

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

Inside

From the Director

Page 2

Honoring our veteran
volunteers

Page 2

News from the Trust

Page 3

Save the date

Page 4

Rife with life: Oregon's temperate rainforest

Hannah McDonald

Trekking along a dirt path, under a canopy dripping with moss and wrapped in giant fern, it is hard to fight the urge to whistle the theme song from Jurassic Park. Trees tower above, while whimsical creatures scurry below a thriving layer of green. Rainforest; the word conjures images of lush vegetation, veiled waterfalls, and equatorial regions. But experiencing the rainforest does not have to mean a trip through TSA checkpoints and a prescription for malaria pills. The Tillamook State Forest, just 45 miles west of Portland, is a temperate rainforest and although it is not as biologically diverse as its tropical counterpart, it is still teeming with life.

A visit to the Tillamook State Forest during the summer months makes it easy to forget that the landscape receives over 10 feet of rain each year. Portland, a land notorious for wet weather, tops out at about three feet annually. The abundance of rain in the Tillamook comes from marine air colliding with the Coast Range, creating a region where the evergreen is king. Although Douglas-fir trees dominate

the skyline, a closer look uncovers an array of western redcedar and western hemlock creeping upward through the understory.

The Tillamook also provides excellent conditions for epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants). Hence, any stroll along a dirt trail reveals moss drenched maples and a canopy littered with lichen. Sizable sword fern pepper the ground and like the tropics, the forest bursts with life. The Tillamook is a forest that is appreciated in many ways — as a source of recreation, timber, clean water, abundant, varied plants and animals and the dynamic aquatics which create countless cascading waterfalls and shape-shift the Wilson River in a matter of hours.

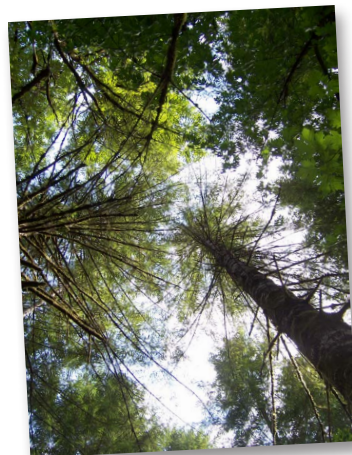
So, next time you're itching to get out and experience the earth, remember that no matter the season, you don't need a passport to explore the wonders of a temperate rainforest.



Top: The 2013 summer staff on a hike to the majestic University Falls.



Left: Look for black-stemmed Maidenhair fern on your next hike in the Tillamook.



Big leaf maple and Douglas-fir trees tower above.





Winter 2014 Issue
Volume 8, Number 1

Tillamook Forest Center

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

(503) 815-6800

(866) 930-4646

tfnewsletter@odf.state.or.us

www.tillamookforestcenter.org

Staff

Director

Larry Berrin

Programming Coordinator

Chris Friend

Programming Specialists

Denise Berkshire

Hannah McDonald

Visitor Services Coordinator

Jen Warren

Visitor Services Assistant

Lauren Miles

Facilities Coordinator

Darryl Anderson

Facilities Assistant

Joel Vieyra

Executive Director, Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust

Ross Holloway



Follow us on
Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/
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.

A record breaking year

As the year draws to a close, we can look back at 2013 with great pride as this year marked some key milestones for the center. In the spring, March and June saw the highest visitor attendance ever and we also served the largest single group of students at the center in one day (180 eighth graders). History was also made this summer when over 1,000 people attended programs for the first time in one month (July). And just this past fall, we saw our largest turnout for a program when 146 visitors attended our Salmon Release program. Many visitors commented that the programs were the reason they came to the center which gives us all something to be proud of this year. Finally, we served the largest number visitors in 2013 since our opening year (2006). Although we are now closed for the winter, our thoughts are already turning to 2014 as we begin planning our programs and events for the upcoming year in hopes of drawing even more people to this special place.



We wish all our friends and supporters a wonderful holiday season and we hope to see you next year.

Larry Berrin, Director

Veteran volunteers

Hannah McDonald

Here at the Tillamook Forest Center we rely on a rock solid crew of volunteers to keep our wheels between the ditches and our shiny side up. Fortunately for those of us who work, enjoy, and explore the center, our vein of volunteer treasure runs deep — with a small group of dedicated individuals that have been donating their time and intellectual assets for several years.

If you happen to visit the center on a Thursday, you will meet Harold and Pearl Jensen. Resident “Beavers” in the Tillamook State Forest, these two provide immeasurable riches to our center with their contribution of local knowledge, stories of global adventures, and friendly greetings.

A trip to the center on Fridays will endow you with the pleasurable company of Mr. Jim Reeher. Mr. Reeher’s history with the Tillamook State Forest predates the Tillamook State Forest itself. In fact, the Reeher family has homesteaded just a few miles from the center for over 100 years. We are undeniably lucky and grateful for his contributions to the wealth of knowledge here at the center along with his infectious joy.

