop talk

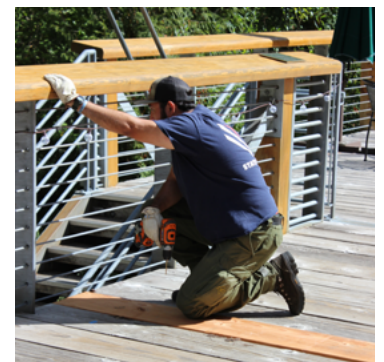
Challenging wet weather in the Coast Range makes maintaining the center's many wooden structures a round-the-clock job. Knowing that twelve years of exposure to the elements means that wood rot might soon set in on the older materials, our facilities team tackled some of the more pressing issues this year. The team has begun temporarily removing and replacing the wooden benches that line our trails, as well as replacing aging bridge decking, all in an effort to keep visitors safe and the facility in tip-top shape. This winter, our steam donkey will receive new "legs," as the team works diligently with historians to replace the sled logs supporting the massive artifact. It's tough work with weather playing in opposition to our team's goals, but they're a tough team and they'll get the job done. Interested in helping the facilities team win out against the weather? Check out the volunteer page in this newsletter for opportunities!



*Replacement donor benches  
will once again provide places  
for visitors to enjoy the forest.*



*A delivery of new steam  
donkey logs is a welcome  
sight.*



*New bridge deck boards will  
keep visitors on the path to  
adventure for years to come.*

## News from the Trust

The Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust celebrated autumn with two successful events held in the Tillamook State Forest. In September, the 2018 Root Ball at the Tillamook Forest Center raised over \$17,000 for the new Forest Education Pavilion, with guests enjoying dinner on the bridge over the Wilson River, silent and live auctions, and forest-related activities in the new pavilion. The first weekend of October, Cycle Oregon hosted its inaugural Gravel Ride, based out of Reehers Camp on the east side of the forest. A trust-sponsored field trip stop for riders at the Reliance Creek Trestle brought the largest group of guests to date to see the future Salmonberry Trail.

The Trust's 2018 fundraising campaign is focused on completing furnishing and equipping the new pavilion and has been a great success so far, with grants, donations and Root Ball receipts totaling nearly \$60,000 this year. Special thanks go out to the N.B. and Jacqueline Giustina Foundation, the Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation, and the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation for stepping up with second grants to the pavilion project. Together, these three repeat contributors gave \$33,000 towards our 2018 campaign, and \$98,000 overall in grants to the project over the past two years. We are very close to reaching our 2018 goal of \$70,000, and are hopeful that some of those year-end donations (see page 4) that many of you choose to make will put us over the top.

In addition to helping with pavilion and other center needs, you can also support recreation management programs in Oregon's state forests by linking your Fred Meyer rewards card to the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust, directing a portion of Fred Meyer's annual charitable giving to the State Forests Recreation Fund (SFRF). Link your card at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards), search for us by our non-profit number 90835. Thank you!

*Ross Holloway*

Ross Holloway

## Tillamook Forest HERITAGE TRUST



Guests enjoying old-fashioned fun at this year's Root Ball



## Gifts to the Trust support center programs

### *Education Pavilion: Help expand forest education opportunities...*

Support center programs and help furnish the new Forest Education Pavilion by making a year-end gift. Beginning in 2016, the Trust partnered with center staff to design and construct an outdoor education pavilion adjacent to the main building. This exciting addition to the center site provides additional covered space to host our education programs, while also providing an outdoor sheltered area for summer season visitors to enjoy one of our interpretive programs. Your gifts will create expanded education opportunities for students and visitors to the center.

### *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. The donor tree order form is available on our website at [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about\\_04-1.html](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_04-1.html).

### *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 or the surrounding forest. An attractive bronze plaque is inset in the backrest of each 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. **Just four bench locations remain!** The donor bench form is available on our website at [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about\\_04-1.html](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_04-1.html).

### *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](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_04.html).

**Yes!** I want to support the Forest Education Pavilion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up to receive your newsletter by mail and email

Amount:

\$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my check     Please charge my Visa/Mastercard/Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.*



## Sailing through a record year

It is the season of giving and we would like to thank our volunteers for all they have given us this year. They have done a marvelous job helping us keep the ship afloat through a record-setting season and exhilarating new events. No doubt, next year will bring more shattered records and new joyous voyages into the unknown, so we're looking to sign up as many sailors as we can to tackle the exciting uncharted waters ahead! If you're up for a fun experience in a team environment growing your skills as a naturalist, a fixer-upper, or as an information ambassador, apply to our volunteer program today. The application deadline for the spring 2019 season is February 1<sup>st</sup>!

### Day volunteer commitments:

- One 2 to 4 hour shift weekly
- Minimum of 3 months

### On-site host commitments:

- Work 20 - 30 hours per week while living on site
- Camper or RV must be self-provided
- Minimum of 2 months for new hosts

Apply today! Find more information on our website at [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about\\_05.html](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_05.html).

