Rife with life: Oregon’s temperate rainforest
Hannah McDonald

Trekking along a dirt path, under a canopy dripping with moss and wrapped in giant fern, it is hard to fight the urge to whistle the theme song from Jurassic Park. Trees tower above, while whimsical creatures scurry below a thriving layer of green. Rainforest; the word conjures images of lush vegetation, veiled waterfalls, and equatorial regions. But experiencing the rainforest does not have to mean a trip through TSA checkpoints and a prescription for malaria pills. The Tillamook State Forest, just 45 miles west of Portland, is a temperate rainforest and although it is not as biologically diverse as its tropical counterpart, it is still teeming with life.

A visit to the Tillamook State Forest during the summer months makes it easy to forget that the landscape receives over 10 feet of rain each year. Portland, a land notorious for wet weather, tops out at about three feet annually. The abundance of rain in the Tillamook comes from marine air colliding with the Coast Range, creating a region where the evergreen is king. Although Douglas-fir trees dominate the skyline, a closer look uncovers an array of western redcedar and western hemlock creeping upward through the understory.

The Tillamook also provides excellent conditions for epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants). Hence, any stroll along a dirt trail reveals moss drenched maples and a canopy littered with lichen. Sizable sword fern pepper the ground and like the tropics, the forest bursts with life. The Tillamook is a forest that is appreciated in many ways — as a source of recreation, timber, clean water, abundant, varied plants and animals and the dynamic aquatics which create countless cascading waterfalls and shape-shift the Wilson River in a matter of hours.

So, next time you’re itching to get out and experience the earth, remember that no matter the season, you don’t need a passport to explore the wonders of a temperate rainforest.
As the year draws to a close, we can look back at 2013 with great pride as this year marked some key milestones for the center. In the spring, March and June saw the highest visitor attendance ever and we also served the largest single group of students at the center in one day (180 eighth graders). History was also made this summer when over 1,000 people attended programs for the first time in one month (July). And just this past fall, we saw our largest turnout for a program when 146 visitors attended our Salmon Release program. Many visitors commented that the programs were the reason they came to the center which gives us all something to be proud of this year. Finally, we served the largest number visitors in 2013 since our opening year (2006). Although we are now closed for the winter, our thoughts are already turning to 2014 as we begin planning our programs and events for the upcoming year in hopes of drawing even more people to this special place.

We wish all our friends and supporters a wonderful holiday season and we hope to see you next year.

Larry Berrin, Director

Veteran volunteers

Hannah McDonald

Here at the Tillamook Forest Center we rely on a rock solid crew of volunteers to keep our wheels between the ditches and our shiny side up. Fortunately for those of us who work, enjoy, and explore the center, our vein of volunteer treasure runs deep — with a small group of dedicated individuals that have been donating their time and intellectual assets for several years.

If you happen to visit the center on a Thursday, you will meet Harold and Pearl Jensen. Resident "Beavers" in the Tillamook State Forest, these two provide immeasurable riches to our center with their contribution of local knowledge, stories of natural adventures, and friendly greetings.

A trip to the center on Fridays will endow you with the pleasurable company of Mr. Jim Reeher. Mr. Reeher’s history with the Tillamook State Forest predates the Tillamook State Forest itself. In fact, the Reeher family has homesteaded just a few miles from the center for over 100 years. We are undeniably lucky and grateful for his contributions to the wealth of knowledge here at the center along with his infectious joy.

Clyde Monroe is another gem here at the center, who helps with facilities and laughter therapy on Fridays. If you happen to see this one around the center, do not challenge him to a duel of wits — he has the upper hand.

Finally, our veteran summer hosts, Bill and Donna Kubicz, have been helping at the center for three years now. While they are full time RV-ers and head south come winter, they actually live and intellectual assets for several years.

Tillamook Forest Center

Donor Tree Order Form

Yes! I want to help support the Tillamook Forest Center

| Name ____________________________________________ |
| Address | City / State / Zip ____________________________________________ |
| Phone ( ) | Email ____________________________________________ |
| Enclosed: $ ________________________ for tree(s) $75 per tree |
| Here is my check |
| Please charge my Visa/Mastercard |
| Card #: ____________________________________________ |
| Exp ________________________ | CCV ________________________ |
| In Memory of... | In Honor of... | Name Only |
| Name to appear on tree: | Line One: | Line Two: | Line Three: |
| Line One: | | | |
| Line Two: | | | |
| Line Three: | | | |
| The Trust is pleased to recognize donations made as gifts, or to honor or memorialize a special person. Send recognition of this donation to: |
| Name ____________________________________________ |
| Address | City / State / Zip ____________________________________________ |

To regularly receive this free quarterly newsletter, please contact us. We appreciate your comments or questions on this publication or other forest activities.

