

# The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

## Inside

**A Message From the Director** Page 2

**Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust** Page 3

**Naturalist Notes** Page 4

**Upcoming Programs** Page 5

**Homestead Memories** Page 7

**At Your Leisure** Page 7

**Volunteer Recognition** Page 8

**Volunteer Opportunities** Page 8

**Sharing Memories** Page 9



## Memory in the Forest

M.E. Balfe

Getting close to something wild can be exciting. Those of you who know the Wilson River in the winter season understand the feeling of anticipation and awe when you see that first fin or hooked nose. The return of salmon in the Coast Range marks the seasonal change in the forest. The signal is rain and drop in temperature.

After spending between three and seven years in the ocean, the salmon's body is full of nutrients that benefit the forest environment. Salmon wait for the rivers to fill and then rely on "smell memory" to guide them back to the freshwater stream where they were hatched. They continue upriver, locate their natal stream, deposit their eggs, and complete their life cycle through the decomposition of their bodies. The life cycle then begins anew as the eggs hatch into salmon fry. These young fish imprint (learn) the smell of their stream as they head toward the ocean. The memory of these fish is amazing.

Although we may not have the "smell memory" of salmon, we still use our senses to learn about the environment we live in and visit. By fully utilize all of our senses, we may be able to recall the memory of that experience more easily.

If you are ready for a memorable visit to the Tillamook State Forest in the winter season, there are a host of new adventures to discover; the footprints and habits of Roosevelt elk, the image of bald eagles perched on tree tops, or the magic of finding your very own special place next to the river's edge for a glimpse of the returning salmon.

We hope to see you this winter season for new traditions and winter forest memories.





Winter 2008 Issue  
Volume 2, Number 1

## Tillamook Forest Center

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

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Jen Warren

#### Executive Director, Tillamook

#### Forest Heritage Trust

Doug Decker

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

During October I was fortunate to be able to attend the first day of the Society of American Foresters' National Convention in Portland. The keynote address was presented by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. His comments were excellent.

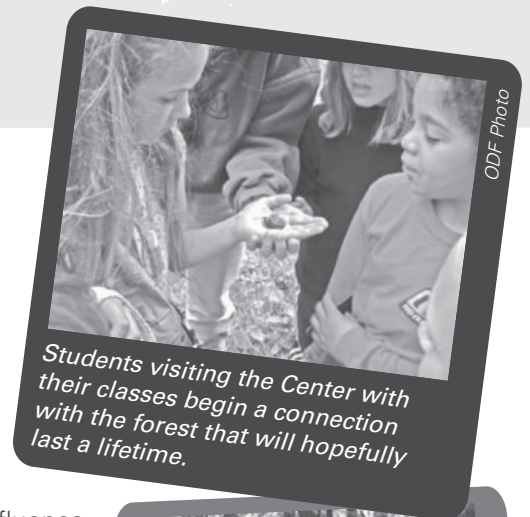
In his presentation Mr. Louv reflected on how the largest number of today's resource professionals and environmental leaders had transcendent experiences in nature as children. He suggested that the memories of those experiences continue to influence their work today. He went on to cite research indicating that children today are having fewer and fewer experiences in the outdoors. He raised concern about this trend and wondered if less time in the outdoors leads us away from "nature in our hearts" and leads us instead toward "nature in our briefcases". With this in mind, Mr. Louv suggested that "children in nature" could become our next endangered species.

Reflecting on our Center's mission of "inspiring people to connect with the Tillamook State Forest," our purpose is right in line with Richard Louv's message. Each day our Center and our programs encourage students (and guests of all ages) to make their own explorations and discoveries in the forest surrounding the Center. Our hope is that these experiences will be enjoyable and memorable while also creating new understanding and appreciation of the forest and its many values in our lives.

Our entire staff welcomes you to look over the activities scheduled for the Center this winter season and come out for a visit. Your visit becomes an opportunity to reconnect with the forest and to celebrate its value in your daily life.

