

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

2011 – A Busy & Highly Successful Year

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Tillamook Forest Center staff members look back on 2011 as a busy and highly successful year. As our annual number of visitors notched upward this year, staff members teamed up to keep facilities immaculately clean and in like-new condition, while offering a high level of customer service to all who came to visit.

Staff members also presented a wide range of interpretive and educational programs which provided opportunities for students and all visitors to discover the many values that forests hold in their lives.



Our new webcam view on the Wilson River, the Center's suspension bridge and Kings Mountain provides an eye on the forest in all four seasons which allows us all to make daily observations of the dynamic and beautiful Tillamook State Forest. Check it out!

In our gift shop, sales went up for the year as visitors found and purchased an assortment of gift items, all of which are related to the forest, to the state of Oregon or to the advancement of learning about and appreciating our environment.

In addition to work and responsibilities necessary to operate the center on a daily basis, staff members also engaged in a number of special projects this year that promote the center and its mission to help

connect visitors to the forest. Among such projects this year were the establishment of a Facebook page for the center and the set-up of a new webcam located along the Wilson River just downstream of the center. We hope that you'll check out both of these new features by going to our website, www.tillamookforestcenter.org, and clicking on the **River Cam** button and the **Facebook** icon. Be sure to "like" our Facebook page to get updates on current events and exciting happenings year-round.

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Tillamook Forest Center

Inspiring people to connect
with the Tillamook State Forest.

(503) 815-6800
(866) 930-4646

tfcnewsletter@odf.state.or.us
www.tillamookforestcenter.org

Staff

- Director
Jim Quiring
- Visitor Services Coordinator
Jen Warren
- Visitor Services Assistant
Lisa Olsen
- Programming Coordinator
Chris Friend
- Programming Specialist
Lauren Butz
- Facilities Coordinator
Darryl Anderson
- Facilities Assistant
Doug Graham
- Executive Director, Tillamook
Forest Heritage Trust
Clark Seely

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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.

Director's Letter (continued from page 1)



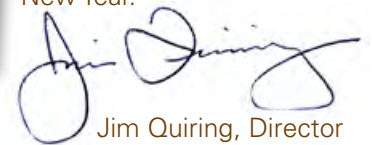
Check out
our website
for links to
our new
riverview
webcam and
our new
Facebook
page. Be sure
to "like" us on
Facebook to
get year-round
updates about
happenings
at the center.



All of us at the center want to thank the many groups and individuals who have supported the work of the center this year, including:

- **Volunteers & Site Hosts** with nearly 4,000 hours of volunteer service this year.
- **Oregon Youth Conservation Corps** crew for assistance with many projects & activities.
- **Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust** for support in marketing and funding for the new webcam.
- **The Department of Education & Tillamook School District** for an education grant for the center.
- **Oregon Forest Resources Institute** for funding for bus costs for schools to come to the center.
- **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** for ongoing support of staff positions at the center.
- **Forest History Center** in Salem for assistance with many forestry research projects.
- **South Fork Forest Inmate Camp** for assistance on many projects throughout the year.
- **Tillamook & Forest Grove Districts & all Department of Forestry staff** for ongoing support.
- **Our many friends & supporters** who contributed over \$13,000 this year to the center's work.

We wish all our friends and supporters a wonderful holiday season and the best in the New Year.


Jim Quiring, Director

Be a part of the TFC crew!

We are continually recruiting for new volunteers and you might be just the person we're looking for! With a wide variety of duties to choose from, including some special projects, we can use your help no matter what your experience. Volunteer positions can be just for a day, on a regular schedule, or even for longer blocks of time. Host opportunities are available now for our 2012 season and our amenities can't be beat. Day volunteer opportunities are available year-round and are easy to work into your schedule.

Your skills could be put to use maintaining the building and native landscaping, giving nature presentations about salmon, homesteading, forestry and more, answering questions about the local area, forests and history at our gift shop and information desk, serving as a local historian capturing, cataloging and archiving historic materials, or...???

If you're looking for a rewarding way to be part of a great team please give us a call. We'd love to meet you and talk about partnership possibilities. Call (866) 930-4646 or stop in and see us at the center. We can't wait to meet you!

Learning while they work: Service-learning at the TFC

Lauren Butz

The staff at the Tillamook Forest Center really enjoys creating new ways to connect people to the forest. Recently we set out on a journey to formally incorporate service-learning into our programs. Collaborating with local teachers and community groups—including the Oregon Department of Education, Tillamook School District, and Oregon Forest Resources Institute—we're creating opportunities for students to develop personal values related to environmental stewardship and community service. We want our next generation of youth to be environmentally literate problem-solvers who value their communities and care for nature.

