



FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER

PO Box 55 | Eugene, OR 97440

2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

- School Tours at the Oregon Logging Conference
- 2024 Annual Meeting Recap
- What Does Forest Management Mean to Us?
- Help FTF Build Forest Sector Career Awareness

Thank You Weyerhaeuser!



Our friends at Weyerhaeuser volunteered to help prepare for our spring programs at Bauman Tree Farm. Volunteers cut back vegetation from learning stations and added woodchips to trails that over 1,000 students will walk on this spring. We appreciate Weyerhaeuser for all of their support!

Soiree Fundraiser is on a break in 2024

We are taking this year to focus on other fundraising activities and also on new educational programs. We hope to bring the event back in the future. In the meantime, please be on the lookout for our raffle fundraiser that will commence late summer.

Thank You, Autzen Foundation

With funding by Autzen Foundation, FTF is able to offer programs for 4th and 5th grade students. We offer a outdoor and forestry education using a working tree farm as an outdoor classroom to inspire a connection to the forest and an understanding of the many benefits that forests provide.



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Spring 2024

SCHOOL TOURS AT THE OREGON LOGGING CONFERENCE



Left: Students learning about the big equipment during the School Tours; Top right: students meet a forester and learn tools of the trade; Middle right: students meet a forester and learn how to age a tree; Bottom right: Talk About Tree Instructor teaches students to identify trees

This year, 420 students and 62 teachers and chaperones from seven schools attended the School Tours at the Oregon Logging Conference. Students learned about trees and their many uses, were exposed to the diversity of careers in the woods, and learned what it is like to be a field forester. A highlight of the day was a tour of the big equipment, where students saw the machines up close and learned how they are used in forest operations. We are honored to be part of this exciting and long-standing program that gives youth an introduction to forest management and builds early awareness about the many job opportunities in our local communities.



The School Tour at the Oregon Logging Conference is hosted by Forests Today & Forever, Oregon Logging Conference, and Oregon Women in Timber



FOREST TODAY & FOREVER'S 2024 ANNUAL MEETING



Jim Paul, Executive Director of Oregon Forest Resources Institute delivers the keynote address at the FTF Annual Meeting.

One hundred and twenty supporters attended our annual meeting in February, which was rescheduled due to the ice storm earlier in the year. The breakfast hour gathering had many highlights, including a keynote address by Jim Paul, Executive Director of Oregon Forest Resources (OFRI) Institute, who spoke about the work of OFRI to increase public awareness of the forest sector and educate about forest management. Other special guests were O'Hara Catholic School students, who appeared by video performing a fun skit that showcased their collaboration to develop a forest management plan as part of their Forest Field Days program. The event concluded by recognizing Mary Loftin, the 2023 Volunteer of the Year (see below).

Thank You Table Sponsors



Save the Date for the 2025 Annual Meeting
January 31, 2025

THANK YOU, MARY, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Mary Loftin accepts the 2023 Volunteer of the Year award.

It was a pleasure to honor Mary Loftin as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year at our 2024 Annual Meeting. Mary is a small woodland owner, retired elementary school teacher, and the Talk About Trees Educator for Lane County. Forests Today & Forever is lucky to have Mary as a volunteer for the past eleven years. Mary's talent and experience in working with children strengthens our Forest Field Days program — she can facilitate all of the learning stations and has a special talent for making the content engaging for every student group. Mary shows up at Forest Field Days with a smile on her face and ready to handle whatever comes her way. We are thankful for Mary's flexibility and for her commitment to our program. We are also grateful to Oregon Women in Timber who fund the Talk About Trees Program, and therefore, supports Mary's involvement with our program.

WHAT DOES FOREST MANAGEMENT MEAN TO US?

Through a generous gift from N B and Jacqueline Giustina Foundation, Forests Today & Forever is reviewing and updating our multi-week Forest Field Day curriculum. An important part of this project is engaging both forestry professionals and teachers to help recenter the program on today's thinking about forest management and realign the curriculum with state educational standards.