Every day is a good day to find yourself in the forest. Don't be left inside!

Jim Quiring



*Students visiting the Center with their classes begin a connection with the forest that will hopefully last a lifetime.*



*Experiences with the forest carry with people throughout their lives .*

## Visitor Feedback

Our guest book is filled with many memorable thoughts from our visitors. Look for their quotes throughout the newsletter and at the Center.

*"Beautiful and informative, a great place to stop with the kids."*

*"One of the most compelling, most interesting visitor centers I've ever been to."*

*"This was fun, I wanna come back again!"*



# News of the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust

Doug Decker

A special thanks to all the donors who continue to support the Tillamook Forest Center. The last of the outdoor benches has been sponsored (thanks to the Lane County Small Woodlands Association) and the donor tree sculpture continues to fill up fast. The Trust is developing a new generation of recognition items and building components for sponsorship (more on this in the Spring issue of *The Lookout*) and is preparing to install a new donor tree screen in the plaza.



We're also preparing to offer the first annual James E. Brown Forest Education Grant. This grant is designed to help teachers or youth leaders plan, develop or conduct forest learning activities associated with the Tillamook State Forest. The scholarship honors former State Forester James E. "Jim" Brown, who has been a strong advocate for the role of education and interpretation in helping the public—particularly school children—understand and appreciate the wonder and importance of Oregon's forests. In the next issue, we'll tell you more about the proposals we've selected.

A reminder that Donor Trees make a great holiday gift item: We'll send you or your intended recipient an attractive certificate. Then, after the holidays, you can come up to the Center and see your tree.

Don't hesitate to call with any questions: (503) 359-7474.

*"A great asset to the forest."*

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



Jen Warren Photo

## Become a Center Supporter

If you'd like to join our ever-growing list of supporters, consider giving a Donor Tree. These gifts (see order form on this page) allow you to "plant 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. All donor tree gifts are acknowledged with an attractive certificate.

Many other donation opportunities are available, call us for details. As you make your charitable giving decisions, we invite you to keep the Tillamook Forest Center in mind. Please contact the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust at (503) 359-7474 for more information on various donation opportunities.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.



## Naturalist Notes (Denise Berkshire)

Fire crackling in the community room, raindrops making music on the metal roof, spawned salmon drawing creatures to the river's edge. Winter = great time to see wildlife & to make lasting memories with loved ones.

\* **Reminder- look @ webcam to check weather before heading to the forest.**

9/15/07

~ Guided hike finds: chicken of the woods mushroom, band-tailed pigeons, banana slugs, fresh elk rubbings, caddis fly casings, belted-kingfisher rattling above...

~ Many orange and black woolly bear caterpillars looking for a place to hibernate. Their cocoons are made of hair & in the spring they turn into Isabella moths. Folklore says they predict winter weather - the wider the black bands, the colder the winter.

10/17/07

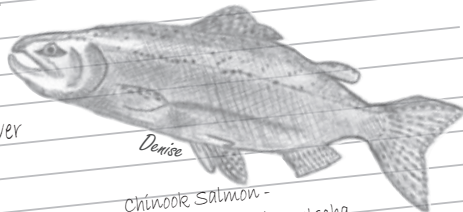
~ Saw a pair of merganser ducklings diving in Wilson River in search of food.

10/29/07

~ A fisherman caught 2 chrome-bright fall Chinook "hens" near the new Footbridge Day Use Area. The fish are moving upstream to spawn!

11/02/07

~ The bald eagles are back! We saw one perched in the "kissing tree" & one flying over the Wilson this AM.



Denise  
Chinook Salmon -  
*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

### TO DO:

- \* Scout trails for winter guided hikes
- \* Collect cones, fir boughs and holly for wreath making in December
- \* Pick up stuffed Great Horned Owl for the owl program
- \* Arrange delivery of Forest Grove High School Art Exhibit



"Love the foresty smell."

