

SPECIAL EDITION

Trees For Tomorrow®

# annual report & tree tips

Two Thousand Twenty Five

Winter/Spring 2026

Sustaining the world we live in through the science of nature™



A single set of tracks stops her in her path. With real tools and guided curiosity, K-12 students discover that science doesn't live only in classrooms—it happens outdoors through School Outdoor Learning Experiences (SOLE) at Trees For Tomorrow, where meaningful learning and stewardship begin.





from the Board of Directors President  
**Dan Kalupa**

As I reflect on 2025, I can't believe how fast the time has gone. I continue to be impressed with the hard work the staff, volunteers, advisory council and board of directors continue to put forth—a group of collaborators that is fostering engagement and new ideas on growing the organization while maintaining our culture at TFT. I am proud of the accomplishments we have completed as a team. We broke ground on our Outdoor Learning Center, started implementation of our updated strategic plan, updated our bylaws, had a successful golf outing fundraiser and most importantly continued to educate all who attended our programs. The new Outdoor Learning Center will offer a classroom atmosphere in nature. Our goal as an organization is getting students out of the classroom to explore natural resources—this space will help provide that. I also had the privilege of spending time on campus this year while students were present and enjoyed watching them embrace nature and understand what forest stewardship really is.

There is no question we were met with challenges like most organizations; however, our team is resilient, and the energy is shown by all every day. As a board we have taken ownership and embraced what it means to be an ambassador for TFT. With some real-life training and tools, we are prepared to help support the recruiting of schools to our SOLE (School Outdoor Learning Experiences) for K-12. Being an ambassador to TFT is simply sharing what we do, how we do it, and the impact it makes. For anyone reading this, you too can be an ambassador to TFT by contact Mandy Gingerich, Operation Manager, at [mandy@treesfortomorrow.com](mailto:mandy@treesfortomorrow.com), or (715) 479-6456.

As we head into 2026, I am confident in our staff and the board of directors to continue to support our vision and mission. I personally would like to thank every contributor who continues to see the value in what Trees has to offer.



### Our Mission

Trees For Tomorrow promotes sustainable natural resources management through transformative, real-life educational experiences.

### Our Vision

Trees For Tomorrow envisions a future where every individual is inspired and empowered to be stewards of our natural world.

**WWW.TREESFORTOMORROW.COM**

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- Cheryl Todea
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- Sandi Swan
- Diane Gunderson
- Chris Lamon

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- Kim Feller
- Jenny Sadak
- Todd Starling
- Bethany Heft
- McKenzie Grant
- Casey Sprotte

### Maintenance

- Bill McCallum

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- P.J. Vreeland
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- Ron Weber

# From Vision to Reality

## Built with care, purpose, and partnership

*This year,* I finally renovated the main bathroom in my home—a project my late husband and I dreamed about for years but never completed. After his passing, I decided it was time to move forward. It wasn't fancy, but it was meaningful. Don, my fiancé, stepped back to let me lead with my vision, yet he played an integral role in making sure the space reflected what we both wanted. Standing in that finished space reminded me that some investments take years to realize, but when they do, they transform not just a room, but how you feel about the future.

At Trees For Tomorrow, 2025 was a year of similar transformation. Like my renovation, building the future of outdoor learning requires planning, patience, and investment. For more than 80 years, quality outdoor education experiences have been the heart of our mission. This year, those plans came to life:

- **Construction began on our new Outdoor Learning Center**, a space that will deepen students' connection to nature when it opens in 2026.
- **We rebuilt the Balsam Garage**, ensuring a safe and welcoming campus after the collapse of Balsam Dorm.
- **Every fundraising campaign exceeded its goals**, thanks to your generosity.
- **We launched an ambassador program** to strengthen relationships with partners and advocates.

- **We invested in people**, preparing for the retirement of our beloved Office Manager, Juli, by welcoming Sandi Swan to learn alongside her.

**And most importantly, your support made it possible** for thousands of students to experience hands-on learning in the Northwoods—sparking curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of nature.

**We also began implementing our new Strategic Plan**—a roadmap to strengthen donor relationships, expand fundraising efforts, attract diverse program participants,

from the Executive Director  
**Cheryl Todea**



retain quality employees, and maintain a safe and welcoming campus. Work is already underway on all these goals, ensuring that our mission remains strong and relevant for generations to come.

