Return From the Burn:  
Join Us for the 75th Anniversary of the 1933 Tillamook Fire  
Chris Friend

August 14th, 1933 was another scorching summer day and already crackling dry by 11:30 in the morning. The whistle punk signaled the steam donkey operator to pull in the last log for the day. It was up in Gales Creek Canyon where the North Fork runs down the east side of the Coast Range.

The steam donkey dragged the huge Douglas-fir log across the forest floor until it lunged over a cedar windfall surrounded by logging debris (slash). Just like rubbing two sticks together, the friction was enough to create a spark. Within a few seconds a flame began flickering and quickly spread through the dry slash.

This was the beginning of the infamous six-year jinx that included four large forest fires in 1933, 1939, 1945 and 1951. The result was 355,000 acres of burned forest that became known as the Tillamook Burn. The ’33 fire was so intense that it burned 200,000 acres in one day and ashes reached sailors on ships 500 miles at sea. Three thousand firefighters struggled to put the fire out, but it was the rain that finally stopped it.

In 1949 the Oregon Department of Forestry began one of the largest reforestation projects in history. Treeplanters toiled for over twenty years in the Burn, planting 72 million tree seedlings. School children even participated in the planting to help grow a new forest.

In 1973 Governor Tom McCall dedicated the former Tillamook Burn as the new Tillamook State Forest. Today the forest is managed to provide a sustainable range of benefits - from recreation and wildlife habitat to clean water and timber for products we need and use every day.

Please join us at the Tillamook Forest Center for our Return From the Burn event on August 23rd & 24th. We will offer programs focusing on the forest before, during and after the fires, as well as crafts, live music and fun for all ages. Stop by the center any day to enjoy our award winning Legacy of Fire movie, hands-on exhibits and a full size replica of a fire lookout tower. There is something here for everyone.
From the Director

Greetings friends,

As spring progresses, we all begin to look forward to those delightfully warmer days of summer. From fishing and camping to exploring back roads and trails, the summer season offers us many opportunities to explore and discover our beautiful state forests.

As you plan your summer outings this year, we hope you’ll include some time for a trip to enjoy the Tillamook State Forest and to visit the Tillamook Forest Center. Our staff has scheduled a wide range of events and activities through which you and your family can have fun and learn a lot about this wonderful forest. Consider taking a wildflower walk with one of our staff, weaving a traditional Native American basket with native artisans, or learning more about the Tillamook Burn during our “Return from the Burn” event. Check out our schedule of events on pages 5-6 for details on these and other special opportunities offered at the Center in the weeks ahead.

While visiting the Center, be sure to check out our new bridge gate (story on page 8). Also, plan to do some shopping in our awesome gift shop where you’ll find a variety of new gift items to take home and to share with others. If you know of teachers who may like to bring their classes to the Center this fall, suggest that they check our website for information on how to register. You’ll find an education update on page 11 of this newsletter.

Finally, even though we have experienced prolonged cool and wet weather this spring, we know that summer weather will soon arrive and, once again, fire hazards will increase across the state. With this in mind, please remember to be careful with fire around your homes and wherever you may travel.

Have a great summer. We hope to see you at the Center again soon!

Jim Quiring

Visitor Feedback

Our guest book is filled with many memorable thoughts from our visitors. Look for their quotes throughout the newsletter and at the Center.

Wonderful exhibit, we will be proud to bring our guests next time.

TFC gets better & better!

This place is breathtaking!

Love it. My new favorite spot!
News from the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust

Thanks to new and continuing donors for your enthusiastic support for the Tillamook Forest Center, and for generously supporting our two new memorial funds: the Bob Gustavson Memorial Fund and the Marvin Coats Memorial Fund. 100 percent of your gift helps fund education in the Tillamook State Forest.

When you visit, you’ll note that the donor tree sculpture out front is filling up fast… we’ll be installing a second screen this summer. This fall, we’ll be unveiling other plans for some new developments on the Center grounds that will extend learning into the forest.

Earlier this year, the Trust awarded the first of our James E. Brown Forest Education Scholarships to the Tillamook School District, and Forest Grove High School’s Advanced Placement Art Studio Class. Both programs are doing innovative work to help connect kids with forests. Congratulations to teachers and students!

