

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

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Making meaningful connections

Bonnie Gisler and Shawn Bray

As we head into winter, the staff of the Tillamook Forest Center like to take this time to look back on the busy summer season. Interns Bonnie Gisler and Shawn Bray reflect on their time spent here this summer by sharing a few of their more memorable moments of the season.

A memorable moment: Bonnie

In late August I had an encounter with an unlikely visitor who gave me a new-found joy in my work. This child of eight marched into my woodpecker program with a sense of authority, an observation I made as she good-naturedly commanded her younger brothers to sit up front and, “be good and listen to teacher Bonnie.” As the program progressed out into the forest, this young one came beside me and proceeded to tell me her story. The vehicles her family owns, the names of all five of her dogs, the occupation of her Aunt Marta, and other details paramount to her life, were but a few things she mentioned. After a lengthy disclosure of her family history she grabbed my hand and looked up at me to say, “Let’s be friends, okay?” For the remainder of our time together she was stuck to my side like glue. At the program’s conclusion, her mother insisted I join in on their family photo to preserve the time we’d spent together. That precious girl parted with teary eyes and I was equally sad to see her go. I look back on this day with fondness knowing I’ve found my way into this child’s story along with the other telltale characters of her dogs and aunts. The Tillamook Forest Center becomes part of the family story for many of our visitors and it is just as likely that our visitors become part of the family story for the Tillamook Forest Center.

Many memorable moments: Shawn

After three months at the Tillamook Forest Center, I have certainly accrued quite a few memorable experiences with visitors. If you asked me which one was my favorite, I’d say, “hmm: Was it the woman who shared her excitement about going to see the Pacific Ocean for



Interns, Bonnie Gisler (below) and Shawn Bray (above), are an integral part of the Tillamook Forest Center team, helping visitors make meaningful connections with the Tillamook State Forest.



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Inspiring people to connect
with the Tillamook State Forest.

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Making Connections (continued from page 1)

the first time? Or, perhaps it was the sweet older couple who I approached about our local diving birds (American dippers), who in turn spent a half hour educating me on northwest bird species? And what about the young boy who came rushing over to show me a caterpillar that he'd found?" These are but a few examples of the many memorable moments I shared over this past summer. I mention these specifically because they illustrate how memorable moments are often those born not only from discovery but also from sharing that discovery. To the woman who was about to see the Pacific Ocean for the first time, you and many other out-of-state visitors were a constant reminder to me of just how easily we can take the places we live for granted, and served as an inspiration for me to encourage others to explore their own "backyards." To the couple who taught me about northwest birds, you demonstrated how there's always something new to learn and that this transfer of knowledge often begins with a simple friendly hello. And finally, to the boy that brought me that beautiful caterpillar, you expressed a wonder that all too often seems to diminish as we grow older and inspired me to continue helping others find their own connection to the natural world. In the end, it isn't so much that I had a favorite moment, rather that it was the collection of moments, from lengthy conversations to pleasant but fleeting interactions, that made my summer both memorable and rewarding.



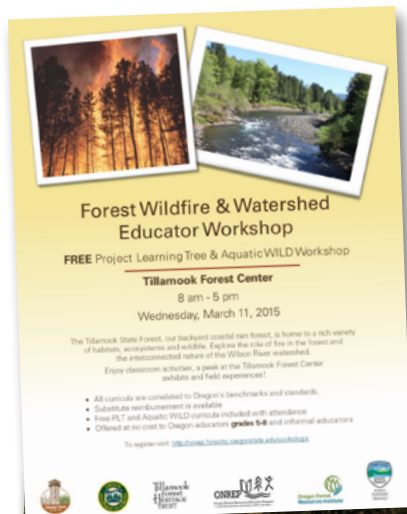
Teaching the teacher

October 8th was an engaging day of learning during the *Forest Wildfire and Watershed Educator Workshop* funded by a James E. Brown Grant award from the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust.

Eighteen participants from various statewide schools and educational programs explored the role of fire in the forest and the interconnected nature of the Wilson River watershed. Participating teachers were introduced to *Project Learning Tree* and *Project Aquatic WILD* curricula and activities along with field trip experiences available at the Tillamook Forest Center.

If you were unable to attend the workshop, and have interest in attending a future workshop, you're in luck! An additional workshop will be offered on Wednesday, March 11th, 2015. Watch our website for registration details.

Educators take a moment to pose for a fun photo after a day of exploring forest activities related to wildfires and watersheds. A similar workshop will be offered in March.



Tillamook Forest HERITAGE TRUST

Please consider making a gift

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.

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.



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 _____

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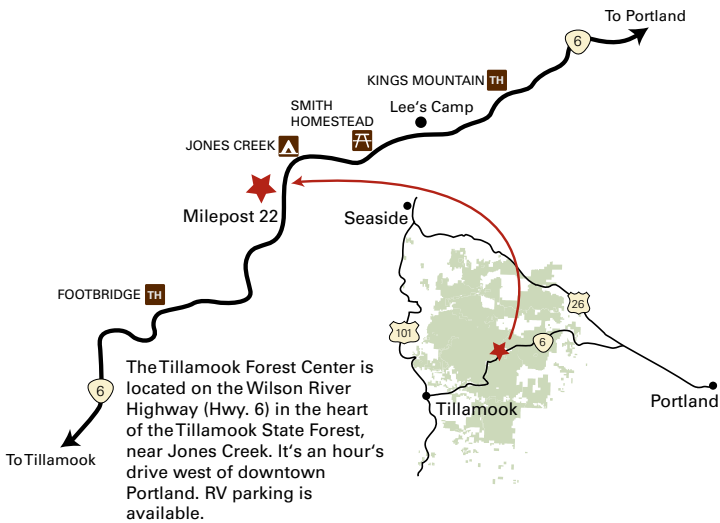
All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donor trees are available on a first-come basis. If requesting more than one tree, please make photocopies of this form.





Tillamook Forest Center

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Tillamook, OR 97141



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Be sure to...



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Coming next spring!

Watch our [website](#) or "like" us on [Facebook](#) for details.

- Center **reopens** March 4, Wednesdays – Sundays
- Plant a tree with us April 11 for Oregon Arbor Week
- Watch for a fish release date
- Join us for weekend naturalist programs

Winter Closure

The center is closed December 1, 2014 through March 3, 2015.

Have a great winter and we'll see you in the spring!



Don't miss an issue!

Please contact us to update your address.