

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

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TFC's First Winter Brings Wild Weather

By Chris Friend

A rare subtropical storm rode the "pineapple express" across the Pacific during the first week of November resulting in record rainfall in the Oregon Coast Range.

The Tillamook Forest Center (TFC) sits right in the thick of a temperate rainforest. From November 2nd through November 8th our unofficial rain gauge at the Center recorded over 34 inches of rainfall. During a 24 hour period between November 6th and 7th, we recorded an astounding 13.8 inches! And that was after staff found the gauge overflowing when they arrived that morning. Lee's Camp, one mile up river, set a new one day record for Oregon rainfall at 14.3 inches.



Chris Friend Photo

View of Wilson River during "normal" winter flow



View of Wilson River on November 6, 2006

Jim Quiring Photo

The Wilson River gauge, located about 12 miles downstream from the Center, peaked at 22.84 feet on November 6th. That is ten feet above flood stage, and an all time record for the river, surpassing the flood of 1996 and even the infamous flood of 1964.

While Tillamook County was hit hard by the flooding, the TFC experienced only minor basement flooding. However, five people were forced to take shelter (a Portland couple and three staff members) in the Center after landslides closed both ends of

Highway 6. They remained overnight until they were safely escorted out by Oregon Department of Forestry staff from the nearby South Fork Inmate Camp.

November rainfall at the TFC was 58.7 inches. Then a blanket of snow persisted for a week late in the month and a strong windstorm battered Oregon just prior to the printing of this newsletter. The Center sustained no damage through the windstorm, but Highway 6 was closed briefly to clear debris. Numerous power outages through these storms caused temporary closures of the facility. Please call the Center at (503) 815-6800 for current information before your visit.



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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.

From the Director

Seasons Greetings Friends:

During 2006, the vision of a Tillamook Forest Center has become a reality!!

Since our Dedication Events on March 31, 2006, nearly 50,000 visitors have come to experience this wonderful new facility. Coming from 47 states and 22 countries, visitors have welcomed the opportunity to enjoy the Center and to discover the Tillamook State Forest.

Staff members have done a fantastic job welcoming guests, hosting school groups, selling forest-related books and gifts, and providing interpretive programs for visitors. Behind the scenes, staff have also accomplished a huge task in keeping the grounds and facilities clean, designing and organizing office procedures, and planning for the future.

In line with our program's mission to "inspire people to connect with the Tillamook State Forest", our staff has worked long and hard to make visitor experiences safe, enjoyable, and meaningful.

I want to say "thank you" to all those who have helped make the vision of the Center a reality. I also want to thank the staff for their dedication and hard work in making these first eight months of operations a huge success.

If you haven't recently had a chance to stop by the Center, we hope you will make point to come and visit soon. We'll look forward to seeing you and saying "hi."

All the best for your Holiday Season from your friends at the Tillamook Forest Center.

Jim Quiring



Tillamook Forest Center Staff greet visitors at the gate on opening day

Visitor Feedback

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

"I love this place."

"Sixteen of my 22 students said they had 'never been in a real forest!' I found that amazing. They loved the experience because they really saw the real forest!"

"This new place really helps everyone have fun but also learn something at the same time."

Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust Focuses on Supporting TFC

The non-profit organization that spearheaded the capital campaign of fundraising for the Tillamook Forest Center is now shifting its mission to support an endowment for the Center, and to develop new tools that contribute to understanding and appreciation of Tillamook Forest heritage.

The Trust met in December to elect its new Board of Trustees and to affirm its new direction, which includes fundraising for an endowment that can be used for possible future expansion of the Center and/or to provide an operations revenue stream. The Trust also plans to seek out partnerships of funding and support for specific projects, events and resources that contribute to a deeper understanding of Tillamook Forest heritage.



“It’s an exciting time for the Trust,” said Executive Director Doug Decker. “There are so many opportunities for collaboration and imagination that can help support the Center. We have lots of ideas and look forward to working with new and existing partners in support of this remarkable forest and the Center.”

Tillamook Forest Heritage Trustees include: Governor Vic Atiyeh, Jim Brown, Marvin Brown, Mike Carrier, Doug Decker, Jerry Eckstein, Jim Fisher, Steve Hobbs, Janet McLennan (Chair), Bob Stacey, Barte Starker, and Tim Wood.

