2015 Spring Newsletter

- Hands-on Learning at the Oregon Logging Conference
- Annual Meeting & Volunteer of the Year Awardee
- Congrats Lindsay Reaves, Mary Rellergert Awardee
- Remembering Leroy Petersen
- UO Students Help Prep for Forest Field Days

Volunteers Needed!
Spring Forest Field Days

Volunteering is a great way to show your support for Forests Today & Forever. We are looking to fill slots for our Forest Field Day spring programs this April and May. Volunteers teach middle school students about Oregon’s forests in a beautiful tree farm setting. We are looking for a one-day (about 6 hour) commitment. Please contact Beth at coordinator@foreststodayand-forever.org to learn more about the opportunity! Volunteer training materials provided.

Thank You
Grant Funders and New Sponsors!

Thank you to International Paper, Plum Creek Foundation, and Oregon Forest Resources Institute! Grant funds keep our programs running! We are thankful for the financial support and will put the funds to good use! International Paper provided FTF $6,000 to support operations of our Forest Field Days program. Plum Creek Foundation awarded $2,400 to provide waterproofing supplies for our programs, such as new tents, storage boxes and tarps. Oregon Forest Resources Institute awarded FTF $2,500 for program offerings to support the development of a forestry concentration for 4-H youth in Lane County.

Thank you Rundall Inc. and Shiloh Forestry for committing annual sponsorship to Forests Today & Forever! Your support, along with the support of 43 other companies, provide the solid foundation in which we can conduct our work of promoting forest stewardship through education.
Hands-on Learning at the Oregon Logging Conference

Six hundred and fifty students along with about thirty teachers and chaparones from seven school districts joined us for the annual 2015 Oregon Logging Conference (OLC) School Tours. As the coordinator for the event, I am in the lucky position to observe the full program from beginning to end. This year I reflected on how the program is a true and comprehensive introduction to the forest products industry. During the event, students learn about a variety of forest-related careers, and about the trees that are the basis for these jobs. They get to interact with real-life people who work in the industry and have the rare opportunity to see some of the tools that are involved in the trade... including the big equipment, which is definitely a highlight of the day!

Oregon Women in Timber (OWIT) has been running this great program for over two decades. We have worked in partnership with OWIT to co-host the program for the past eight years. There are many talented people involved who make this event possible. Talk About Trees facilitators teach students about trees and forest-related careers. Foresters share their profession and demonstrate tools of the trade (thank you to this year’s foresters Dick Powell, Brad Marks, Jill Smouse, Bill Wynkoop, and Tiffany Roddy). The outdoor tour is organized by Jeff Thompson, OLC board member, who rounds up over twenty industry professionals to guide students through the big equipment. This event is a great collaboration in the name of forestry education! Thank you to everyone that helps to make the OLC School Tours an amazing success!

-Beth Krisko

It is a pleasure to host the OLC School Tours in partnership with Oregon Women in Timber, who is not only our partner, but also our supporter.

Thank you OWIT, for generously sharing your talented Talk About Trees educators in support of Forest Field Days!
Forest Today & Forever invites all supporters and community members to an exciting evening in support of FTF’s mission of promoting forest stewardship through education.

Enjoy a lively ambiance, beautiful view, great sounds of live music, delicious hor d’oeuvres, tasty wine, and a silent auction full of tempting items!

Monies raised via the silent auction go to support FTF’s programs.

Event Details
When: Thursday, September 24th, 6-9pm
Where: Sweet Cheeks Winery
How: Tickets $15/ person
(more information on how to purchase tickets will be provided by email and in our next newsletter)

Ninety-three financial supporters, volunteers, and partners attended the January annual meeting. The breakfast hour gathering had many highlights, including a keynote address by Rick Zenn, Senior Fellow at the World Forestry Center, who gave an inspiring talk entitled, “10 Reasons Why Forestry and Education Share the Same Values”. We then had a fun presentation by four middle school students who shared their Forest Field Days experiences. The event concluded with the presentation of the Long-legged Volunteer Award. Our 2014 award was presented to retired teacher, Ron Leonard, who was honored for his contributions as an enthusiastic Forest Field Day volunteer, veteran Forest Field Day teacher, and previous board member.

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Remembering Leroy Petersen

Forests Today & Forever lost a friend in February when Leroy Petersen passed away at the age of 83. The Petersens were the first family in Lane County to host Forest Field Days. Every year for 15 years, Leroy, Andy, and Allen Petersen brought thousands of students up the hill to learn about soils, water, wildlife, timber and recreation on their beautiful property.

This anecdote, told by Andy Petersen, exemplifies what a special and good-humored man Leroy Petersen was. Some city cousins visited the tree farm and saw Leroy milk cows and then use the cream separator. They had never seen a cream separator so they asked him, “What’s that?” Leroy replied, “We panning for gold! When the cows drink from the stream, they lap up a few gold flakes and we use this machine to separate the gold from the cream. It’s not a lot, but enough to pay the bills.” They then asked, “Can we see the gold?” “No” Leroy answered, “we keep the gold under lock and key!” Leroy Petersen, our friend and enthusiastic supporter of forestry education, will certainly be missed.

-Bill Wynkoop

University of Oregon Students Help Prepare for Forest Field Days

In honor of Peace Corps week, ten UO students and an additional four returning Peace Corps volunteers gave their time to FTF in the spirit of community service. Volunteers came to Bauman Tree Farm to help prepare for the upcoming Forest Field Day program. Groups cleaned trails of winter debris, and spread gravel and wood chips to maintain the educational walking paths.

In advance of the service work, students toured the tree farm with FTF Educator and tree farm owner, Lindsay Reaves. When asked how they enjoyed the tour, one participant said, “It was really cool to learn so many new things.” Another volunteer, born and raised in Oregon, was surprised about what she learned, stating she had no idea about all that goes into forestland management. The day was fun and productive, and we are thankful to have such a hard working group offer their time and energy.

The event allowed FTF to get some much-needed work completed, as well as an an opportunity to educate new people about forest stewardship in Oregon.