2016 Spring Newsletter

- Forest Field Days: A Day in the Woods and More
- Annual Meeting & Volunteer of the Year Awardee
- Soiree & Silent Auction Details
- Teaching Youth at the Oregon Logging Conference

Volunteers Needed

Spring 2016 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@foreststodayandforever.org to learn more about the opportunity! Volunteer training materials provided.

Shop & Support FTF!

Simply link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Forests Today & Forever at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. You can search for us by our name. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping FTF earn a donation! You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

Thank You

INTERNATIONAL PAPER

Forests Today & Forever is honored to have the support of International Paper. This year, IP provided $4,500 in grant funding in support of our Forest Field Day program. Last year, our proposal was funded for $6,000. In addition to support through grant funding, IP employees support us on the ground through volunteerism. Each year, IP employees donate about 30 hours to teach students about forest stewardship.

‘Like’ us on Facebook!
The highlight of the Forest Field Days (FFD) program for middle schoolers, as the name suggests, is the field day! During a trip to a working tree farm, students get to know the forest and learn about this great natural resource through first-hand experience. The field day is central to this exciting program, but the real impact of the field day is within context of the entire curriculum - one that demonstrates the necessity of our working forests for wood, while highlighting social and ecological benefits.

Teachers designate precious classroom time to the curriculum, which can take up to four weeks to fully execute. It is scenario-based, where students work in groups of four as they role-play a family of siblings who just inherited forestland from their grandma. Each student within the role-play has a specific interest related to the forest. For example, one sibling really enjoys recreation, while another sibling is more financially-minded and wants to ensure the land can pay for itself by harvesting timber to sell. With attention to the Forest Practices Act, students must come together to create a sustainable management plan for their forest that satisfies their individual interests. The field day helps students better understand the forest, preparing students for work on their plans.

The FFD program teaches youth many important lessons in this relatively short-term program. It is a civics lesson in that students must work together, communicate, and negotiate to come to a satisfying alternative for all. It is a science lesson as students learn ecological and physical science concepts and their application to forest management. It is also career education when students learn from the many talented professionals who volunteer during the field day. Altogether, and most importantly, though, FFD is forestry education, an opportunity for students to appreciate our forests as a resource and understand the forest practices that protect it.

All of us who are part of FFDs, from financial supporters to volunteers, can be proud of what the program accomplishes. Without FFD, it is likely that the thousands of students we have reached since 1996 would never have been taught about the great value of our forests and the importance of active management.

Yes, Forest Field Days is a day in the woods, but it is much, much more than that! Thank you to all our supporters that ensure it continues each year.
Forests 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, 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 15th, 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)

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**2016 Annual Meeting & Volunteer of the Year**

Over 100 supporters attended the annual meeting on January 29. The breakfast hour gathering had many highlights, including a presentation by seven middle school students who shared their Forest Field Days experiences. Students showed off their management plans and took questions from the audience about what it was like to make forest management decisions with classmates. The students were followed by a keynote address by Dr. Thomas Maness, OSU College of Forestry Dean, who discussed exciting advances in the wood products industry, and the exciting growth of forestry education in the state. The event concluded with the presentation of the Long-legged Frog Volunteer Award. Our 2015 award was presented to retired ODF stewardship forester, Jordan Ryder, who was honored for his contributions as an enthusiastic FFD volunteer.

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**Thanks Plank Town Brewery for hosting a fundraiser for FTF on March 9**
Teaching Youth at the Logging Conference

The Oregon Logging Conference (OLC) School Tours is a program that inspires youth to think about Oregon’s forests and forestry early in their school years. Forests Today & Forever, in partnership with Oregon Women in Timber and the Oregon Logging Conference, had another wonderful year hosting 4th and 5th students at the OLC on February 25th. Each year, this program introduces hundreds of students to forestry in the Northwest.

In 2016, we saw 727 students! Eleven schools from six school districts participated, including nine returning schools and two new schools from Eugene. In the last two years, a higher number of urban schools joined us, which is exciting, as these youth often have the strongest disconnect from our forests. When one Eugene teacher was asked why she brings her students, she said “it is engaging and there is something for everyone interest-wise.” She adds, “I love how logging/forestry connects to STEM skills, it’s so important for students today to see the wide variety of uses for computer science and mathematics.”

The day is a whirlwind of activity with all 727 students moving through the program in just five hours! Each group spends one and a half hours at the OLC, rotating through three stations. First stop is an introduction to careers in the woods, presented by Talk About Trees educators, where students learn about the many great jobs available in our forests. Students then break into small groups to meet real-life foresters and learn about ‘tools of the trade’, like how to age a tree with an increment borer. At this stop, students also learn about trees, the great resource itself! The final rotation is a tour of the big equipment, where students can see huge machines and learn how they are used in a logging operation.

The program is one of the highlights of our year, and we look forward to working with our partner organizations to host this great program into the future.

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!

PHOTOS Top: Students learning about Oregon's trees from Talk About Trees educators; Middle: Brad Marks of Pac Forest teaching students how to age a tree; Bottom: Students touring the big equipment to learn about how these machines work in the forest.

Director: Beth Krisko
Educator: Lindsay Reaves
For more information, see our website: www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org
Contact Beth Krisko: coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org

Forests Today & Forever is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.