## Tracking Expert

Winter is a good time to spot tracks in the mud and snow. Can you track the animals of the Tillamook Forest?

(draw a line from the animal to the track it would leave, answer on page 9)



Chris Friend Photo

Winter is a great time to spot resident elk near the Center, though you may only see their tracks.



ODE Photo

Frozen in time: water from the Center's roof pauses before entering the pond during a January cold snap.

## Trail Naming Contest!

Our trail naming contest deadline has been extended. The deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit or call the Center for details.



# Upcoming Programs

Join our staff this winter for family-friendly, programs at the Tillamook Forest Center. We are offering a selection of **Nature Programs, Guided Hikes, Bluegrass Open Jams** and **Special Events**. Be sure to see the back side of this page for more exciting offerings. All events are **FREE** and open to **ALL AGES** (unless otherwise noted). This season, we hope you will *find yourself in the forest!*

## Nature Programs at the Center

A full description of each program is available on our website at [www.tillamookforestcenter.org/calendar](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/calendar). All programs are held Saturdays at 11:30 AM and again at 1:30 PM at the Tillamook Forest Center (unless otherwise noted).



Denise Berkshire Photo

*A sparkling new world is revealed in the winter. A blanket of snow with ice frosting the trees sets the stage for days spent creating new family memories. Visit the Tillamook Forest Center this winter and start a new tradition.*

Denise Berkshire Photo

*Bring the beauty of the forest home this winter by creating a winter wreath. All materials and supplies are included in the cost of the class. **Registration is required.***

### December 2007

- |                  |   |                    |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Holiday Wreath Making<br><i>(registration &amp; small fee required)</i> | 11:30 AM           |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Salmon Walk   | 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Bald Eagles, Live!  | 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Salmon Walk   | 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM |

### January 2008

- |                  |                                   |                    |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Lookin' for Lichen Walk           | 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Elusive Elk                       | 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Owls: Silent Hunters of the Night | 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM |

### February 2008

- |                 |   |                    |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Bald Eagles, Live!  | 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> | Nature Journaling for Beginners<br><i>(registration &amp; small fee required)</i> | 11:30 AM           |

## Bluegrass Open Jam

Our monthly bluegrass jam is a celebration of the settlers that lived in the hills and mountains and composed music about their day-to-day life experiences. The Tillamook Forest has had its share of settlers and homesteaders and we certainly have our share of mountains. Bring your mandolins, fiddles, guitars and banjos and join in the fun! All ages and abilities are welcome. Open jams occur the first Sunday of each month.

- |                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| December 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1:00 PM |
| January 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 1:00 PM |
| February 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 1:00 PM |

*“Enthusiastic presenter - very educational facility”*



Chris Friend Photo

*Bald Eagles are efficient hunters, build incredible nests and rely on the streams in the forest. Join our programs in December and February. We'll visit the Smith Homestead to attempt to view our resident eagles.*



Chris Friend Photo

*It is always a delight to see Roosevelt elk in the forest. Come discover how these majestic animals adapt to the ever-changing forest environment and what they are doing during the winter months.*



# Upcoming Programs (continued)



Laurie O'Neil Photo

*Owls: Silent Hunters of the Night. Join us to learn how to identify these incredible birds of prey and find out what makes these birds some of the most skilled nocturnal hunters in the forest.*

## Guided Hikes

Come out and enjoy the trails this winter! Please call **(866) 930-4646** visit **www.tillamookforestcenter.org** or stop by the Center to reserve your place. Wear sturdy hiking boots, dress in layers, bring water and a lunch or snack and rain gear. Optional equipment: binoculars, camera and field guides. Families are always welcome!

