



## 2010 Winter Newsletter

- ♦ FFD shelters are built for generations.
- ♦ Forest Field Days needs its fine volunteers!
- ♦ Recognizing our many supporters, big and small.
- ♦ OWIT/FT&F partner to provide OLC tours.
- ♦ Americans & environmental literacy— What do we know?

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## Forest Field Day structures built to shelter future generations

They are massive. They will endure. And, undoubtedly, there will be many uses found for the shelters nearing completion on the Bauman Family Tree Farm.

Made of posts, beams and rafters cut from more than 60 trees off the 673-acre tree farm, the four evolving shelters will welcome close to 900 students, teachers, parents and volunteers for Forest Field Days beginning at the end of April.

Their builders — owner Tom Bauman and contractor Lee Holly — have donated their time and resources with one main goal in mind. That’s getting Willamette Valley kids out of the classroom and into the woods where they can learn, hands-on, the many lessons a forest can offer ...perhaps without their field data sheets melting in the rain.

Both Tom and Lee are local boys, born and bred in the area. While Tom has spent a lifetime close to the land, working the tree farm, contract logging and mountain climbing, Lee was raised in Vaughn and lived in Hawaii and Washington before returning to the area many years ago. He first obtained a degree in machine technology and worked as a machinist before leaving the field for construction in 1978. He says, “I just got tired of working indoors.”

The two men got to know each other when Tom and his wife, Lind-



Photo by Lindsay Reaves

Builder Lee Holly works on the Wildlife Shelter at the Bauman Tree Farm, with owner Tom Bauman doing the heavy lifting with his logging equipment. Roofing is scheduled to begin soon.

say Reaves, hired Lee to help with construction of their dream — a tall, towered beauty of a home located in a secluded meadow toward the north end of the property off Territorial Road. Ground breaking began on the first day that Tom and Lindsay started hosting Forest Field Day — May 1, 2007 — and it was formally ‘signed off’ three years later during the beginning of the third FFD session held on

their land.

The site has evolved considerably in the past year, providing a firm foundation for what the family hopes will

one day become a multi-faceted educational facility for both area students and public. There are now three gravelled trails, three bridges crossing the fish-bearing stream and the four substantial structures nearing completion, including two measuring 12’x16’ for the soil and water stations; one for the wildlife station at 12’x20’, and the largest, a 12’ x 30’ shelter for ‘command central’ and volunteer staging.

For Lee, who’s most well known project is probably neighboring Sweet Cheeks Winery, building the shelters have been a pleasure in more ways than one.

“First, Tom and Lindsay became good friends, not just clients,” he says. “Second, I’ve always wanted, in

*To introduce our supporters to the new improvements now being completed at the Bauman Tree Farm, an Spring Preview Day is being planned for mid April. More information will be provided as the event unfolds.*

## Forest Field Days are just around the corner! Can you help?

The year is off to a fast start, and our spring Forest Field Days will be here in no time at all. This season, we plan on nearly 1,300 students — plus teachers and parent volunteers — attending Forest Field Days at eight events beginning at the end of April and running through the end of May.

Each of these field days will have between 150 to 190 middle school students descending upon our generous hosts, which again include the Bauman Family Tree Farm near Crow, the Udell Happy Valley Tree Farm near Sweet Home and the Huntington Tree Farm west of Florence. We are grateful for

their continued support, as we are for the area teachers who consistently make natural resource education available to their students through participation in Forest Field Days. Teacher Ron Leonard of Meadowview Middle School, has been attending for nearly 10 years.

“I look forward to it each year as an opportunity for my students to get out and practice in the field what they are learning in the classroom,” Ron says. “I particularly like the curriculum. It is thorough and challenging and it requires students to engage in some creative group problem solving. I’m looking forward to becoming a Forest

### How much does the average American know about the environment?

In April 1970, the first Earth Day was created to heighten awareness of environmental issues. Thirty-five years later, the National Environmental Education Foundation of Washington D.C. published *The Environmental Literacy in America* report. Written by Kevin Coyle, the report summarized ten years of NEETF and Roper Research and Related Studies.

The study found:

- “Most Americans believe they know more about the environment than they actually do.”

- “The average American adult, regardless of age, income, or level of education, mostly fails to grasp essential aspects of environmental science, important cause/effect relationships, or even basic concepts such as runoff pollution, power generation and

fuel use, or water flow patterns.”

- “After three decades of school-based environmental programs, only one third of American adults can pass a simple test of environmental knowledge with a grade equivalent to an A B or C.”

- “Those age 18-34 knew less about the environment than those aged 35-54.” suggesting that environmental knowledge has been absorbed over a lifetime.

- “Eighty percent of Americans are heavily influenced by incorrect or outdated environmental myths. There is little difference in environmental knowledge between the average American and those who sit on governing bodies, town councils and in corporate board rooms.”

