

Fall 2023

FORESTRY EDUCATION IS STEM EDUCATION

STEM is an approach to learning that integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Through STEM, students develop skills including problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. FTF's field-based forestry education programs provide an opportunity to introduce students to STEM. Our programs engage students in meaningful learning that is situated in real-world contexts. A great example is our Forest Field Days program. During this program, students calculate the board feet of a Douglas-fir stand; they make observations of wildlife habitat and ask questions to learn about the forest food web; they build a stream using the stream table to better understand erosion; and much more. Back in the classroom, students work collaboratively with their peers using the knowledge gained from their field experience to develop a forest management plan. During this project, students think across STEM disciplines for a deeper understanding of forestry and how forest resources are managed for sustainability. The STEM learning experience that Forest Field Days provides is supported and enhanced by the many local professionals who volunteer with our program—and come from all parts of the forest sector—by providing students with important exposure to forestry-based STEM careers. Our volunteer professionals share their knowledge about forestry and their enthusiasm for their areas of expertise. Through these connections, we seek to spark students' imagination and drive, so they may see themselves studying and working in the forestry field later in life. With increasing emphasis on STEM education in schools and a growing need for people in STEM careers, FTF is proud to provide STEM learning opportunities to local school districts. We will continue to build upon our STEM approach using forestry as an exciting vehicle for learning.



Top: Students measuring the diameter of a Douglas-fir tree; Middle: Students making observations at the Wildlife Station; Bottom: Students building a stream using the stream table.

VOLUNTEER DAY AT THE TREE FARM



Top left: Jeryl Coleman (KPD Insurance) painting the storage shed; Top middle: Matt Jones (International Paper) cutting back branches on the Wildlife Trail; Top Right: Danny Bivens (General Trailer) oiling the backpack shelter; Bottom Left: Jordan Ryder, Nancy Geyer (FTF), Bob Johnson, and Andrew Jung (International Paper) at the Timber Station; Bottom right: Drew LaFontaine (International Paper) and Jen Zuver (International Paper) on the road to the meadow.

Volunteers painted, pulled, and clipped to help get ready for this school year's field events at Bauman Tree Farm. Twelve volunteers cleared and cleaned trails, added a second coat of paint to the storage shed, sealed wood bridges, oiled the backpack shelter and more! Site maintenance activities are a priority to make the site safe and accommodating for students, and to protect and

extend the life of our infrastructure resources so that we can continue our field programs for years to come. Thank you to all the volunteers who spent the day with us in September, and thank you to Tom and Lindsay, Bauman Tree Farm owners, for the exceptional upkeep throughout the year. Please stay tuned for more volunteer workday opportunities in the future!

Save the Date for FTF's Annual Meeting!

January 19, 2024 • Venue 252 • 8am

Forest Today & Forever's annual meeting is our way to show thanks for the support of our financial supporters, volunteers, and partners and to celebrate forestry education. A complimentary breakfast buffet is provided along with an exciting program. Registration details by email.

- Summary of accomplishments in 2023
- Appreciation of one outstanding volunteer
- Hear from Forest Field Days students
- A keynote presentation by Jim Paul, Executive Director of OFRI



Sponsor a Table!

Gold \$1,200
Silver \$700
Bronze \$400

Contact Beth
541-554-1342

coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org

EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STUDY FORESTRY

In 2022, Sheldon High School and 4J school district announced a new Career Technical Education (CTE) program in Forestry and Natural Resource Management. The program combines hands-on learning with traditional classroom work where students explore career opportunities and learn the rudiments of forestry and natural resource management in the classroom, laboratory, and field settings. 4J Teacher Dr. Elsa Arias Ninan, who is also a forester and natural resource economist, developed this program and is the lead teacher for forestry classes. FTF is working closely with Dr. Arias Ninan to provide complementary field experiences. This fall, students will visit our field site at Bauman Tree Farm to learn from professional foresters who will guide students in using measurement tools, setting plots, and calculating board feet. Students will also meet the Bauman Tree Farm landowners to tour management units and see firsthand how forests are managed sustainably for timber and other forest resources. During the summer, FTF will provide an immersive program of study for 4J students, where they will earn elective credit as they examine forestry from 'seedling to sawmill'. Students will take field

trips, meet professionals, and engage in hands-on learning experiences. FTF is excited to build a strong partnership with 4J to promote forest careers and support better understanding and appreciation for forestry within the local community.



BECOME A SPONSOR OF FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER

Education is key for better understanding of forests and sustainable forest management. Since 1994, Forests Today & Forever has provided science-based education that enhances public understanding of and appreciation for the benefits of working forests. Our programs bring youth to a working forest where they learn experientially how forests are managed to protect the many forest resources that we all depend upon, like timber for products, clean water for drinking, and diverse habitats for wildlife. An exciting highlight of our programs is opportunity for students to interact with professionals who work in the field — showcasing the many job possibilities in forestry and wood products. Our work is possible only because of the many supporting organizations and individuals who contribute to Forests Today & Forever on an annual or

quarterly basis. An annual contribution of \$1,000 funds any of the following: 30 middle school students to our Forest Field Days program; 50 4th and 5th grade students on a tree farm tour; or 66 high school students for our classroom-based Understanding Forest Fire program. By becoming a sponsor, you will be an important part of our efforts to educate about forests while providing youth with a once-in-a-lifetime outdoor learning experience. An added benefit is that you or your company will be recognized several times throughout the year—including on social media, in our newsletter, in our annual report, and at our organizational events—and have an invite to our annual meeting, which provides great networking opportunities. Please contact us to discuss becoming a sponsor or mail your first contribution today!



For more information, see our website:

www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org

Contact Beth Krisko:

541-554-1342 coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org



Printing of this newsletter is donated by Kelley Connect





FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER

PO Box 55 | Eugene, OR 97440

2023 FALL NEWSLETTER

- Forestry Education is STEM Education
- Volunteer Day at the Tree Farm
- Eugene High School Students Study Forestry
- Become a Sponsor!

**THANK
YOU!**

**OREGON WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION**

Thank you to the Oregon Wildlife Foundation who provided grant funding for owl pellets. Dissecting owl pellets is a favorite activity of students who participate in our Forest Field Days program and a great way for students to learn about the forest food web.



Do you receive a hard copy of this newsletter?

If you receive this newsletter in hard copy and would prefer to receive only the digital version, please let us know by emailing coordinator@foreststodayandforever.

We are Scheduling Programs!

Forests Today & Forever schedules programs on-going throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

- Forest Field Days (Grades 6-8)
- Wood is Good Career Learning (Grades 9-12)
- Understanding Forest Fire (Grades 8-12)
- Tree Farm Days (Grades 4-5)
- Outdoor School (Grade 6)



like us on social media