

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

We're going green!
Beginning with the 2009 summer issue, The Lookout will only be available in an electronic format. To ensure that you continue to receive your newsletter, make sure that we have your correct email address.

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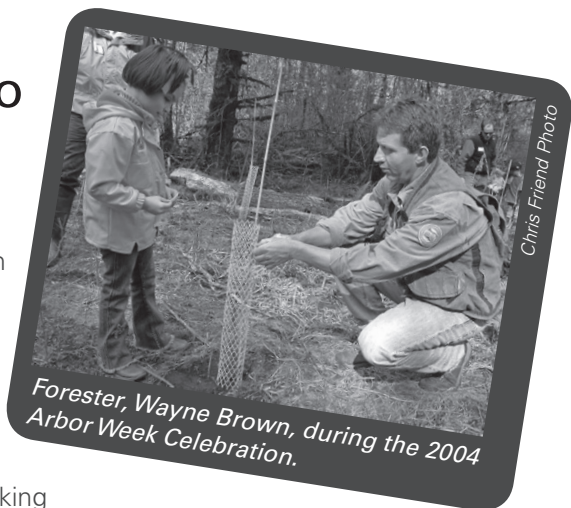
Sesquicentennial: Hard to say but easy to celebrate!

Kris Babbs

If you have done your share of traveling, then you know there is nothing like Oregon. You can't help but fall in love with its rugged and breathtaking beauty, temperate climate, and its infinite shades of green. Oregon hosts majestic forests and some of the largest trees in the world.

We are also known as a can-do, forward-thinking state, where citizens engage together to do good things for Oregon's environment. There is no better example of this than the massive tree planting effort that took place in the 1950's and 1960's following the infamous Tillamook Burn.

To commemorate Oregon's Sesquicentennial — 150 years of statehood —, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is sponsoring "The Great Oregon Tree Plant," an event that will recognize Oregonians' tree planting efforts and promote stewardship of our forest resources. Between statehood day on February 14th, 2009 and National Arbor Day on April 24th, ODF will recognize 150 tree planting events across the state. For more information on how you can participate, visit www.oregon150.org.



Forester, Wayne Brown, during the 2004 Arbor Week Celebration.

Chris Friend Photo



Help us continue the tree planting tradition in the Tillamook State Forest on April 4th and 5th.

ODF Photo

The Tillamook Forest Center is playing a part in this event by hosting a tree planting celebration during the weekend of April 4th and 5th, 2009. It is timed with Oregon Arbor Week and the Tillamook Forest Center's third anniversary. We invite Oregon natives and the newly transplanted to plant new natives — trees, that is — in the Tillamook State Forest. Staff will guide you to a tree planting site and provide the seedlings. Family-fun activities and programs will also be available inside the Center on both days. Visit our website for more details and share in the excitement.

There is nothing like the feeling of planting a tree. It's an authentic act that encourages a cheerful feeling of hope and trust in the future. As the old Chinese proverb says, one generation plants the trees, and another gets the shade.



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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

Thoughts from the Director

Tree Planting: A Meaningful, Life-Long Memory

One of my first jobs as I began my career in the field of resource management was working as a tree planter. I was a seasonal employee with the U.S. Forest Service on the Wenatchee National Forest in Washington. The work was tough, but I enjoyed the challenge. And, as I worked, I frequently found myself wondering about the trees I was planting and the part they would play in the future forest. The experience helped shape my thinking about forests, their importance in our lives and my responsibility to help care for them.

Today, as I share in the work of the Tillamook State Forest, I easily identify with the many visitors who share their stories of helping with tree planting in the Tillamook and the effect of those experiences on their lives. For example, one woman shared her memories of planting trees and went on to say that the experience instilled in her a lasting "love of forests." Another visitor wrote to tell us that his experiences tree planting were among his favorite memories which gave him "a love of forestry" for the rest of his life.

This spring the Tillamook Forest Center will host tree planting opportunities for student groups and for visitors to the Center. There will also be a large number of tree planting events around the state, sponsored by many different groups. I hope you'll watch for a chance to join in one of these events and perhaps bring your children or grandchildren to join in the activity. As we've learned, the experience can be exciting, fun and can sometimes create a meaningful, life-long memory.