According to the National Service-Learning Clearing House, service-learning is "a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities." It incorporates outdoor exploration, youth voice, community partnerships, academics, meaningful service, and celebration. It's fun, learning, service, and the forest all mixed together!



As part of a service-learning program, students could study plant species, pull the invasives, plant native species, and create a brochure encouraging the planting of native trees and shrubs.



Students from Springville K-8 school created beautiful forest banners, reflecting what they loved about the forest. Reflection is an important part of service-learning.

So what does service-learning look like at the Tillamook Forest Center? In 2009 and 2010 it looked like this: students from Springville K-8

school in Beaverton rehabilitating a section of the Wilson River corridor, planting native trees and shrubs, writing and publishing a book of student poetry about the forest, and creating twelve beautiful banners that we displayed in the exhibit hall. Their months of projects and exploration perfectly encapsulated what service-learning is all about. Groups new to service-learning could also help us design a salmon viewing platform on the Wilson River, create an interpretive display, and lead other students on guided hikes to view the salmon. We can't wait to see more beautiful artwork, songs, and poems that students will incorporate into their service-learning projects!

The academic, civic, and social impacts of service-learning programs reflect why nearly a quarter of America's elementary and secondary schools have adopted service-learning programs, and why we are too. A 2002 national study of Learn and Serve America programs suggests "effective service-learning programs improve academic grades, increase attendance in school, and develop personal and social responsibility." It is the combination of the students' passion for a healthy environment, the teachers' desire to connect classroom learning to the field, and the need for meaningful community service that makes service-learning a rich opportunity for the Tillamook Forest Center and its students. If you're interested in service-learning, please contact us!



You can help support the Tillamook Forest Center

Tillamook Forest HERITAGE TRUST

With Doug Decker's selection as the Oregon State Forester in February, the Trust Executive Director position became vacant. Following Doug's years of wonderful leadership, Trust Board Chair Jim Brown

approached retired ODF executive, Clark Seely, about taking on the responsibility, and Clark gladly agreed. "It's truly an honor and pleasure to be a part of such a wonderful forestry enterprise, and I'm grateful to be able to serve in this way," says Seely. Along with the Department, in a partnership approach, the Trust is planning some exciting work in the coming year including awarding one or

more James E. Brown Education Grants to further forestry education for school children or education groups, finalizing the new Tillamook Forest Center webcam project, helping support the center's outreach and communications efforts to Oregonians, and initiating the preliminary planning for refreshing and updating the center's exhibitry. It will be an exciting year for the Trust and the center, and we welcome your involvement and financial support.



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. 100 percent of all gifts go directly to education programs and activities at the center. Here is a menu of ideas...every gift counts.



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 opposite page).

Steve Terrill Forest Poster...

In recognition of your \$10 gift, we'll send you a poster featuring a stunning Tillamook State Forest photo by Steve Terrill, one of Oregon's most talented and creative landscape photographers.

Donor Trees: A Great Gift Idea...

The Trust invites you to show your support



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 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.



One of our branded tree medallions can be yours for just \$5 or for a \$250 donation you can receive one of our handmade chests. A wide variety of donation options are available. Large or small, your gift is greatly appreciated.

Donor Tree Order Form

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.

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.



Naturalist Notes (Lauren Butz)

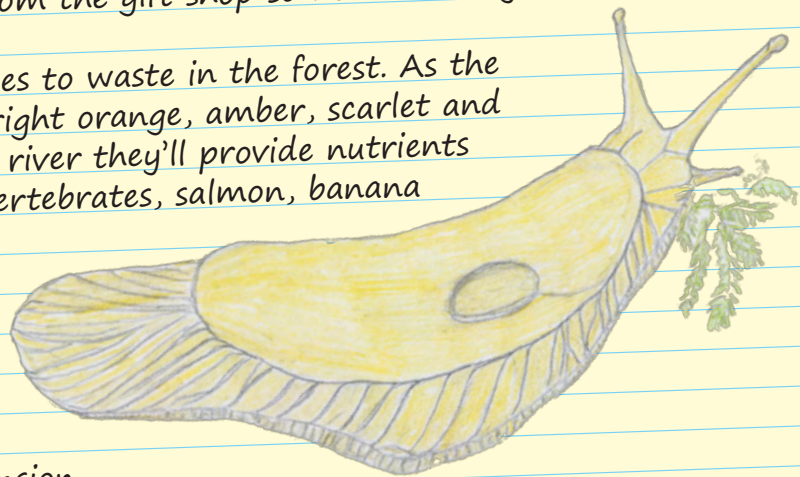
Sept. 27: Jim saw a large cow elk crossing Hwy. 6 near Smith Meadow this morning. Magnificent!

Sept. 30: An osprey flew over the suspension bridge this morning while Sarah was talking with a class of 4th grade students during "Freshwater & Forests." What a rare sight!