For more information about supporting the Tillamook Forest Center, check the Trust link on www.tillamookforestcenter.org or call Doug Decker at (503) 359-7474.

New Additions to our List of Friends and Supporters

Become a Center Supporter
If you’d like to join our ever-growing list of supporters, consider giving a Donor Tree. These gifts (see order form on this page) allow you to “plant your tree” in a unique forest landscape sculpture located in the Center’s entry plaza. In recognition of your $75 gift, your name, or the name of the person you honor or memorialize, will be engraved on a tree medallion which will be set against the forest backdrop created by the sculpture. All donor tree gifts are acknowledged with an attractive certificate.

Many other donation opportunities are available; call us for details. As you make your charitable giving decisions, we invite you to keep the Tillamook Forest Center in mind. Please contact the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust at (503) 359-7474 for more information on various donation opportunities.
Naturalist Notes (Denise Berkshire)

3/8/08
Adult bald eagle came by to visit today, sat posing for the camera for 45 minutes!

3/8/08
Released chinook fry in the Wilson - thanks ODF&W STEP program

4/5/08
Indian plum trying to convince us it’s spring

4/9/08
Gail spotted a Steller’s jay nest near the steam donkey

4/30/08
Dipper babies under the bridge again this year

4/9/08
Snowing during spring break!

The Lookout | Summer 2008

Save the Date!
August 23rd & 24th
Return from the Burn Event

Wonderful facility, great program. Love the film & displays.

Tillamook Burn Puzzle
Check for clues to the crossword in our cover story. (answer on page 11)

ACROSS
3 The Return From the Burn event marks the 75th _____ of the first fire
6 The origin of the 1933 fire was near _________
7 Foresters, inmates, volunteers and _______ planted trees
9 _____ put out the 1933 fire
10 Movie title at the Tillamook Forest Center
11 Ashes reached ______ on ships 500 miles out to sea

DOWN
1 Three thousand _____ fought the 1933 fire
2 72 million _____ seedlings were planted after the fires
4 In 1973 the Tillamook Burn became the Tillamook _____
5 The first fire began by two ____ rubbing together
8 The 1933, 1939, 1945 and 1951 fires were called the six year _____
Upcoming Programs

Join our staff this summer for family-friendly programs at the Tillamook Forest Center and in the Tillamook State Forest. We are offering a selection of TFC Programs, Guided Hikes, Special Events, a NEW Find Yourself in the Forest GuestPresenter Series and Campground Programs. Be sure to see the back side of this page for more exciting offerings. All events are FREE and open to ALL AGES (unless otherwise noted). Check our website at www.tillamookforestcenter.org for more details. In the event that we have to cancel a program, we will post the notice on our website.

TFC Programs

During the summer, our skilled interpretive naturalists offer FREE 30-minute forest related programs for all ages at the Tillamook Forest Center. Programs are held at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from June 27th through Labor Day. There’s something new each week, so don’t miss out!

Special Events

June 1st, July 6th & August 3rd
Country-Folk Music Jam
1:00 PM — 3:30 PM
Bring your instruments or come sing-a-long and join in the fun.

June 7th
National Trails Day: Meet the ODF Recreation Staff
ALL DAY
You are invited to join the Tillamook State Forest Recreation Staff for an Open House event at the Tillamook Forest Center. Meet the new recreation staff, celebrate National Trails Day, get updates about trails and campgrounds and learn how to get involved through the volunteer program.

June 21st
Esther Stutzman: Kalapuya Storyteller with Long Canoe
11:30 AM & 1:30 PM
Native American storyteller and history-keeper, Esther Stutzman, will share stories of her native Kalapuya and Coos people. She will also bring a full sized cedar long canoe that was built last year; the first Kalapuya canoe built in more than 150 years. Her presentation will include songs and several additional handmade objects that will provide insight into the native culture that has been a part of western Oregon for thousands of years. Please join us for this special program.