*Top sail: Are you a self-proclaimed MacGyver? Our facilities team could use your ideas and help fixing up the facility!*

*Middle sail: If you love sharing the natural or cultural world with others, share it with our visitors or students as a roving naturalist.*

*Bottom sail: At our information desk, you'll assist visitors with general forest questions, gift shop purchases, and the ever popular prize box!*



# Infested! With ladybugs?

In early October, a visitor noticed a nearby tree infested with thousands of ladybugs. The culprit was a native species known as the convergent lady beetle. In the fall they fly to higher elevations and release pheromones prompting others to join them. Tens of thousands gather to mate and then hibernate under the leaf litter. It is believed they leave pheromone tracks for the next generation to find, so we may find another delightful infestation of ladybugs next year.



Convergent lady beetles are often gathered and sold to gardeners for pest control.



Ladybugs were found crawling over every branch of a hawthorn tree, along the surrounding meadow grasses, and even up some people's pant legs!

## The more, the merrier at the Tillamook Forest Center

It is always great to see new faces around the Tillamook Forest Center, and just as exciting when folks extend their commitments with us. Join us in welcoming Bianca Bermejo-Gonzalez and Katrina Bielenberg to the center team, and say, "welcome back" to Lailani Buchanan, whose volunteer experience with us this summer enabled her to return as a work-study student through Pacific University.

### **Bianca Bermejo-Gonzalez** (Visitor Services)

Bianca is currently a student at Pacific University in Forest Grove where she is majoring in Biology. She has experience in education and outreach through an internship at the Oregon Zoo, where she worked primarily with low-income communities. She is excited about helping others, and providing communities of color resources to learn more about nature and the Tillamook State Forest.

### **Katrina Bielenberg** (Facilities)

Katrina is a Willamette Valley native. She's the granddaughter of a logger and the daughter of a Christmas tree farmer, so, naturally, the forest was calling her name. When Katrina isn't working as the center's facility assistant, she's chasing the big fish and playing her banjo.

If you're interested in volunteering with us, please visit: [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about\\_05.html](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_05.html) or call (503) 815-6803 for more information or to fill out an application.



*Bianca Bermejo-Gonzalez, Pacific University work-study student*



*Katrina Bielenberg, seasonal facilities maintenance assistant*



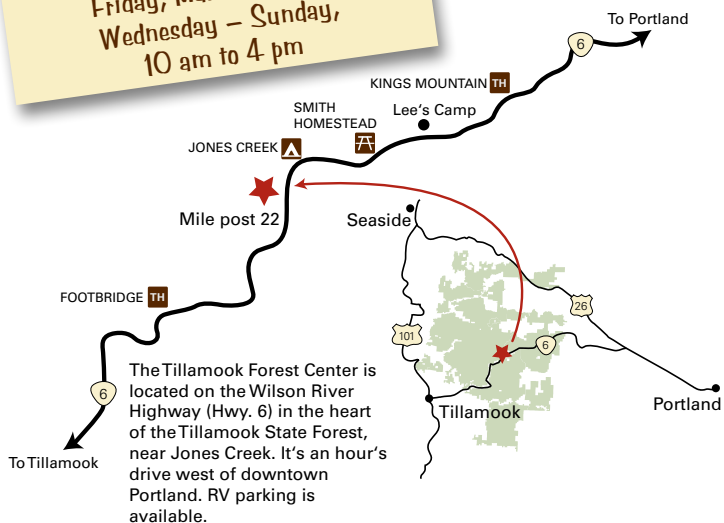
# Tillamook Forest Center

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

## Winter Closure

The center will be closed to the public  
November 26, 2018 through  
February 28, 2019.

Spring hours begin  
Friday, March 1, 2019,  
Wednesday – Sunday,  
10 am to 4 pm



Printed on recycled paper  
Please share your copy with others!

## mark your calendar

### Save the date!

Volunteer cleaning party!  
February 9, 2019 (Saturday)  
Call (503) 815-6803 to register

Spring 2019 volunteer applications  
due by February 1

Visit [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about\\_05.html](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about_05.html) for details.

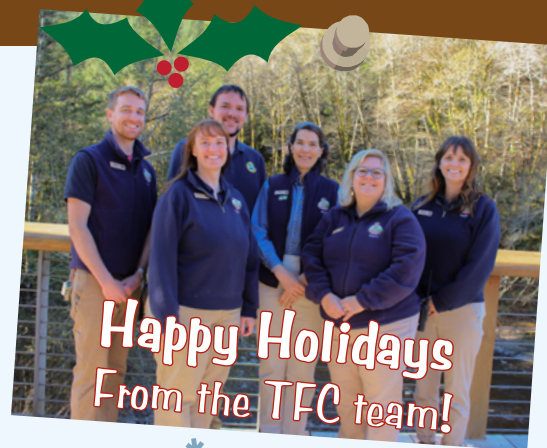
Outdoor School teacher workshop  
March 1, 2019 (Friday)

Watch our website for details coming soon

Still looking for holiday gifts?



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to order.



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After the volunteer recognition Oscar party, volunteers got a sneak peek into the brand new Forest Education Pavilion.



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