Oct. 9: Over 90 people attended our "Mysterious Mushrooms" program at the center, and visitors found king boletes, chanterelles, and chicken-of-the-woods in the forest. I need to buy a good guide from the gift shop so I can identify mushrooms.



Oct. 15: Nothing goes to waste in the forest. As the autumn leaves—bright orange, amber, scarlet and gold—fall into the river they'll provide nutrients for the macroinvertebrates, salmon, banana slugs, and trees.



Oct. 29: I saw my first salmon of the fall run! I watched from the suspension

bridge with excited visitors and staff for 10 minutes until the fish disappeared into the rapids. We also saw a few holding in the Coyote Hole, as the water was too low for them to move upstream. More salmon will arrive as the river rises with the autumn rains.



Nov. 18: Today we had the first snow of the season along with a bald eagle and belted kingfisher sighting by MITCH Charter School 7th graders. Too cool!

Winter Brings a Different Face to the Tillamook State Forest

Chris Friend

As we begin slipping into winter, nature's patterns, vegetation and wildlife transition to a prolonged wetter and more subdued existence. That is unless you are standing in a stormy downpour or watching a swollen river roar past, carrying with it logs and sediment from upland streams.

The Wilson River is home to Chinook and coho salmon. The salmon have nearly finished their migration, leaving plenty of carcasses for the bald eagles, coyotes, bears and other scavengers.

Watch for eagles roosting in trees near the river or in the famous Kissing Tree, a huge lightning-scarred Douglas-fir standing on the edge of the highway across from the Smith Homestead. If you're lucky you may spy an eagle on a gravel bar gorging on a dead fish. The eagle's powerful beak helps it eat a pound of fish in about one minute.

Now that deciduous trees and shrubs are bare, you can more easily catch a glimpse of the elk that have moved down from the high country, sometimes right along the road. These are Roosevelt elk which live west of the Cascade Range. They are the largest of the four elk subspecies in North America. Be alert while driving the Highway 6 corridor, as they are known to cross the road frequently.



Winter is also a good time to look for animal tracks, when the ground is soft or snow covered.

Winter weather is always interesting here at the Tillamook Forest Center. Last winter was considered a La Niña climate event and we recorded 144" of precipitation during the water year ending on Sept 30th. That is 12 feet of water, two feet more than our average!

This winter is predicted to continue the La Niña event. Predictions are generalized but indicate that December through February will bring stormy periods with large temperature swings and above average chance

of low elevation snow in February (Oregon Dept of Agriculture Seasonal Climate Forecast). The current predictions are most similar to the 2008-2009 winter, which brought heavy, low elevation snow to northwest Oregon. In 2008, we recorded nearly two feet of snow at the center the day before Christmas!

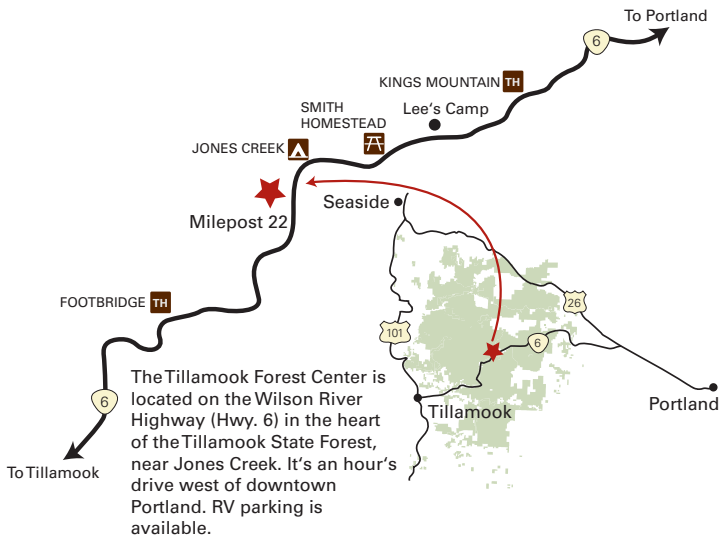
We hope you find yourself in the forest this winter. It is a fascinating and quiet time to explore. We look forward to seeing you at the center when it reopens in March.





Tillamook Forest Center

45500 Wilson River Highway
Tillamook, OR 97141



Printed on recycled paper
Please share your copy with others!

Mark Your Calendar



Winter Closure

The center is closed for the winter November 28, 2011 through February 29, 2012. We look forward to seeing you in the spring for more fun!



Coming next spring!

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

- March 1st: Center reopens
- April 1st: Celebrate the TFC 6th Anniversary
- Spring: Our annual tree planting event



Keep the center in mind for your next big event!

Don't miss an issue!
Please contact us to update your address.