

Spring 2025

ENGAGING STUDENTS AT THE OR LOGGING CONFERENCE



Top right: students pose during a tour of the big equipment; Top left: Talk About Tree Facilitator, Leslie Bradner, teaches students about trees; Middle left: Tor Ormseth of Roseburg Forest Products teaches students how to age a tree; Bottom left: students handle a variety of leaves, seeds, and cones.



Learning about trees and wood products, seeing machines up close, meeting a forester, and becoming aware about jobs in the woods - this is how we inspire curiosity in young learners and cultivate interest in forestry. This year, 512 students and 68 teachers and chaperones from eight schools attended the School Tours at the Oregon Logging Conference. Originally started by Oregon Women in Timber in the early 1990s, this program has grown into a collaborative effort of several partners, including Forests Today & Forever, Oregon Women in Timber, Talk About Trees, Oregon Logging Conference, and Oregon Forest Resources Institute. We will be back as a team next year!



FOREST TODAY & FOREVER'S 2025 ANNUAL MEETING



Our annual meeting is a time when we gather with supporters to show our gratitude for their dedication and to showcase our accomplishments in forestry education. This year, we celebrated the completion of our thirtieth year of our work promoting forest stewardship! The celebration included a keynote address that highlighted Oregon's current forest sector workforce and discussed efforts to meet workforce needs. We also had a presentation from Eugene Public Schools high school students who participated in our first-ever summer immersion program. These students shared about their experience and how it helped shape their plans after high school. We also got the chance to thank our volunteers, who are critical to the success of our programs and awarded the Evergreen Volunteer Award to Dan Baker for his exceptional volunteerism for almost thirty years (read more below!).

Thank You, Table Sponsors!



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Above: Amanda Sullivan-Astor of AOL discusses forest sector workforce; Upper Left: Nancy Geyer, FTF Educator, introduces Eugene Public School high school students.

DAN BAKER, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

It was a pleasure to honor Dan Baker with the 2024 Evergreen Volunteer Award at our annual meeting. Dan is surveyor and owner of Baker and Associates Surveyors Inc. Dan has volunteered at Forest Field Days for thirty years - since the very beginning! We are lucky to have Dan as part of our community of support. Dan volunteers each season with enthusiasm and a smile on his face, sometimes coming out to the tree farm more than once a season to share his knowledge and passion for his profession. We appreciate Dan's contributions and estimate that he has reached upwards of 3,000 students over the course of his thirty years volunteering at Forest Field Days.



Dan Baker teaching at Forest Field Days.

AN UPDATED APPROACH TO FOREST FIELD DAYS

An updated Forest Field Days curriculum is launching this fall! After collecting and synthesizing feedback from our stakeholders, including teachers and forestry professionals, we are unveiling a modernized Forest Field Day curriculum. The updated version makes the content more accessible to students and supportive for teachers in meeting classroom learning objectives, while better highlighting the ecological, economic, and social considerations of forest management. The framework of the curriculum is the same - centered around a scenario-based group project where students develop a management plan for a forest. The project is supported by science-based classroom learning activities and a field trip to a working forest where students interact with forestry professionals and observe sustainable forest management in action. The difference is the presentation of the scenario. In this version, students play a team of consultants hired by a family to manage a tree farm with specific management objectives. As such, students must collaborate in their professional roles to create a plan for the family that satisfies their requirements while abiding by forest practice rules. In the development of

this version, we were careful to provide the scaffolding necessary so that the planning process and the resulting plan are realistic, highlighting the collaborative nature of forest planning. Students will learn through experience as they work together to make decisions to meet management objectives, create budgets, and develop a map that shows their plan.

In the end, students understand that sustainable forest management is an interdisciplinary endeavor that considers the entire ecosystem, including wildlife, water resources, soil health, and human communities that depend upon the forest.



HELP US PLANT THE SEEDS OF AWARENESS

2024 marked our thirtieth year of planting seeds of forest literacy in Oregon. We began in 1994 with our middle school Forest Field Day program, and in recent years, have expanded to include field programs for both elementary and high school students. Our goal is to increase people's understanding of forests and empower them to take actions that benefit forests and all of us. We do this by providing memorable and authentic learning experiences that boost student engagement and promote skills that are not as easily taught in a traditional classroom setting. With forest sector professionals volunteering to instruct during our programs, we also build awareness and cultivate curiosity about forest careers, helping to develop our future forest workforce. We are able to continue planting seeds with the generous support of our community. Our supporters help us with the financial donations and volunteerism that allows us to grow and thrive. Please consider supporting Forests Today & Forever. You can contact us and/ or donate at our web site: foreststodayandforever.org.



Students viewing a forest operation during FTF's first-ever forestry immersion program for high school students.



For more information, see our website:

www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org

Contact Beth Krisko:

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FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER

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2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER

- School Tours at the Oregon Logging Conference
- 2025 Annual Meeting Recap
- An Updated Approach to Forest Field Days
- Help us Plant the Seeds of Awareness

Thank You, Oregon Forest Resources Institute

OFRI is a champion supporter of Forests Today & Forever, supporting our high school programs that teach about forest careers and forest fire, our Forest Field Day curriculum update that will launch this fall, and busing that brings thousands of students into the forest for our field-based forestry education programs. OFRI's support is vital to our success of meeting our mission of promoting forest stewardship through education. To learn more about OFRI, visit oregonforests.org.



Sign up to Volunteer this Spring!



We still need volunteers for our spring Forest Field Day programs. This opportunity is for everyone who loves the forest and wants to help cultivate the next generation of forest stewards. Please join us by emailing:
coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org

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