The Trust continues to build its board and will be rolling out an endowment fundraising campaign in the coming year.

A special thanks to all who worked with the Trust to make the Center possible, and to our trustees, advisors and supporters who made special efforts all along the way.

Give a Gift to Support the Center

Looking for a unique gift giving idea for the holidays while also helping to support an Oregon landmark? The Donor Tree (see attached order form on this page) allows 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. From trailside benches to becoming a Cultural Trust partner, as you make your charitable giving decisions for the end of this tax year and beyond, 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 the various donation opportunities.

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

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)

The forest in winter = twig identification, animal tracking, easy birding (less leaves to look through) & RAIN GEAR!!!!

11/18/06

~ Saw male & female chinook poking out of Jones Creek during their spawning dance! Watching these amazing creatures bump into and flip over each other was a very majestic moment.

To Do: bring visitors over to see the salmon/take pictures/ look for coho @ Smith Homestead & Cedar Creek

11/29/06

~ Spotted resident bald eagles perched in the historic "kissing tree" on the way home. They're back! The dead tree top is a great place for them to look over the river menu.

To Do: secure a spotting scope for the The Eagles Live! program in February

12/03/06

~ Chris, Michelle & I hiked to Cedar Creek to spot coho. Along the way we saw: great blue heron, red-tailed hawk, winter wrens, American dippers, belted kingfisher, several large spawned chinook and a pair of coho.

~ The holiday wreath making program today was great fun. It was neat to meet our neighbors.

Question: How did winter wrens get their name? Why "winter"?

12/06/06

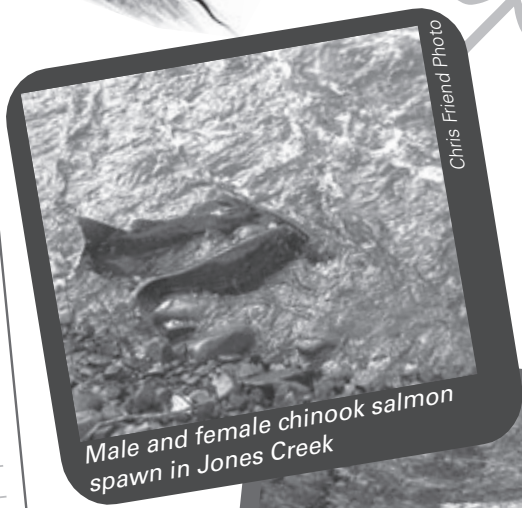
~ Elk droppings and tracks near the wood pellet silo at TFC

Idea: Nature of the Week: Moles. Highlight these cool creatures at the Center

To Do: pull out winter twig identification, birding & tracking books for New Year's Eve Hike

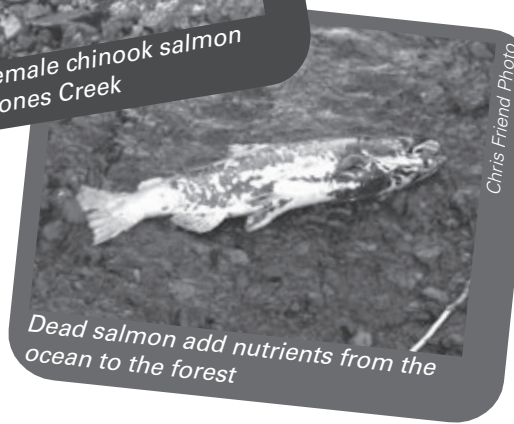


"This is a really cool place!"



Male and female chinook salmon spawn in Jones Creek

Chris Friend Photo



Dead salmon add nutrients from the ocean to the forest

Chris Friend Photo



Winter Forest Word Find

Find the words listed to the left. (Answers on page 7)

- CHINOOK
- COHO
- EAGLE
- ELK
- FISHING
- FLOOD
- HERON
- HIBERNATION
- HUNTING
- KAYAKING
- LICHEN
- OWLS
- SNOW
- TWIGS
- WREN