Tree planter on the Elliot State Forest

Summer Adventure in the Tillamook Forest! Chrissy Smith

Do you have a child that would enjoy a week long summer adventure in the forest? If so, your child is invited to join us during the annual Tillamook Forest Center's Discovery Days Summer Camp. Campers will discover the history and imagine the future of the Tillamook State Forest while participating in exciting activities and games. Throughout the week they will learn how to be prepared and safe while enjoying the outdoors, gaining survival skills, and trying their hand as a lumberjack. Campers will also spend one night camping out in the forest. If tree climbing, shelter building, and night hiking are activities your child enjoys, then sign up your child to join us this summer!

Please call the Tillamook Forest Center toll-free at (866) 930-4646 for dates and more information. The registration deadline is July 10, 2009.



2008 campers set up their tent. The summer camp concludes with an overnight campout.

Forest History Roundtable Coming to TFC in May

Event is part of the Oregon 150 celebrations

The Oregon Department of Forestry is sponsoring a gathering of forest historians to share current research, knowledge, and resources relating to the study and interpretation of Oregon's forest history.

The first annual Forest History Roundtable will be held at the Tillamook Forest Center from 9:00 – 4:00, on Friday, May 15th. The gathering is free, but **advance registration is required**.

Presentations during the day will cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Indian Burning and Catastrophic Forest Fire Patterns of the Oregon Coast Range, 1491-1951, by Bob Zybach;
- The Evolution of Fire Protection Associations, by Mike Dykzeul and panel;
- The History of Consolidated Timber Company, by Merv Johnson;
- Private Enterprise and Public Forests, by Jeff LaLande;
- The Role of Counties in Oregon Forest History, by Paul Levesque;
- A History of O&C Lands, by Maria Thi Mai
- The Evolution of Gyppo Sawmills: 1930-1955, by Lionel Youst.

This event is part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Oregon's statehood, and is open to anyone with an interest in forests and Oregon history. An understanding of forest history is fundamental to an understanding of the forests we know today, and the vision we have for forests in the future.

For more information about the Roundtable or to register to attend, please contact Doug Decker at (503) 359-7439 or by e-mail at ddecker@odf.state.or.us



Loading logs in the blackened landscape of the Tillamook Burn: 1937.

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.

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



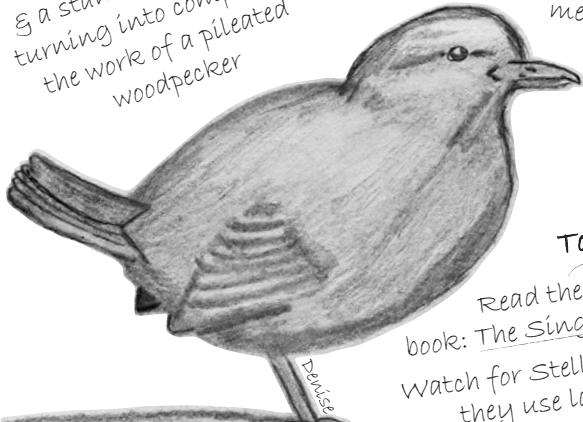
Naturalist Notes (Denise Berkshire)

Winter/Spring Happenings

Volunteer, Jim Reeher, and homeschool children discover piggy-back plant & a standing dead tree turning into compost — the work of a pileated woodpecker

waxing "cold" moon guards Kings Mountain in a magenta alpine glow

Chrissy spotted four sets of animal tracks leading down to the river — a meeting place for all!



To Do:

- Read the new gift shop book: *The Singer in the Stream*
- Watch for stellar's jay to see if they use last year's nest
- Make tree planting certificates

Up - Down - Up - Down

Our bubbly grey neighbors, the American dippers (water ouzel), are fun to watch! With scaly nose plugs, "eyelids," dense plumage & oil glands, these songbirds "swim" under water.

This spring may be the third brood to show visitors!

Soon they will be sprucing up their nest under the bridge.



Chris Friend Photo

A great blue heron dries its wings and conserves energy by standing on one foot on a fallen red alder tree in November.