**December 29<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM**  
**New Year's Hike**

Get a step up on your New Year's resolution by taking a brisk 2.0 mile hike through the Tillamook State Forest. Come and take a closer look at what is happening in the forest during winter. Along the way we will practice winter twig identification and explore animal tracks, mammal habits and much more. **Registration is required.**

**January 19<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM**  
**Temperate Rain Forest Hike**

Lush moss, tall Douglas-fir trees, rough skinned newts, salmon and more depend on the 120 inches of rain that falls on the Tillamook each year. Grab your umbrellas, soak in the views and experience a temperate rainforest on a 2.0 mile Wilson River hike. We will finish the day warming in front of the fireplace at the Tillamook Forest Center. **Registration is required.**

**February 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM Early Signs of Spring Hike**

The forest begins to emerge from the quiet blanket of winter offering a hint that spring is right around the corner. Join a guide on a 3.5 mile hike to look for great blue herons, owls and early bloomers like skunk cabbage, spring beauty and wood violets. **Registration is required.**

## Special Event

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup> ALL DAY**  
**Forest Grove High School Art Exhibit**

Advanced placement art students from Forest Grove High School spent time this fall in the forest near the Tillamook Forest Center. Their instructor, Philip Thias, said that through this experience he has seen his students "make genuine connections to the Tillamook State Forest." Inspired by their surroundings, they created beautiful paintings and drawings that will be on display for the public at the Center February 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 8<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join us at to enjoy the art created by these talented students.

*"Beautiful facility. Funny and informative program"*



ODF Photo

*Walk along with us this winter on one of our guided hikes. One hike takes place each month so there is always something new to see. **Registration is required.***

*"I plan on attending more classes"*



Chris Friend Photo

*Forest Grove High School art students spent time at the Center painting and drawing the forest around them. Come see what they created February 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>.*

## Forest Homestead Memories

Jim Reeher



Reeher Family Photo

*Jennie Reeher took an interest in keeping record of the incredible local weather. She established Glenora weather station in 1891.*

In the spring of 1887, my grandparents, James F. & Jennie A. Reeher, left eastern Kansas with their four children and moved to Oregon. At that time the Midwest was having a drought. They moved that fall from North Yamhill to Tillamook over the Trask Toll Road. In April, 1889, James, Jennie and their five children, the oldest nine years and the youngest five months, moved onto the homestead at the mouth of the North Fork of the Wilson River. The homestead is a mile northwest of the Tillamook Forest Center.

More rain falls on the Tillamook Forest and on the Forest Center, than in most other parts of the state. This is especially true from November through February.

December 1, 1891, Jennie established a weather station on the Reeher homestead. She had learned the government would furnish the instruments if she would keep a daily record of the temperature and precipitation. Jim brought the equipment from Tillamook on a packhorse.

The station consisted of a rain gauge and stand, collection tube and a cedar measuring stick, maximum and minimum thermometers, a shelter and a record book. She named the station Glenora which means glen of gold.



Reeher Family Photo

*Pioneers of the Wilson River Stage Road, the Reeher family founded their homestead in 1889.*

... Continued on page 9

## The Tillamook State Forest – *At Your Leisure*

Melyssa Graeper

You wake up way before the sun rises, roll out of bed and put on every warm article of clothing you own, and then top it off with waders, boots and a rain coat. You grab your rod and reel, and possibly some bait and tackle, and head out the door for your favorite spot on the Wilson River. Once you've reached your destination, you don your headlamp and climb down the muddy bank nearly an hour before the sun is up, to make your first cast. As you reel your line in, you're forced to breathe on your rod guides to keep the ice that's forming around them at bay. The sun is slowly rising over the mountains, attempting to burn off the early morning fog and bringing with it little relief from the wet and bitter cold.

This time of year, the Wilson River within the Tillamook State Forest contains coho, fall Chinook and winter steelhead, and this scenario may be all too familiar. But before you head out, here are a few things you won't want to leave the house without.