U	E	X	J	Q	F	F	H	T	A	N	H	D	L	R
M	L	O	A	E	I	U	U	M	O	W	O	B	A	G
I	G	C	O	S	A	I	N	I	Q	O	W	P	J	R
N	A	P	H	L	C	I	T	C	L	S	I	S	X	P
Y	E	I	O	T	C	A	I	F	C	Q	C	G	J	T
D	N	J	Q	M	N	M	N	Z	E	O	X	P	Y	Q
G	C	T	R	R	B	Q	G	X	S	M	H	S	O	T
D	N	H	E	K	A	Y	A	K	I	N	G	O	W	F
B	H	B	I	N	E	H	C	I	L	G	O	R	L	V
N	I	X	N	N	W	O	N	S	W	E	U	R	S	L
H	G	T	S	D	O	A	C	R	G	E	Y	F	E	B
J	A	O	V	Z	W	O	E	B	G	H	L	O	C	H
T	W	I	G	S	S	N	K	L	U	Z	T	M	T	G
T	I	U	L	J	E	H	B	K	V	Q	O	U	I	L
M	E	U	F	Y	O	L	A	J	A	B	M	K	A	J

Upcoming Programs at the TFC

Winter is a beautiful time to explore the Tillamook Forest. Cooler temperatures trigger many plants to go dormant and critters to hunker down for the season. Salmon move upstream to spawn. Bald eagles return from feeding grounds at the ocean and can be seen flying or perched in tall trees. Make plans to join a naturalist for a guided program this season. All events are **FREE** and open to **ALL AGES** (unless otherwise noted).

December 2006

30th & 31st (Sat & Sun)

New Year's Eve Forest Hike

12 PM – 3 PM

Get a step up on your New Year's resolution by taking a brisk two 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 explore winter twig identification, animal tracks, mammal habits and much more. Bring your binoculars, sturdy hiking shoes and water. Families welcome. Meet at the Center at noon.

January 2007

13th (Sat)

Salmon in Our Streams

1 PM

The Oregon Department of Forestry is working hard to make rivers like the Wilson friendlier for native fish. Join us to learn about coho, and other salmon species. We will explore life cycles, habitat requirements, and how ODF is managing state forests to protect salmon populations. It may be possible to view salmon spawning during this time.

14th (Sun)

Elusive Elk

1 PM

In the Tillamook State Forest, it is always a delight to catch a glimpse of the secretive Roosevelt elk. Come discover how these majestic animals adapt to the ever-changing forest environment and what they are doing during the winter months. Naturalists will also share ideas on where and how to improve your chances of an elk sighting.

27th (Sat)

Owls: Silent Hunters of the Night

1 PM

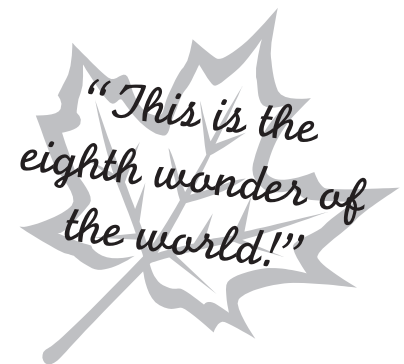
Take a close-up look at the owls of the Tillamook State Forest. Learn to identify these incredible birds of prey and recognize their calls. Find out the adaptations that make these birds some of the most skilled nocturnal hunters in the forest. Learn what signs to look for that will help you find owls in their natural habitat.

28th (Sun)

Bluegrass Open Jam

All Day

Bluegrass music is a way of celebrating the settlers who composed music about day to day life experiences. It reflected the life of those living in the hills and mountains. 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.



February 2007

10th & 11th (Sat & Sun)

Forest Couples and Courtship

1 PM

February is a time to recognize love in bloom. What better way than to celebrate forest relationships. Wild love can be inspiring, unusual, surprising and sometimes downright dangerous! Join us for a puppet show followed by a presentation taking a close look at animal courtship and parental instincts. Appropriate for all ages!

17th & 18th (Sat & Sun)

Lookin' at Lichen

All Day

Forests are lush with lichen, but just what do they do? Come explore the amazing organisms that are often confused with moss! Stop by our display and a naturalist will show you how lichens are able to produce their own food, shelter and moisture and how they rely on the clean forest air around them for reproduction. Discover a world often overlooked but truly astounding.

24th & 25th (Sat & Sun)

The Eagles, Live!

1 PM

Bald eagles are our national symbol. These large birds of prey build incredible nests, are efficient hunters and scavengers and rely on streams and rivers in the forest. At the program's end we will shuttle over to the Smith Homestead meadow to attempt to view our resident eagles in the historic "kissing tree"



Volunteer Recognition

By Gail Barnhart

We extend a warm "thank you" to our first season of volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you!