- “Children get 83 percent of their environmental infor-

<b>Bauman Family Tree Farm/Crow</b>	May 20 — Foster Oak Heights Hawthorne
April 28 — Cascade	
April 30 — Oaklea	
May 4 — Jefferson	<b>Huntington Tree Farm/ Florence</b>
May 6 — Shasta MS	(Roster is typically filled locally, but back up could be needed)
May 7 — Meadowview Prairie Mtn.	
<b>Udell Family Tree Farm/Sweet Home</b>	May 28 — Florence Mapleton
May 19 — Seven Oaks	

Field Day volunteer when I retire from teaching!”

Ron will be very welcome, as we cannot offer our programs without the commitment and support of a large contingent of dedicated people, including

our sponsors, educators, volunteers and landowners.

If you can give a day or more to any of these events, please contact LaRae Ash, at coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org, or call 541-767-9078.

mation from the media, and for most adults, the media is the only steady source of environmental information.”

- “Media provides widespread but superficial information on environmental subjects; it is poorly positioned to offer in-depth education... providing a steady, even ubiquitous flow of awareness-building information, but it seldom educates on complex matters or builds skills. Sometimes the misapprehensions it fosters can grow into persistent and incorrect myths.”

Although five years have passed since the report was is-

sued, the author indicates that environmental education may have declined recently with the “increasing trend to teach to the test.” At the same time, a nation-wide movement called “No Child Left Inside” has developed, with the goal of getting children out of the classroom and into our forests, parks, gardens, and zoos.

To view the report, please visit [www.eetap.org](http://www.eetap.org)

*Close to 40,000 students, parents, teachers and community members have taken part in Forests Today & Forever’s programs in Lane, Linn and Benton counties.*

**FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER**  
**PROGRAM COORDINATOR LARAE ASH**  
 Forests Today & Forever is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.  
 For more information, please see our web site:  
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 Contact LaRae Ash at (541)767-9078 or email at  
[coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org](mailto:coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org)

## Thank you for stepping up....

As a non-profit educational organization, we are dependent upon the largess of others to help us fulfill our mission of *promoting forest stewardship through education*. In spite of tough economic times, that support continues to arrive. We gratefully thank the following for their contributions:

- **Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation** for a \$5,000 grant provided for general support of our programs.

- **Plum Creek Foundation** for a \$2,500 grant in support of Forest Field Days, which will reach more than 1,300 students, plus parents and teachers, in 2010.

- **The Woodard Family Foundation** for a \$1,000 grant toward producing our free public Forest Discovery Tours held each summer in July and August.

- **Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Company** for a contribution of \$2,500 to be used for general support.

- **Menasha Forest Management and The Campbell Group** for a contribution of \$1,500 plus a matching grant of \$1,500.

- **Lane County Small Woodland Owners Association** for a \$1,000 contribution toward the Menasha matching grant.

- **Mike Payne, Dave Cramsey, Dick Powell, Bob Johnson and Tom Bauman** for contributions toward the matching grant, and **Darrel Spiesschaert** for refurbishing the stream simulator table.

- **Home Depot and Jerry’s Home Improvement** for contributions of building materials for Forest Field Day site improvements at the Bauman Tree Farm.



Tom Bauman, left, and Lee Holly work on cutting and fitting poles for the volunteer shelter on a cold and frosty winter morning.

## SHELTERS from page 1

some capacity, to help kids. When Tom told me he had a couple of thousand kids through in the past three years, I thought this was a great way to do that, a great opportunity to touch a lot of kids over a whole lot of years. That’s my satisfaction.”

He says they’re “closing in on it...working on a metal deal” for the roofing. Then he’s off to build a home for an old Crow High School

classmate. Lee says he has no particular building style — if it can be drawn, it can be built — and that there’s a big satisfying feeling when you’re done with a custom build. He also believes that work should be fun.

Undoubtedly, the hundreds of middle school kids descending upon the tree farm this spring will agree as they take both lessons and shelter from the rains beneath the fine new structures.

about their tools and trade. The 90-minute program concludes with a tour of the outdoor equipment show, which always fascinates the ‘little tourists.’ Overhaul, the event provides a good insight into Oregon’s forested past and future, and is especially pertinent to those studying state history.

Forests Today & Forever will also be hosting an Exhibitor’s Booth throughout the conference to share the work we do with the general public.

Please stop by to say hello and perhaps pick up some information regarding FT&F and topics related to our timberlands as provided by OFRI.

## Students to tour OLC

Once again, Forests Today and Forever will partner with Oregon Women in Timber and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to offer educational tours of the upcoming 72nd Oregon Logging Conference to our area school children. The event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 25th.

So far, more than 415 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students from eight schools are scheduled to attend the historic conference, where they will view a film on the basics of forestry and its contributions to our society, learn about the many products trees provide for our needs, and meet a forester who will share a bit