Tillamook Forest Center

Trust is offering a grant of up to $4,000 to help teachers, interpreters, community groups or others involved in education projects and activities relating to the Tillamook State Forest. Eligible applicants include teachers, school districts, ESDs, extension agents, or other government agencies that will be developing programs and activities primarily related to learning about the Tillamook State Forest, and nonprofit organizations which provide interpretation or education services or resources related to learning about the Tillamook State Forest. More information on the grant and application materials can be found by clicking on the James E. Brown Forest Education Grant link on the Tillamook Forest Center web page.

During the past year the Trust partnered with ODF and The Portico Group of Seattle to begin the process of refreshing and updating the exhibits and related media at the center. Many exciting and interesting ideas were generated for expanding and diversifying exhibits and facilities at the center. Among the most popular ideas are creating new outdoor features including a canopy walk, a children’s play area, an outdoor amphitheater, and a stream profile exhibit adjacent to the river. Also high on the list for indoor improvements is an on-site food service facility and dining area. The Trust and ODF are hoping to accomplish further planning and fundraising, and to implement some of these ideas in time for the ten-year anniversary of the center opening, in April of 2016.

Your gifts make a difference

If you have enjoyed the Tillamook Forest Center and want to make sure it can continue to provide excellent forest education opportunities, please consider offering your financial support. One hundred percent of all gifts support education programs and activities at the center. Every gift counts.

Donor Trees: A great gift idea...

"Plant your tree" in a unique forest landscape sculpture located in the center’s entry plaza. For a $75 gift, your inscription will be engraved on a tree medallion which will be installed on the sculpture (order form on this page).

Trailside benches available...

Made from local Douglas fir trees, these benches provide visitors a moment rest and take in the Wilson River and surrounding forest. An attractive bronze plaque with your chosen inscription is set into the back of the bench. A limited number of benches are available for gifts at the $2,500 level.

Consider a planned gift....

A charitable gift may play a part in your overall estate plan. The Trust’s experienced team is pleased to work with donors on life income gift plans, such as charitable remainder trusts, or estate gifts and bequests. Our team can also assist with charitable gifts of specialty assets.

For more information on making a gift, contact the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust at (503) 815-6800.

Tillamook Forest Center

To find yourself in the forest
A record breaking year

As the year draws to a close, we can look back at 2013 with great pride as this year marked some key milestones for the center. In the spring, March and June saw the highest visitor attendance ever and we also served the largest single group of students at the center in one day (180 eighth graders). History was also made this summer when over 1,000 people attended programs for the first time in one month (July). And just this past fall, we saw our largest turnout for a program when 146 visitors attended our Salmon Release program. Many visitors commented that the programs were the reason they came to the center which gives us all something to be proud of this year. Finally, we served the largest number visitors in 2013 since our opening year (2006). Although we are now closed for the winter, our thoughts are already turning to 2014 as we begin planning our programs and events for the upcoming year in hopes of drawing even more people to this special place.

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Finally, our veteran summer hosts, Bill and Donna Kubicz, have been helping at the center for three years now. While they are full time RV-ers and head south come winter, they actually live at the center all summer. While you can usually find Donna behind the front desk, Bill is most likely sneaking up behind you with some sort of adorable puppet to share.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Tillamook Forest Center, contact Jen Warren, Visitor Services Coordinator at (503) 815-6808 or jwarren@odf.state.or.us.

News from the Trust

Ross Holloway

Each year, the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust offers the James E. Brown Forest Education Grant, to celebrate and acknowledge former State Forester Jim Brown’s leadership in forest education, and to further the work of forest educators in Oregon. For 2014, the Trust is offering a grant of up to $4,000 to help teachers, interpreters, community groups or others involved in education projects and activities relating to the Tillamook State Forest. Eligible applicants include teachers, schools, school districts, ESDs, extension agents, or other government agencies that will be developing programs and activities primarily related to learning about the Tillamook State Forest, and non-profit organizations which provide interpretation or education services or resources related to learning about the Tillamook State Forest. More information on the grant and application materials can be found by clicking on the James E. Brown Forest Education Grant link on the Tillamook Forest Center web page.

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Yes! I want to help support the Tillamook Forest Center

Name __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City / State / Zip __________________________
Phone ___________________ Email: __________________________
Enclosed is $ ______________ for ____________ tree(s) $75/tree per tree

Here is my check

Please charge my Visa/Mastercard

Card # ____________________________ Exp. __________ CCV __________

Signature __________________________________________

In Memory of ____________ In Honor of ____________ Name Only

Name to appear on tree:

Line One: __________________________________________
Line Two: __________________________________________
Line Three: __________________________________________

3. find yourself in the forest

If requesting more than one tree, please make photocopies of this form.

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donor trees are available on a first-come basis. If requesting more than one tree, please make photocopies of the form.

Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust

Making a difference with the Tillamook State Forest.
Rife with life: Oregon’s temperate rainforest

Hannah McDonald

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