These investments—whether in spaces, strategies, or people—are shaping the future of Trees For Tomorrow and the students we serve. Thank you for believing in the power of outdoor learning. Your time, advocacy, and financial support are turning vision into reality. Together, we're building something that will last for decades—and inspire countless young minds along the way.



*Nearly the whole TFT staff together during the 2025 holiday season — a moment that reflects the people and relationships behind the work.*

### On the cover...

Students practice their wildlife tracking skills during our Intro to Field Based Science Skills lesson. Through hands on journaling, careful observation, and the use of scientific tools, they explore local trees and wildlife. Snowshoes add to the adventure—doubling as both recreation and an authentic field tool that helps students collect data just like real-world scientists.

Using “real tools” like field journals, tracking guides, and even snowshoes sends a powerful message: **Science isn't limited to labs—it happens wherever you can observe nature.** This builds self efficacy and helps students see themselves as capable contributors to environmental knowledge. Stewardship begins with noticing; noticing begins with guided, meaningful outdoor experiences like this.

**These are the moments that turn curiosity into care.**



from the Operations Manager  
**Mandy Gingerich**

# Campus Infrastructure: Progress with Purpose

## Campus Infrastructure

Maintaining a 40-acre campus that includes sixteen buildings is no small undertaking. Each structure carries a piece of our rich history, from the rustic charm of some of our older facilities to the timeless character of Juday Hall, proudly listed on the Historical Building registry. Several of our buildings were constructed by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in the 1930's, and when you walk through them you can almost feel their presence. Their craftsmanship is a reminder of the extraordinary effort poured into this campus long before any of us arrived.

Because many of our buildings belong to the U.S. Forest Service, we are profoundly grateful for this long-standing partnership. Their stewardship helps preserve the integrity of campus, and our commitment to honoring USFS expectations challenges us – in the best possible way – to be thoughtful, innovative, and intentional in how we pursue capital improvements. We are proud of the progress we have made in 2025 and energized by the potential that lies ahead.

## Exciting Capital Improvements Completed in 2025

### A Brand-New Phone System

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we upgraded our entire internal phone network – including new office phones, router replacements, and (volunteer) remote IT support. This enhancement significantly improves communication across campus, especially for our main office, allowing us to better serve callers and connect guests



*John Boerner and Don Whitehead, IT and phone system consultants, with TFT Executive Director Cheryl Todea (2nd from left) and Operations Manager Mandy Gingerich (3rd from left).*

and staff more efficiently.

### Focus on Energy Lighting Upgrade

Trees For Tomorrow was selected for a Focus on Energy evaluation this July, and an Energy Engineer conducted a full assessment of our campus. While limited funding prevented us from updating every building, we were able to fully retrofit the Education Hall with new LED lighting. This upgrade provides brighter, more consistent classroom lighting, directly improving the learning environment while also reducing utility costs - a meaningful win for both our students and our budget.

### Identifying Future Improvements

The energy assessment also highlighted several water heaters and furnaces that could be replaced with higher-efficiency models. With a limited budget and modest funds available through the Focus on Energy grant, we must prioritize our most pressing needs and address them in phases. More updates will follow as we continue making strategic improvements to campus infrastructure.

### Focus on Energy: The Impact on Learning

How does an energy-efficiency program translate into stronger educational outcomes? These upgrades may seem subtle, but they create a ripple effect that carries into every student experience.

Brighter, more consistent lighting supports deeper engagement and better focus in our classrooms. Reliable heating and hot water ensure students rest comfortably in the dorms and feel rejuvenated for the next day's adventures. Nutritious meals prepared by our dedicated Hospitality

team give them the fuel they need to learn, explore, and thrive.

Capital improvements aren't just facility upgrades, they are investments in the safety, comfort, and success of every learner who steps onto our campus. By continually strengthening our infrastructure, we are honoring our commitment to provide the best possible experience for all who come to Trees For Tomorrow.

### Balsam Garage

We are excited to share that the Balsam Garage was officially completed in August 2025! For those who may not have followed the full journey of this project, here's a little background.

In early April of 2023, we experienced what felt like a very cruel April Fool's joke: an extremely heavy, wet snowfall caused the roof of Balsam Dorm to collapse. After the damage was assessed, insurance deemed the building a complete loss. While the situation was challenging, it opened the door to a unique opportunity, one that allowed us to reconnect with our history and rethink the future of this space.