Jim Quiring Photo

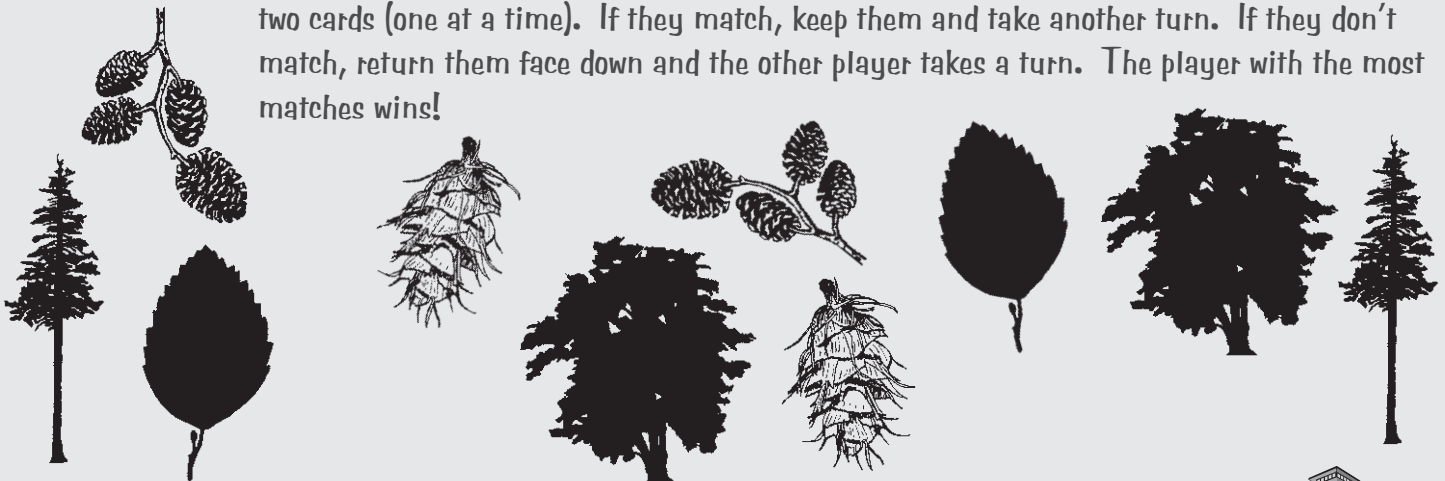
Darryl Anderson assesses the aftermath of the arctic blast of 2008: 24" of snow, widespread tree debris throughout the forest, blocking trails and roads.

Matching/Memory Tree Game

Inspired by Isabella Smelcer

Matching Game — Draw a line between similar items

Memory Game — Cut out each item below and spread them out face down. The first player turns over two cards (one at a time). If they match, keep them and take another turn. If they don't match, return them face down and the other player takes a turn. The player with the most matches wins!



Upcoming Programs

Join us for FREE family-friendly programs at the Tillamook Forest Center and at locations on the forest. This spring, we are offering a selection of **Tillamook Forest Center Programs and Special Events**. All programs listed below are held at the Tillamook Forest Center, unless otherwise noted.

For more information or to register for a program, visit www.tillamookforestcenter.org or call (866) 930-4646. In the event that we have to cancel a program, we will post a notice on our website.



An earlier generation of student tree-planters can proudly proclaim: "I helped plant the Tillamook Burn." They now have an opportunity to share their experience with their grandchildren at our tree-planting event on April 4th and 5th.



Everyone will have a chance to release salmon fry into the Wilson River on March 7th & 8th.