- **LICENSE and TAG:** Regardless of whether you decide to take any fish home or catch and release only, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, along with Oregon State Police, require you to carry a salmon and steelhead tag if you are fishing in waters containing salmon and steelhead (which includes the Wilson River). Don't forget your ball point pen either. The Fish and Wildlife officers don't fall for that excuse.
- **Warm Clothes/ Rain Gear:** Layers are best when fishing coastal streams and rivers. The more layers, the less likely you'll feel the rain seep in. Layers allow you to regulate your temperature as the day warms up. Contrary to popular belief, some winter days on the Oregon coast can turn out to be down right balmy!
- **Something to collect garbage in:** Whether it's your garbage, or the last persons, be kind and pack it out. Nothing can ruin a nice fishing spot faster than a week old carton of bait or an old sandwich. Even the raccoons aren't that desperate.

Regardless of what fish you're pursuing, the Tillamook State Forest is a great place to wet your line. While you're at it, bring the family and make some great memories.



ODFW Photo

*Enduring the winter weather can lead to a rewarding day of fishing in the Tillamook Forest.*



# Volunteers Shine at the Forest Center

Chris Friend

The volunteer program at the center continues to grow and we feel thankful every day to have such a quality cadre of volunteers. This spirit of volunteerism has deep roots on the Tillamook State Forest where thousands of volunteers helped to replant the Burn. This year to date volunteers have logged over 3,000 hours. This contribution is spread over many different tasks from greeting visitors to help maintain the building and grounds.

Our youngest volunteer to date is 13 year old local student Kay Taylor. Kay enjoyed helping other students who participated in our summer camp program and was also an escort for Smokey Bear's appearance at our "Return From the Burn" event in August.



*New volunteer, Kay Taylor, helped Smokey Bear during the Return From the Burn event in August.*

*"Great Smokey escort!"*



*Volunteers have fun too! Site host, Bob Brooks, (far right) adds his own sweet music to our monthly bluegrass jam.*

We recently had the opportunity to say thanks to our volunteer staff with a special recognition dinner that was held in October at the center. While not all of our volunteers were able to attend, we had about a dozen that joined us. Our center director, Jim Quiring, spoke to the group about the importance of our volunteer program in making connections with our visitors and helping to run the center.

Please see below for more information about how to join our enthusiastic team.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a rewarding way to share your love of forests? Did you contribute to the Tillamook Burn in any way? Are you a retired forester? Do you have a special skill or interest? If so, have you considered volunteering at the Tillamook Forest Center?



*On-site hosts are critical to the work of the Center. Please call if you are interested in joining us.*

### There are two types of volunteer opportunities:

- ① A **Day Volunteer** works a flexible schedule and may use Center transportation from the Forest Grove or Tillamook areas.
- ② An **On-Site Host Volunteer** lives in their own RV at a full-hookup facility on the Center grounds.

### Volunteer Positions

A few of the exciting opportunities at the TFC include:

- Leading school groups through our state-of-the-art exhibits and trails
- Giving nature presentations about salmon, homesteading, forestry and more
- Helping answer questions about the local area, forests and history at our gift shop/ reception desk
- Maintaining the beautiful building and native landscaping
- Serving as a local historian including capturing, cataloging and archiving historic materials

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us for a Tillamook Forest Center volunteer application.



# Sharing Memories and Creating New Ones

Kris Babbs

Today's Tillamook State Forest is more than just trees. It represents a significant chapter in Oregon's history. Its famous flames are etched in the memories of those who fought the fires, saw the smoke from their doorstep, or drove through the blackened landscape years later. The school children who

came out by the bus loads to plant a future forest had no thoughts of creating memories or making history.

They were simply putting trees in the ground.

The spirit of the Tillamook Burn continues to live today for those who travel to the Tillamook Forest Center and discover the power of Oregon's most famous forest fire of the 20th century. The Center and surrounding forest draw people from all over the world eager to create their own unique forest experience.