Day Volunteers

Scott Hayes, a retired Oregon Department of Forestry employee, assists with historical research and archiving projects. His wife **Marge**, volunteers as a native landscaper.

Harold Jensen works with Darryl Anderson, the Facilities Maintenance Specialist, on projects and occasionally assists with the Steam Donkey restoration project.

Merv Johnson, our "Donkey Doctor", was instrumental in helping the TFC obtain the Tunnel Creek steam donkey for display. He shares his passion for these pieces of large historic logging equipment by continuing to assist the Center with restoration work.

Jim Reeher serves as our local historian and handy man assisting Darryl on facility projects.

On-site Hosts

Cliff Ebert, also a retired Oregon Department of Forestry employee, performed many maintenance duties. His talent for wood working was displayed when he built a computer stand for the front counter. Cliff's wife **Sharron** was a tremendous help in the gift shop. Her quick study on the facts of the Center made her an invaluable asset at the front counter.

Larry Lux assisted with building and ground maintenance. He patrolled the grounds ensuring that the areas were litter free, neat and tidy. We could count on him to open and close the gates and to help visitors that had stayed beyond the Center's closing. **Barbi Lux** worked extensively in the gift shop and at the front counter. She made it a goal to read as many the books in our library as possible during her stay. Her knowledge of the history of the forest was an asset in answering visitor's questions. Barbi, a talented artist, also painted art work which is featured on note cards available in the gift shop. Noah (four pawed volunteer) could be seen morning and evening sniffing the compound for critters and trespassers.

Jim and Margaret Peterson are long time volunteers with the Fort Stevens State Park and decided to join the TFC staff this summer. Jim's electronic maintenance talents came in handy on several occasions while acting as a facilities volunteer. Margaret staffed the gift shop and front counter. Visitors thoroughly enjoyed her open and fun loving personality.



Christal Florin Photo

Jim Reeher presents his homestead history program at the Smith Homestead Forest Learning Shelter



Jim Quiring Photo

Barbi, Larry and Noah Lux at the door of their motorcoach



Margaret Peterson helps out in the gift shop

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?

There are two types of volunteer opportunities:

- ① A **Day Volunteer** works a flexible schedule and may use Center transportation from the Forest Grove area.
- 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, elk and owls 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.



Volunteer Barbi Lux with Jen Warren greeting visitors at the reception desk

The Tillamook State Forest – *At Your Leisure*

Roads

Winter storms have caused extensive damage to a number of forest roads and closed the main highway periodically.

Highway 6: Has been closed due to landslides and downed trees twice so far this season. Check www.tripcheck.com for current highway information.

Forest Roads: If you are planning on visiting the forest, use caution while driving on single-lane gravel roads. Drive slowly and watch for truck traffic and road hazards. Check www.oregon.gov/ODF/TSF/road_and_trail_rpt.shtml for up-to-date conditions.

Trails

Be prepared for changing trail and weather conditions, steep terrain and loose rock. Several sections of the Wilson River Trail were damaged in the heavy rain storms of early November and are temporarily closed. Plans to repair the damage are being developed and the trail will re-open once the repairs have been made. For specific hiking trail information look at

www.oregon.gov/ODF/TSF/trails.shtml

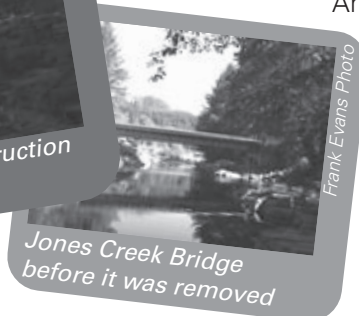
Jones Creek Bridge

Work began in September to replace the forest road bridge across the Wilson River. The heavily used one-lane bridge located between mileposts 22 and 23 off Highway 6 is being replaced with a two-lane bridge and pedestrian walkway to improve public safety. This project has closed access from Highway 6 to Jones Creek Campground and Day Use Area, Diamond Mill OHV Staging Area and Smith Homestead Day Use

Area. Alternative routes into the area are available. River access will also be periodically restricted for public safety reasons. No in-stream work will be necessary to replace the bridge. Work is estimated to be completed in January. Please call the Tillamook District office for more information on this project at (503) 842-2545.