March 2009

1 th	Country – Folk Music Jam	1:00 PM – 3:30 PM
7 th & 8 th	Salmon Release Walk*	11:30 AM & 1:30 PM
14 th & 15 th	The Singer in the Stream A Story of American Dippers	11:30 AM & 1:30 PM

April 2009

4 th & 5 th	Arbor Day Celebration & TFC Anniversary Plant a tree with us!	ALL DAY
5 th	Country – Folk Music Jam	1:00 PM – 3:30 PM
18 th & 19 th	Wildflower Walk*	11:30 AM & 1:30 PM

May 2009

2 nd	Re-release of <i>Fire on the Wind</i> A Tillamook Burn novel by Linda Crew with book signing	11:30 AM
3 rd	Country – Folk Music Jam	1:00 PM – 3:30 PM
3 rd – 9 th	Wildfire Awareness Week <i>Fire-resistant plant sale too!</i>	ALL DAY (closed Mon & Tue)
9 th & 10 th	Life of a Lookout	11:30 AM & 1:30 PM
15 th	First Annual Forest History Roundtable Registration required (see page 3 for details)	9 AM – 4 PM



Visitors enjoying spring wildflowers during a guided walk.

***Please note:** TFC Program Walks (e.g. Salmon Release Walk) are short walks near the Tillamook Forest Center that do not require registration.



Greening the Burn: The Reeher Family Planting for the Future

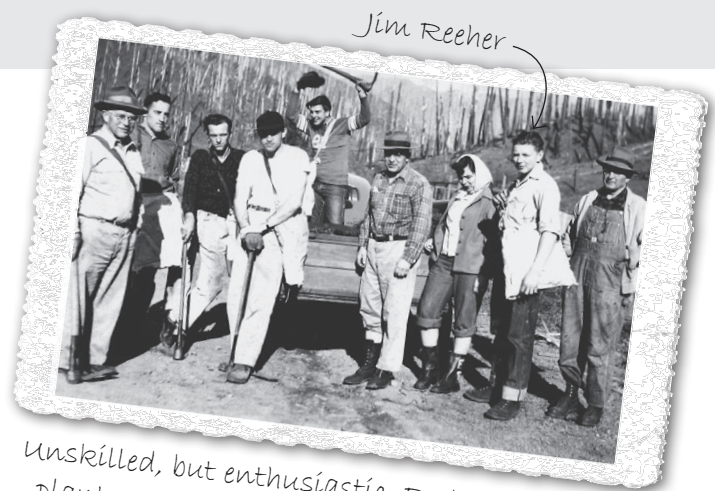
Jim Reeher

A small opening in a vast stand of majestic Douglas-fir and western redcedar at the mouth of the North Fork of the Wilson River, that was the homestead that my family grew up with in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The pioneer children purchased the homestead in 1945 and by then, the landscape had changed. Forest fires in 1918, 1933, and 1945 had replaced the forest with low growing brush, bracken fern, charred stumps, and snags.

One brother, Max Reeher, had a great love of trees and with his urging and leadership, the Reeher children and grandchildren started a tree planting program. In early winter of 1946 our family completed the first planting of 5,000 Douglas-fir trees. The majority of the seedlings provided tasty treats for the deer population. Over the next 13 years, we planted a total of 81,000 two-year old Douglas-fir trees and several hundred cedar trees. In spite of snacking wildlife, a new forest of fir was established.

During the tree planting effort, our family was thinking of the need to have the hills green and growing again and did not think in terms of trees for harvest. Over the last 10 years, however, the family corporation has had timber sales for salvage of blow-down trees, construction of forest access roads, danger-tree removal along the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) lines, and commercial thinning.

All the pioneer family members who planted trees lived to see the young forest covering the hills. The grandchildren are now the senior family and have lived to see the forest being harvested. The income to the corporation is nice, but to us, the tree planters from the 1950's, the joy is looking up at the tree covered hills and knowing we helped plant the forest.



Unskilled, but enthusiastic, Reeher family tree planters. Note the background of dead trees.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a rewarding way to share your love of forests? Are you looking to get involved in your community or complete a service project? Are you a scout, in a youth group, retired forester, teacher, carpenter or landscaper? Do you have a special skill or interest? If so, have you considered volunteering at the Tillamook Forest Center?

There are different types of volunteer opportunities for all ages:

- A **Work Party Volunteer** joins a group of other volunteers to complete various projects at the Center, inside or out, for the day.
- A **Day Volunteer** works a flexible schedule and may use Center transportation from the Forest Grove or Tillamook areas.
- An **On-Site Host Volunteer** lives in their own RV at a full-hookup facility on the Center grounds. Space is available now.