Just before the New Year, we convened a diverse group of forestry professionals representing key aspects of contemporary forest management: private and public, large and small, ecosystem services, education, logging and more. These professionals helped critique Forest Field Days considering current trends, emerging science, new laws, and updated management practices. Their feedback is serving as a catalyst for our work with teachers this spring, in which educators will help us realign our curriculum with educational standards.

During the meeting with the forestry professionals, we explored the question "What does forest management mean to us?". As a result of our conversations, we created the following guiding statement: *Sustainable forest management occurs when people work together using scientific principles and traditional knowledge to ensure ecological, social, and economic benefits continue to*

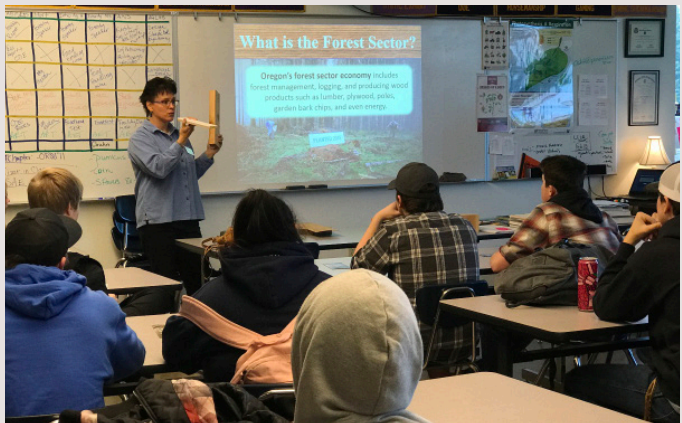
be provided by Oregon's private and public forests. This guiding statement, along with feedback collected from both forestry professionals and teachers, serves as the foundation for the review and update of the curriculum.

Thank you to the forestry professionals who participated in the discussion group. Their contributions have given us a concrete foundation to ensure the Forest Field Days program is stronger, more relevant, and more attractive to teachers looking to provide students with a field-based, career-connected, STEM-oriented educational opportunity. Thanks so much to these participating forestry professionals: Jennifer Beathe (Starker Forests), Gordon Culbertson (Whitewater Forests), Cheryl Friesen (USFS), Emma Garner (Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council), Bonnie Glendenning (Port Blakely), Lauren Grand (OSU Extension), Delani Herb (Weyerhaeuser), Seth Javorsky (Roseburg Forest Products), Bob Johnson (Retired ODF), Amanda, Sullivan-Astor (AOL), Kevin Tuers (Sierra Pacific Industries), Corrine Walters-Finster (Starker Forests), Sarah Wernecke (BLM). Also, a special thank you to Paul Barnum, former OFRI Executive Director and Weyerhaeuser Public Affairs Director, who facilitated the discussion.

HELP FTF BUILD FOREST SECTOR CAREER AWARENESS

Forest Today & Forever's Wood is Good program introduces high school students to the variety of forest sector career options available in our local communities. The program is designed to build awareness by showcasing individuals who work locally and explaining their career paths. Students understand that good, stable jobs are available to them if they choose to enter the workforce right after high school graduation or if they pursue a college degree. We have reached upwards of 1,500 students with this program since it launched in late 2019.

If effort to build upon this work, we would like to connect our teacher partners with forest sector professionals. The idea is that teachers can refer to a list of professionals and choose who they might like to invite into their classrooms to talk about their own professions and personal career journeys. By serving as a guest speaker, professionals can participate in this important work of opening students' eyes to the possibilities after graduation, perhaps even exploring options they may never have even considered. The work of many in the forest sector is deeply satisfying, and we have seen how this enthusiasm, when shared, engages and excites youth. If you would like to share your story with high school students, please let us know, and we will be sure that your contact information is shared with the teachers we work with.



For more information, see our website:

www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org

Contact Beth Krisko:

coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org