July 12th & August 2nd
Northwest Native American Traditional Technologies Workshop
10:00 AM — 4:00 PM
Spend the day crafting mats, ropes, baskets and tools with native artisans representing Oregon’s cultural history. Choose to make either tule ducks and dolls, cedar cordage and rope or tule baskets during one of two sessions. The first session is from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM and the second is from 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM. Cost of the workshop is $25 for one item during one session. All ages are welcome (adult supervision required for children under five). Space is limited and registration is required.

August 23rd & 24th
Second Annual Return from the Burn Event
ALL DAY
Join us in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 1933 Tillamook Fire which shaped the Tillamook State Forest we know today! Throughout the weekend we will host special guests and activities representing the history of the forest before, during and after the fires. The line up includes local storyteller Dave Barrett performing his lively presentation “Talkin’ Tillamook,” old-time ax men sharing their lives as loggers, the Legacy of Fire movie stars signing DVDs, historian, Ed Kamholz, sharing letters of first-hand fire accounts, Smokey Bear, and Rick Meyers’ Pioneer Music Experience.” There will be fun crafts and activities for the entire family. Please visit our website for a listing of each day’s events.

Snowed out in March, we will welcome Native American storyteller, Esther Stutzman, on June 21st for a day of storytelling and cultural sharing.
Upcoming Programs (continued)

Find Yourself in the Forest Guest Presenter Series

This new series will run through October. The presentations are FREE, appropriate for adult audiences and offered once a month.

June 15th  ODF Recreation Program Manager, Randy Peterson  2:00 PM
Trail Time in the Tillamook State Forest
Spring is here and that means time to hit the trails on the Tillamook State Forest. A variety of hiking, horse riding and mountain biking trails are just a short drive from the coast or Portland area. Join Randy Peterson for some tips about trails to explore in the Tillamook Forest.

July 20th  ODF Protection Unit Forester, Mitch Taylor  2:00 PM
Invasion of the Tillamook
Come to the Tillamook Forest Center to learn about the impacts of invasive weeds in the Tillamook State Forest. Who are these evil-doers that displace native plants and threaten the health of our forest, streams and wildlife? How is the Department of Forestry fighting back? How can you be part of the solution?

August 17th  ODF Assistant District Forester, Wayne Auble  2:00 PM
Clearcutting – What’s it all about?
Clearcut timber harvesting is often misunderstood. How and why is this type of harvesting used in the Tillamook State Forest? Is there any benefit to having cleared areas in the forest? Join Assistant District Forester, Wayne Auble, for a presentation on how the Oregon Department of Forestry uses active management to provide economic, environmental and social benefits.

Forest Guided Hikes

Come hike the trails! Our guided hikes are offered one Saturday each month at various locations in the Tillamook State Forest. Registration is required along with a minimum of eight participants. For detailed information and to register, please call (866) 930-4646 or visit www.tillamookforestcenter.org. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers, bring water and a lunch or snack. Optional equipment: rain gear, binoculars, camera and field guides. Families are always welcome!

June 14th  Historic Hiking Loop Guided Hike (3.0 miles)  11:30 AM
July 19th  Gales Creek Trail Guided Hike (2.0 miles)  11:30 AM
August 9th  Wilson River Trail Guided Hike (2.0 miles)  11:30 AM

Campground Programs

Campground programs are geared for campers and the general public and are offered at select campgrounds in the Tillamook State Forest. Programs last approximately one hour and begin at 7:00 PM on Saturdays (unless otherwise noted). Please visit our website for detailed information.

Don’t miss our Return From the Burn event August 23rd & 24th. 75 years after the first fire, the forest has come a long way. Let’s celebrate!
Summer Fun Involves Wildfire Prevention

Sharlot Hart

We’ve come a long way from last October 1st, when ODF lifted Fire Season and public Regulated Use restrictions for lands in the Tillamook State Forest. We’ve seen our local bald eagles fly over the Wilson River Bridge and also endured some major flooding. With the forest warming up now and looking nice and green, most of us are ready to head out and have some fun. But with that fun comes some responsibility…

Fire Season is activated each year when the weather conditions become warm and dry and when forest fuels dry out. While the season generally lasts from late spring to mid fall, it is not limited to any particular date. During Fire Season special restrictions are placed in effect and some activities regulated on all public land. This is called Regulated Use. You will often see bright orange signs reminding you that you are in a Regulated Use area. These provide instructions for Regulate Use.