Volunteer Positions

A few of the exciting opportunities at the TFC include:

- Maintaining the beautiful building and native landscaping
- 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
- Serving as a local historian including capturing, cataloging and archiving historic materials

If you are interested in any of these opportunities and more, please contact us for a Tillamook Forest Center volunteer application. Call (866) 930-4646 or stop in and see us at the Center.



Our volunteers add tremendous value to our program at the Center. Our cadre of 2008 volunteers pose here for a group portrait after special recognition dinner.

Chris Friend Photo

Seventy-Two Million Trees Planted By Hand!

Chris Friend

Sixty years ago, in the winter of 1949/1950, a great experiment in reforestation began in earnest in the Tillamook Burn. The year before, citizens of Oregon had just passed the \$13 million Tillamook Forest Rehabilitation Bond Measure providing funding for the massive tree-planting project. At the time, it was heralded as the largest reforestation project in the world.

The center of operations for tree planting and rehabilitation activities was established at Owl Camp. Owl Camp is today called Rogers Camp and is located near the summit of Highway 6. The tree planting crews lived at Owl Camp in three double-walled canvas tents, with 12 men per tent. Imagine what it must have been like to plant trees in the Burn all day long and then return to a tent for your home!

The winter of '49/'50 brought unusually cold temperatures and a heavy snowfall. The men began tree planting in the beginning of December but were snowed out just before Christmas and did not start up again until March. Six feet of snow was recorded on the ground at Owl Camp at one point during this period.



A crew of tree planters prepares for another day of planting in the Burn.

Photo Courtesy Oregon Historical Society

The tree seedlings were stored in a root cellar, packed in shredded cedar to keep them cool and moist. The men planted until April 21st when the weather became too hot and dry.

The reforestation project lasted 24 years. More than 108,000 acres were planted with 72 million, two-year-old seedlings. In addition, 116,000 acres were seeded from the air.

As the reforestation program began taking hold, another tree-planting tradition was established in the Burn. Schoolchildren and other youth groups from around the region were bussed to the forest to plant trees, including the site of the Tillamook Forest Center.

While most of the trees were planted by contract crews, inmates and department employees, our young volunteers learned a great lesson in civic duty.

Did you help plant trees in the Tillamook Burn? If so, we invite you to share your story with us here at the center on our memory board.



Kids in the '50s and '60s get a lesson in tree planting.

ODF Photo

Fire on the Wind:

How the writing of a novel transformed one author and her husband into tree farmers

Join us in welcoming award-winning author, Linda Crew, to the Tillamook Forest Center on May 2nd for a special presentation and book signing event. Using both historic and contemporary slides, award-winning author Linda Crew will show the inspiration and painstaking research that went into the creation of her dramatized version of the Tillamook Burn story. Storie Faye, the fictional main character, is just thirteen that summer of 1933, living with her family in one of the many logging camps threatened by the fire. Will they get out in time? Is the forest gone forever? *Fire on the Wind* earned many rave reviews when it was published by Delacorte Press in 1995 and has been cited by professional foresters for its accuracy in describing this cataclysmic event in Oregon's history. Among Crew's other titles are *Children of the River* and *A Heart for Any Fate: Westward to Oregon 1845*. Following the presentation, Linda will be available for a book signing.



Fire on the Wind – A Tillamook Burn novel – has been reprinted! It will be available in our gift shop for the event on May 2nd.

Courtesy Linda Crew





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Please share your copy with others!

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Mark Your Calendar (see inside for complete program calendar)



Arbor Day Celebration & TFC Anniversary
April 4th & 5th, ALL DAY

Plant a tree with us!

The Tillamook Forest Center's third anniversary kicks off Arbor Week and we are hosting a tree planting celebration. Participants will receive a wooden tree cookie and a tree planter's certificate while supplies last. Visit our website to see a list of the tree-mendous activities planned.



Wildfire Awareness Week
May 3rd - 9th, ALL DAY
(closed Mon & Tue)

With fire-resistant plant sale on May 3rd



Save the Date!
Forest History Roundtable
May 15th, 9 AM - 4 PM

In order to save paper and costs, this will be the last printed version of The Lookout. Contact us at tfnewsletter@odf.state.or.us to receive our electronic version.