

Spring 2026

## GROWING CURIOSITY WITH SCHOOL TOURS AT THE OLC



Left: students experimenting with the increment borer to learn how to use 'tools of the trade'; Middle: students touring the big equipment; Right: students learning about trees and wood products.

Curiosity often begins with a question: How tall can a tree grow? How does a log become a house? Who takes care of the forest?

At this year's School Tours during the Oregon Logging Conference, 378 students and 45 teachers and chaperones from eight schools came ready to ask—and discover—the answers.

Throughout the day, students explored how trees grow and are managed, examined wood products they use every day, stood beside impressive logging equipment, and met forestry professionals who shared what it's like to work in the woods. For many, it was their first time seeing the scale of forestry operations up close. For others, it was the moment they realized that caring for forests can be a career.

The goal of School Tours is simple but powerful: connect young learners to the forests that surround them. By blending science, sustainability, and real-world career pathways, the program helps students see forestry not just as an industry, but as stewardship—thoughtful management that ensures forests remain healthy and productive for generations to come.

What began in the early 1990s as an initiative of Oregon Women in Timber has grown into a dynamic partnership. Today, Forests Today & Forever collaborates with Oregon Women in Timber, Talk About Trees, the Oregon Logging Conference, and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to deliver this impactful experience—free of charge to participating schools.

Behind the scenes, volunteers, educators, and industry partners work together to coordinate stations, demonstrations, and student rotations. Their commitment ensures every group has meaningful hands-on learning



## GROWING CURIOSITY WITH SCHOOL TOURS AT THE OLC (CONT.)

and personal interaction with forestry professionals. Programs like School Tours do more than fill a field trip calendar. They broaden perspectives. They build understanding. And they plant seeds—seeds of awareness, appreciation, and possibility.

We are proud to continue this collaborative tradition and look forward to welcoming another group of students next year, ready to learn, explore, and discover the world of forestry.



Students touring the equipment during the School Tours at the Oregon Logging Conference.

## FOREST TODAY & FOREVER'S 2026 ANNUAL MEETING



Our annual meeting brought supporters, partners, and volunteers together for a purposeful morning of reflection and inspiration. It was a chance to share gratitude—and to highlight the momentum behind our forestry education programs.

We were honored to welcome Tom DeLuca, Dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry, who spoke about forestry and sustainability in the context of a changing climate—highlighting how science-based management, renewable wood products, and thoughtful stewardship contribute to a resilient future.

A highlight of the morning was hearing from high school students representing Eugene Public Schools who participated in our summer immersion program. They shared how hands-on learning, field visits, and mentorship deepened their understanding of forestry and natural resources.

We also honored our dedicated volunteers, presenting the Evergreen Volunteer Award to Sue Bowers for her exceptional commitment to forestry education and to Forests Today & Forever.

It was a meaningful reminder that, together, we are cultivating knowledge, stewardship, and the next generation of forest leaders.



Top Left: Eugene students presenting during the FTF Annual Meeting; Bottom Right: Guests to FTF Annual Meeting.

### Thank You, Table Sponsors



# HONORING AN EVERGREEN VOLUNTEER: SUE BOWERS

Each year, the Evergreen Award recognizes a volunteer whose commitment stands the test of time—someone who shows up year after year with generosity, reliability, and heart.

This year, we are proud to honor Sue Bowers.

Sue's career in forestry began after graduating from Washington State University with a degree in Forest Management. She went on to serve in multiple roles with Weyerhaeuser and later helped establish Timber Resource Education, which evolved into Forests Today & Forever.

Sue's impact didn't stop there. As a program coordinator, Sue expanded Forest Field Days and strengthened our hands-on learning experiences for students across the region. Even in retirement, she remains an active and dedicated volunteer.

Sue's steady presence and lifelong commitment to forestry education make her a true "evergreen." We are honored to celebrate her as our 2025 Evergreen Award recipient.



Sue Bowers, 2025 Evergreen Volunteer Awardee, teaching during Forest Field Days at the Timber Station.

## JOIN US IN GROWING FOREST LITERACY



Students exploring a riparian area during Forest Field Days.

At Forests Today & Forever, we connect students to Oregon's forests through hands-on, outdoor learning. From elementary through high school, our programs explore forest science, sustainable management, and deepen understanding of how wood products shape everyday life. By stepping beyond the classroom and into real-world settings, students gain a clearer picture of how forests are cared for and why stewardship matters.

With forest professionals volunteering as instructors, students meet the people behind the work, including foresters, engineers, and loggers—gaining insight into meaningful career pathways while building curiosity and confidence.

Your support makes this impact possible. When you give or volunteer, you help us reach more students, expand opportunities, and inspire the next generation of forest stewards. Learn more or join us at [foreststodayandforever.org](http://foreststodayandforever.org).



For more information, see our website:

[www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org](http://www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org)

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# FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER

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## 2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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- Growing Curiosity With School Tours at the OLC
- Forest Today & Forever's 2026 Annual Meeting
- Honoring an Evergreen Volunteer: Sue Bowers
- Join Us in Growing Forest Literacy

### 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](mailto:coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org)

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### Thank You, OFRI!



Oregon Forest  
Resources Institute

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is a steadfast supporter of Forests Today & Forever. Their generous support helps us:

- Power high school programs focused on forest careers and wildfire awareness
- Fund our newly updated Forest Field Day curriculum
- Provide busing that brings thousands of students into the forest for hands-on learning

OFRI's partnership is vital to advancing our mission of promoting forest stewardship through education.

Learn more at [oregonforests.org](http://oregonforests.org).