We all want the Tillamook Forest to continue serving as an enjoyable haven for everyone’s use. Please help your local Oregon Department of Forestry staff keep wildfire out of the forest.

Just a few things to remember while out enjoying yourselves during Regulated Use:

- No smoking while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, and at designated locations.
- Open fires such as campfires, charcoal fires, and cooking fires are allowed only in designated locations.
- The use of motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, may be prohibited, except on improved roads where the motor vehicle has an approved and properly functioning exhaust system.
- Prohibition on the use of fireworks.

For a full list and more information please visit: www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/publicuse.shtml

Lean, Clean and Green

Sharlot Hart

You may have heard about different strategies to protect your home from wildfire, especially when living in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Many of those who work with wildfire have identified two factors as essential in that fight – your home’s roofing material and the primary home ignition zone around your house.

For homes in or near grasslands and forests, use roofing materials that are fire-resistant (Class C or better) and avoid wood or shake shingles. Remember to check with the proper authorities as some counties restrict roofing material. The second factor, the primary home ignition zone, has many components. The basic definition is an area around your home where vegetation is cleared, trimmed and healthy to slow the spread of wildfire (think: Lean, Clean, Green!). This has the benefit of slowing a fire both towards your house, and away, towards the forest; it also provides space for firefighters to fight wildfire. Follow the picture at the bottom of the page to create basic survivable (some call it defensible) space around your home.

For more guidelines or information visit: www.firewise.org or www.oregon.gov/ODF/
Forest Homestead Memories
Jim Reeher

Seventy-five years ago this summer the first Tillamook Burn raged in the Coast Range. The fire was the most devastating in terms of severity and loss of timber and wildlife but it was not the first wildfire to occur in the area of the Forest Center. That “honor” is held by a 40,000 plus acre fire which started September 26, 1918.

To the pioneer families trying to carve out a home site and a living, fire was an indispensable tool. It heated their cabins, cooked their meals, heated the water for the Saturday night bath, cleared their land and in some instances, fell large trees. Because pioneer homes were all made of highly combustible hand-split cedar, fire also had the potential to destroy, in a few minutes, a home that had taken months to build.

To create openings in the forest for building sites, gardens, pasture lands and hay fields it was necessary to remove the brush and trees, both large and small. This land clearing was a constant activity which involved burning the woody debris (i.e. brush, limbs, roots, tree tops).

Bill Smith, one of the Smith brothers, had a homestead a mile east of the Forest Center. On September 26, 1918 he was clearing land and burning woody material—or slash. The weather was warm and dry with no wind, ideal conditions for burning. Later on, a strong east wind started to spread the fire west. It was soon apparent his efforts to stop the fire’s spread were futile. It was moving downriver toward the Reeher family home, the Whitehouse, where Lees Camp is now located. Bill was the only person in the area that day as James Reeher and the family were in Forest Grove. He tried to save their home but hot embers soon ignited the cedar roof. One man fighting a roof fire on a three story house with only buckets of water was impossible.

Eventually the fire burned the school house and all the other buildings, except the barn, before moving on downriver. The fire did not burn the Walt Smith homestead, but raged on downriver mostly on the north side as far as Jordan Creek. It burned up the canyon of North Fork of the Wilson about ¾ of a mile and burned all of the Cedar Creek Drainage.

At the time, two of the Reeher children, Arthur and Helen, were living on the Brown place near the summit. The next day Bill rode his horse up to tell them of the fire and the loss of the Whitehouse and how he was able to save the barn. He described his efforts as follows: “I fought the fire until I was so parched you could have scratched a match on my tongue.”

Even though the fire caused a great deal of loss of property and standing timber, no lawsuits were ever filed. Bill Smith, “the sage of the Upper Wilson,” was a bachelor who squeezed out a starvation living on his homestead. If in a lawsuit a person had obtained everything Bill owned, he would still have nothing.