Clyde Monroe is another gem here at the center, who helps with facilities and laughter therapy on Fridays. If you happen to see this one around the center, do not challenge him to a duel of wits — he has the upper hand.

Finally, our veteran summer hosts, Bill and Donna Kubicz, have been helping at the center for three years now. While they are full time RV-ers and head south come winter, they actually live at the center all summer. While you can usually find Donna behind the front desk, Bill is most likely sneaking up behind you with some sort of adorable puppet to share.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Tillamook Forest Center, contact Jen Warren, Visitor Services Coordinator at (503) 815-6808 or jwarren@odf.state.or.us.



Pearl and Harold Jensen

Jim Reeher

Clyde Monroe

Bill and Donna Kubicz



News from the Trust

Ross Holloway

Each year, the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust offers the James E. Brown Forest Education Grant, to celebrate and acknowledge former State Forester Jim Brown's leadership on forest education, and to further the work of forest educators in Oregon. For 2014, the Trust is offering a grant of up to \$4,000 to help teachers, interpreters, community groups or others involved in education projects and activities relating to the Tillamook State Forest. Eligible applicants include teachers, schools, school districts, ESDs, extension agents, or other government agencies that will be developing programs and activities primarily related to learning about the Tillamook State Forest, and non-profit organizations which provide interpretation or education services or resources related to learning about the Tillamook State Forest. More information on the grant and application materials can be found by clicking on the James E. Brown Forest Education Grant link on the Tillamook Forest Center web page.

During the past year the Trust partnered with ODF and The Portico Group of Seattle to begin the process of refreshing and updating the exhibits and related media at the center. Many interesting and exciting ideas were generated for expanding and diversifying exhibits and facilities at the center. Among the most popular ideas are creating new outdoor features including a canopy walk, a children's play area, an outdoor amphitheater, and a stream profile exhibit adjacent to the river. Also high on the list for indoor improvements is an on-site food service facility and dining area. The Trust and ODF are hoping to accomplish further planning and fundraising, and to implement some of these ideas in time for the ten-year anniversary of the center opening, in April of 2016.

Your gifts make a difference

If you have enjoyed the Tillamook Forest Center and want to make sure it can continue to provide excellent forest education opportunities, please consider offering your financial support. One hundred percent of all gifts support education programs and activities at the center. Every gift counts.

Donor Trees: A great gift idea...

"Plant your tree" in a unique forest landscape sculpture located in the center's entry plaza. For a \$75 gift, your inscription will be engraved on a tree medallion which will be installed on the sculpture (order form on this page).

Trailside benches available...

Made from local Douglas-fir trees, these benches provide visitors a moment rest and take in the Wilson River and surrounding forest. An attractive bronze plaque with your chosen inscription is set into the back of the bench. A limited number of benches are available for gifts at the \$2,500 level.

Consider a planned gift...

A charitable gift may play a part in your overall estate plan. The 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.

For more information on making a gift, 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 _____

City / State / Zip _____

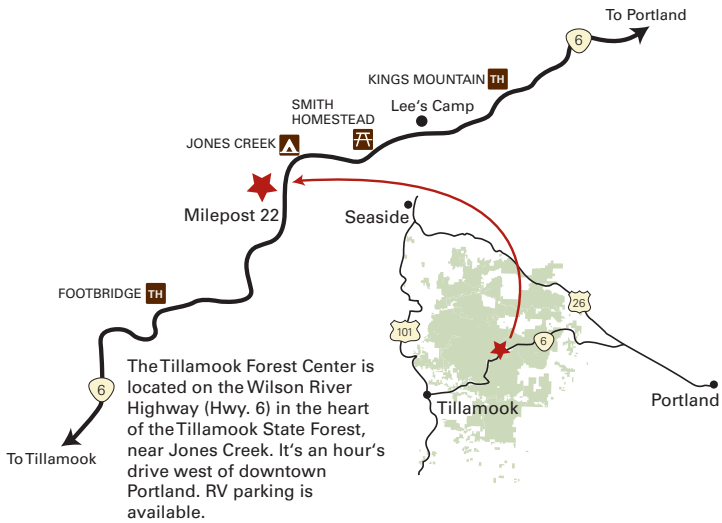
All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donor trees are available on a first-come basis. If requesting more than one tree, please make photocopies of this form.





Tillamook Forest Center

45500 Wilson River Highway
Tillamook, OR 97141



Printed on recycled paper
Please share your copy with others!

Mark Your Calendar

Coming next spring!

Watch our **website** or "like" us on **Facebook** for details.

- Center **reopens** March 1st
- First week in April: Oregon Arbor Week — come plant a tree with us!
- Watch for a fish release date



Winter Closure

The center is closed for the winter, reopening on **March 1, 2014**. We look forward to seeing you in the spring for more fun!

Be sure to...



Follow us on **Facebook!**

www.facebook.com/tillamookforestcenteroregon



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