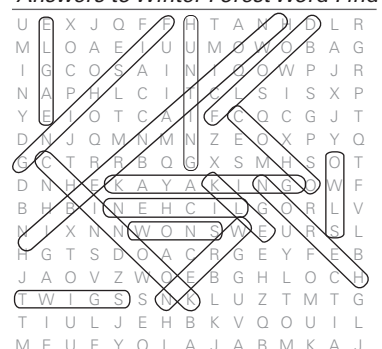


Jones Creek Bridge construction project

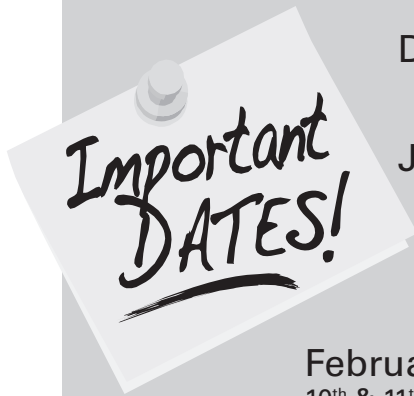


Jones Creek Bridge before it was removed

Answers to Winter Forest Word Find



Mark Your Calendar (see inside for complete descriptions)



December

30th & 31st **New Year's Eve Forest Hike** 12 – 3 PM

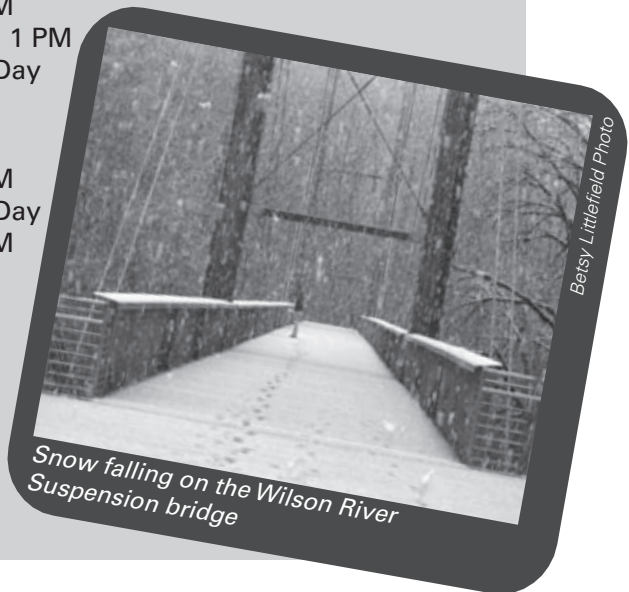
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13 th	Salmon in our Streams	1 PM
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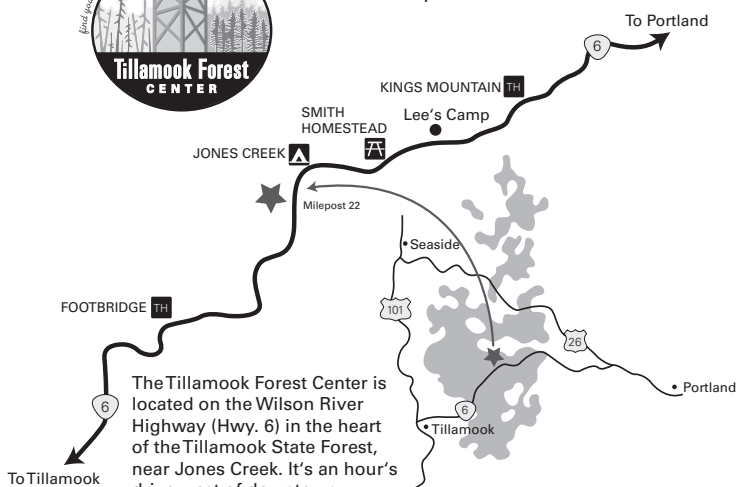
To save paper and costs consider receiving this newsletter by email in the future. Contact us at tfcnewsletter@odf.state.or.us to sign up.



Snow falling on the Wilson River Suspension bridge



Tillamook Forest Center
45500 Wilson River Highway
Tillamook, OR 97141



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.

Our Winter Hours:
Wednesday – Sunday
10 AM – 4 PM

Remember our gift shop for your gift giving needs!
Visit us online or in person.