Balsam originally began its life as a garage, built with purpose and practicality in mind. With our growing need for storage and workspace, restoring Balsam to its original function made perfect sense. After extensive discussions with the U.S. Forest Service, securing the right contractor, and navigating the many steps required for approval and construction, we are thrilled to finally see the project completed more than two years later.

This renewed space now allows our Maintenance Manager to properly store essential equipment and provides much-needed room for ongoing building projects. It's a meaningful improvement that both honors our past and strengthens our operations moving forward.



Article by Curriculum Director  
**Kim Feller**

&



Education Manager  
**Jenny Sadak**

# Adaptability That Drives Meaningful Impacts

*Nature demands flexibility*—weather shifts, wildlife surprises us, and ecosystems teach us something new every day. One of the aspects we enjoy about working in environmental education is that often you never know what the day will bring. As educators, one day might be actively teaching and being outside all day while another day might be focusing on writing a new lesson plan at our desk. No matter what happens, we've learned the value of adaptability. At Trees For Tomorrow, we get creative with how we do that.

Recently we acquired some Dubia Roaches (yes, insects – and hundreds of them) to feed our turtle that were a donation from a company that we bought our new reptile enclosures from. Since there were so many...we thought wouldn't it be fun to try to use the roaches to teach our wildlife mark-recapture lesson?! Our animal care coordinator, Beth, tried it out with one of our high school groups and they loved it! They used tiny dot stickers, blindfolds, and a lot of patience to learn how real-world wildlife populations are studied. It was a great way to utilize the donation and an engaging way for our high school students to learn!

Another example of adaptability is that we use maple syrup season to teach impromptu mini lessons on the science of maple syrup making. Todd, our maple syrup guru on staff, was asked by one of our visiting teachers last spring if he could take some time to show and explain to the students the process of sap to syrup. It wasn't a "planned" part of their schedule, but it was a unique and unexpected activity that Todd was happy to provide. We love a good "teachable moment" that enhances the experience



*TFT Environmental Educator McKenzie guides participants in the use of wildlife telemetry equipment, helping turn data into discovery.*

for our participants of any age!

Other examples of how we adapt for teaching and programming might include switching a lesson for a nature hike due to a group's needs (energy levels, brain breaks, etc.), shortening programming for more free time for group socialization and team building, or going more in-depth on a topic based on participant questions and interest.

In terms of curriculum specifically, whenever someone asks for curriculum updates, we always say "we're never done!" Curriculum writing and maintenance is a very fluid process, that changes based on input from our visiting teacher and students, as well as data we collect from student products. We must always be willing to adapt our programming as both the needs of our students and what we know about pedagogy changes. This past year, Kim began researching and implementing changes to how we assess our students in some of our classes. Instead of every class having a written assess-

ment component, some now have verbal presentations or discussions to account for our students who may struggle with writing. Where there is written assessments, Kim has been working to create better materials for those students with learning differences who may need a little extra support in communicating what they know, without diluting our expectations of them. Adaptability in what and how we teach is critically important: every student who walks through our doors is different and unique, and it's our job to provide an experience that makes them feel safe, engaged, and included while they are here!

Our willingness to adapt to the needs, interests, and abilities of every group is more than just a teaching strategy—it's a commitment to fostering genuine curiosity and a deeper connection to the natural world. By meeting learners where they are and responding to the unique opportunities each day presents, we help cultivate environmental stewardship that lasts far beyond a single visit.



Article by Chris Lamon,  
Volunteer Coordinator

# Volunteer Snapshot

Below is the list of volunteers that donated their time, energy, and knowledge to help TFT accomplish its mission in 2025 – We cannot thank you enough!

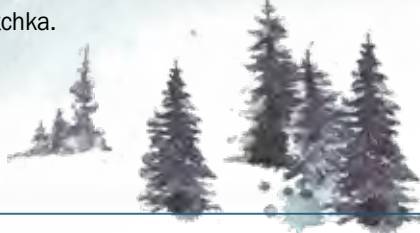
As we close out 2025, I have to reflect on how dedicated our volunteers are and how valuable they are to an organization like Trees For Tomorrow. We could not function without them!

It was another busy year for Trees For Tomorrow and, once again, our volunteers raised their hands, jumped in, rolled up their sleeves and successfully helped us through every task and event we tossed their way! Every one of them is a pleasure to work with, each with their own unique talents, experience, and personalities.