*I remember my Uncle being stopped on Hwy 6, between Forest Grove and Tillamook, to be recruited into fighting the fire of 1945. I also remember soon after the fire, of taking a family vacation, and driving through the miles and miles of black snag. The forest is now a thing of wonder and beauty.*



University Falls

*What fond memories! While in grade school, I spent several days in the forest planting trees - several cold, damp, glorious days. I think of the experience often.*



Ellis Lucia Photo

Our "Share Your Memories" board is dedicated to those who planted trees 50 years ago. We invite you to share your memories as we record history through our visitors.



*I was in the St. John Fisher class of 2005 and we came out every year and donated money for the new center. Our class loves the tillamook burn center! replanting trees every year and coming back to see how they have grown is such a treat!*

## Homestead Memories (continued from page 7)

It was soon apparent that Glenora was a very wet spot. A government inspector came to check and see if Jennie was correctly reading the gauge. He arrived during a November storm and stayed overnight. He went with her at 5:00 PM to measure the rain and empty the gauge. The next morning he accompanied her to take the overnight reading. He looked into the rain gauge and exclaimed, "why, it's full!" Jennie laughed and told him "of course it's full, that is a chronic condition here in November." It had rained over three inches during the night.

### Some of Jennie's records:

- ◆ One year Glenora had the distinction of being the rainiest US station
- ◆ November 13, 1896: 7.68" in a 24 hour period (November 6, 2006 14.2" in a 24 hour period).
- ◆ Total precipitation in 1896: 167.29" (total precipitation in 1996: 173.84")
- ◆ Total rain during November 1906: 50.54"
- ◆ Average annual precipitation: 131.54"

"I remember..."

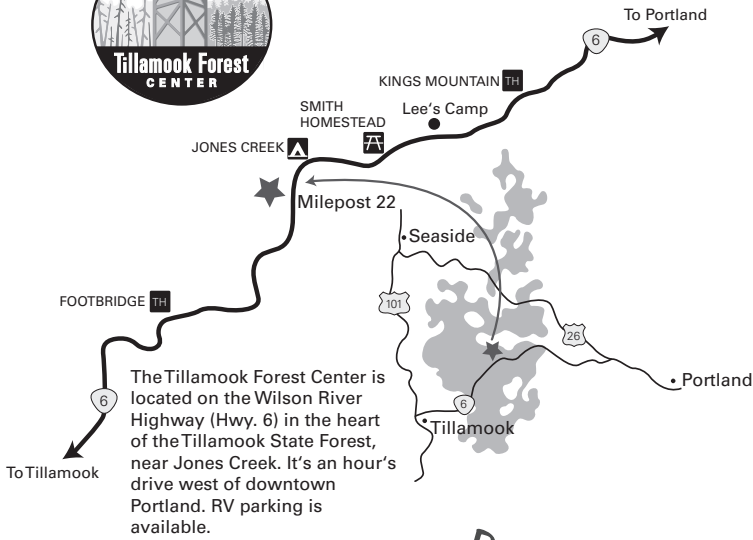
Solution to Tracking Expert

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Tillamook Forest Center  
45500 Wilson River Highway  
Tillamook, OR 97141



*Remember, our gift shop has unique gifts for everyone on your list!*

**Our Winter Hours:**  
Wednesday - Sunday  
10 AM - 4 PM

[www.tillamookforestcenter.org](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org)

Printed on recycled paper  
Please share your copy with others!

*Mark Your Calendar (see inside for complete program calendar)*

**Important DATES!**

- Wreath Making**  
11:30, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
*Registration is required*
- Nature Journaling for Beginners**  
11:30, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
*Registration is required*
- High School Art Exhibit**  
All day, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>

*"Wow! What a great movie!"*



*Peering through the panes of a lookout tower window offers a view of a winter wonderland.*

- Guided Hikes**  
December 29<sup>th</sup>  
January 19<sup>th</sup>  
February 16<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 AM  
*Registration is required*

To save paper and costs, consider receiving this newsletter by email in the future. Contact us at [tfcnewsletter@odf.state.or.us](mailto:tfcnewsletter@odf.state.or.us) to sign up.