New Bridge Gate a Work of Art
Melyssa Graeper & Frank Evans

The staff at the Tillamook Forest Center invites you to come out and see our beautiful new gate, by sculptor Eric Robertson, of British Columbia. The new gate, located on the suspension bridge over the Wilson River, is made of galvanized steel and glue-laminated Douglas-fir. The shape of the gate echoes the façade of the Center’s gable, while the interior of the gate is themed around a nurse log.

Looking at the gate, you can imagine the central gate mast as a young tree growing from the darker nurse stump form in the center. Nurse logs, according to Robertson, “…are a source of amazing shapes, forms and surprises one would encounter in the forest. They offer a visual record of the integrated relationship of forest ecology and biodiversity. A nurse log is the result of a past generation which creates an opening in the canopy promoting future growth; from a past life comes the bedding and nutrients for the future. The Tillamook Forest Center offers the experience and knowledge of the past to encourage generations with a new understanding of their relationship to the natural environment.”

Come on out! Enjoy one of our programs or hike along the Wilson River Trail and check out our newest addition.
The Tillamook Forest – At Your Leisure

Stephanie Beall

Storey Burn Trail: A Hidden Gem

The Tillamook State Forest has a wealth of beautiful hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. Many visitors come to experience the Historic Hiking Loop with its side trail to exquisite University Falls or for the Kings Mountain Trail with its challenging climb to the scenic viewpoint. Very few people come out specifically to enjoy the Storey Burn Trail as it is often thought of as a being just a connection between the Gales Creek Trail and the Historic Hiking Loop. However, the Storey Burn Trail, open to hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians is an exciting traverse with its own unique character.

Starting at the Storey Burn Trailhead (milepost 2 on Storey Burn Road) heading northeast, travelers are treated to several interesting landscape features. Look for a large, overhanging rock face that gently curves around to support a waterfall. Just around the bend where the rock dissolves into a thinned forest stand, those who look carefully will find a moss covered monolith standing 8 feet tall. After 2.3 miles the Storey Burn Trail intersects with the Gales Creek Trail. At this point hikers and mountain bikers can choose to follow the Gales Creek Trail segment that turns to the east and drops into Gales Creek Campground. The trail segment from the Storey Burn junction to Gales Creek Campground is closed to horse use. (The segment of the Gales Creek Trail that turns to the north is closed due to hazardous conditions resulting from significant damage caused by the December 2007 flood event.)

Storey Burn Trail to the southwest of the Storey Burn Trailhead also crosses through managed forest stands. Due to the increased sunlight that filters through the thinned canopy, these stands have floors carpeted with ferns, moss, salal, and Oregon Grape. Leaving the forest setting, the trail parallels the Devil’s Lake Fork of the Wilson River along a rocky slope that offers a bird’s-eye view of the riparian area below before crossing under Highway 6 to tie in with the Gravelle Brothers Trail portion of the Historic Hiking Loop.

Both Storey Burn Trail sections make great out and back trips from the Trailhead on Storey Burn Road and are well worth the trip. Pick up a trail guide and plan a path to combine the Storey Burn, Gravelle Brothers, and Gales Creek Trails into a 7.6 mile loop. Trail guides are available at the Center, the Forest Grove and Tillamook ODF offices and on our website.
Recognition
Gail Barnhart

Recognition, it feeds the heart and soul. It is the thanks we adore giving. We want to recognize and welcome our newest members to the Tillamook Forest Center.

Leslie Rielette is working in the Gift Shop and retired from the field of education. She’s a perfect fit with all the children and students coming here. Leslie is a joy and pleasure to work with.

Krissy Gallaway came to us as a student worker from Pacific University. Krissy grew up on the beautiful shores of Ketchikan, Alaska. Her current field of study is biology with a dream of becoming a teacher. Krissy assisted both the education and interpretive staff. She also learned the art working in the gallery helping visitors.

Sharlot Hart is our new education programming specialist. Sharlot came to Oregon after growing up in Phoenix, Arizona. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in history and botany. Sharlot served in the Peace Corp in Madagascar. ODF is no stranger to Sharlot as she has worked at the Molalla Unit in fire prevention. Sharlot’s goal (besides world peace) is to be sustainable in both her personal and professional life.

Carol Vanderpool, summer intern from the University of Idaho, will be helping this summer with forest education programming.

Kevin Wakeman, summer intern from Humboldt State College is returning for another fun filled summer of interpretive programs.

TFC staff, Jen Warren and Melyssa Graeper, will also spend summer sharing a career development opportunity in the interpretive program.

We all look forward to the spring and summer when our new team members start arriving.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a rewarding way to share your love of forests? Did you contribute to the Tillamook Burn in any way? Are you a retired forester? Do you have a special skill or interest? If so, have you considered volunteering at the Tillamook Forest Center?

There are two types of volunteer opportunities:

1. A Day Volunteer works a flexible schedule and may use Center transportation from the Forest Grove or Tillamook areas.

2. An On-Site Host Volunteer lives in their own RV at a full-hookup facility on the Center grounds. Space is available now. Call (866) 930-4646 to volunteer for one week or more.

Volunteer Positions

A few of the exciting opportunities at the TFC include:

- Leading school groups through our state-of-the-art exhibits and trails
- Giving nature presentations about salmon, homesteading, forestry and more
- Helping answer questions about the local area, forests and history at our gift shop/reception desk
- Maintaining the beautiful building and native landscaping
- Serving as a local historian including capturing, cataloging and archiving historic materials

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us for a Tillamook Forest Center volunteer application.
Education Program Continues to Shine
Kris Babbs

For over ten years, the Oregon Department of Forestry has hosted students and teachers in the Tillamook State Forest and helped them take a closer look at what surrounds us. What is a forest? How does it grow? What values do forests hold for us today? How do we shape them over time? What careers are possible in the field of forestry? Our fun, interactive programs and exhibits at the Center help students sharpen their sense of observation and awareness. Students identify and classify trees, investigate the living layers, collect and interpret forest data, and travel through time to understand how the Tillamook State Forest has changed over the years.

Not only do we receive letters of appreciation from our students, but teacher feedback is equally informative and inspiring for our staff. We hope they motivate you to join us for a fun day in the forest.

Hands-on experience for the kids to see, feel, touch and smell. The trip and the activities kept them very focused on the forest. The kids said it was the most awesome field trip they had ever been on. -I agree!

Great hands-on material. It was excellent and well worth our time and effort to put into our schedule.

I was initially motivated by the lack of cost, but I had visited before and heard great things from other teachers. We loved the trip and would like to repeat. It twice in one year greedy?

Best program/field trip I've had in 36 teaching years!

I just received your self-guided tour info—it's great. Having seen a lot of field trip/field opportunity curriculums and offerings over my thirty years of teaching, this is one of the best—very comprehensive and user-friendly. You/your staff have done a thorough job!

Bring them to the Forest

Education programs serve K-12 audiences, are FREE and bus funding is available guided programs only. Our schedule fills quickly so be sure to register early for the 2008-2009 school year. Online registration opens August 15th, 2008. Please visit our website for more information and registration at: www.tillamookforestcenter.org/events_01.html

Solution to Tillamook Burn Puzzle

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Sailors

Find your way out of the puzzle:

1. Pacific Chorus Frog (formerly known as Pacific Tree Frog)
2. Cadisfly Larvae (also known as Periwinkles)

Join us for more fun and games at our Return From the Burn celebration August 23 & 24.
Mark Your Calendar  (see inside for complete program calendar)

Special Events

Meet the ODF Recreation Staff
All day, June 7th

Kalapuya Storyteller with Long Canoe
11:30 & 1:30, June 21st

Northwest Native American
Traditional Technologies Workshop
10:00-4:00, July 12th & August 2nd
Registration required

Return from the Burn
All day, August 23rd & 24th

Guest Presentations

Trail Time in the Tillamook State Forest
2:00, June 15th

Invasion of the Tillamook
2:00, July 20th

Clearcutting - What’s it all about?
2:00, August 17th

To save paper and costs, consider receiving this newsletter by email in the future. Contact us at tfcnewsletter@odf.state.or.us to sign up.