In 2025, we had a grand total of 63 volunteers rack up 612.25 hours at Trees For Tomorrow! These hard-working volunteers have touched every area of TFT – prepping materials for classes, maintenance, program assistance, painting, gift shop, mass mailings, updating databases, making phone calls to donors and vendors,

preparing and distributing marketing flyers to local businesses, assisting with Road Scholars, the annual Golf Outing fundraiser, SOLE for K-12 canoe lessons, chaperoning, upgrading our key tracking system, gathering sticks for attendee bonfires, and tree and brush removal on site. So many fun and interesting things to do! So many eager and experienced volunteers working in so many areas!

Everyone at Trees For Tomorrow appreciates what our volunteers do for us, the organization, and the students! All of them went above and beyond this year again. A few need to be specially recognized for their outstanding efforts – Cindy Thompson, Tanya North, Will Vail, and Scott Valitchka.



- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cindy Antonia   | Daniel Lynch    |
| Kari Bachinski  | Carol Marshall  |
| Lori Brown      | MC McCormick    |
| Destiny Brunzo  | Marsha Mueller  |
| Don Brunzo      | Tanya North     |
| Melissa Clark   | Jen Reinke      |
| Pat D'Angelo    | Lexi Scafaro    |
| Katie DeLaGarza | Marcy Schneider |
| Becky Gaskill   | James Schneider |
| John Gauss      | Randee Smith    |
| Mary Gauss      | Dave Stoiber    |
| Carol Green     | Cindy Thompson  |
| Louis Hall,     | Bill Trump      |
| 2 Group Leads   | Will Vail       |
| & 16 Blackwell  | Scott Valitchka |
| Job Corps.      | Nancy Waddell   |
| students        | Ron Weber       |
| Randy Harbath   | Jackie Weight   |
| Glen Johnson    | Curt Welnetz    |
| Rebecca Kies    | Jean Wiggins    |
| Daniel Killam   | Bev Wnuk        |
| Dave Klinner    | Carl Wussow     |
| Tim Loehrke     | Charlene Wussow |
| Rose Loehrke    | Rebecca Wussow  |
| Terri Luscher   |                 |

## Big Changes at TFT: Celebrating Juli and Welcoming Sandi

After more than 11 years as the friendly voice on the phone, the smiling face at our front desk, and an integral part of the administrative staff at TFT, Juli Welnetz is getting ready to retire this spring! It's hard to imagine TFT without her! Juli has done so much behind the scenes over the years to keep things running smoothly—assisting with the creation and implementation of strong fiscal policies, helping to roll out a new registration system for community programs, growing our tree seedling program, and welcoming a new administrative assistant position to support the office.



Juli Sandi

She's managed our gift shop (and set record profits!), greeted thousands of guests, and answered countless calls with warmth and professionalism. Simply put, Juli has been the heart of our front office.

*"As I reflect on my time at TFT, I will miss this place, but it's the people that have made my time special. Watching and hearing the students' and chaperones' excited conversations of what they learned, seen and experienced. The alumni that walked through the door and readily shared a story of their time here. The Board of Directors giving of their time, talents, donations and expertise to help govern our organization. The Advisory Council members who volunteer in so many capacities. And my co-workers. I am honored to have been amongst such hardworking, dedicated, energetic and enthusiastic individuals. Through all departments with their smiles and efforts they all teach, demonstrate, and embody the sustainable use our natural resources. I will miss it all!" ~ Juli Welnetz*

Juli's also been a huge help as we searched for her replacement, and we're thrilled to introduce Sandi Swan as our new Office Manager. This winter and early spring, Sandi is shadowing Juli and learning everything from bookkeeping to customer service. Sandi brings more than 20 years of experience in bookkeeping for the Village of Rochester, Wisconsin, and her local church. We are excited to have her join the TFT family.

*"Everyone has been so welcoming, and it's clear how much heart goes into this work. I am excited to be here and to play a role in serving the TFT Community." ~ Sandi Swan.*

As we celebrate Juli's incredible contributions and welcome Sandi's fresh energy, one thing is certain—our front office is in great hands. **Juli, thank you for more than a decade of dedication, warmth, and hard work. You've truly been the heart of TFT. And Sandi—welcome to the family!** We're excited for the future and all the ways you'll help us continue serving our community.

# Financial Overview

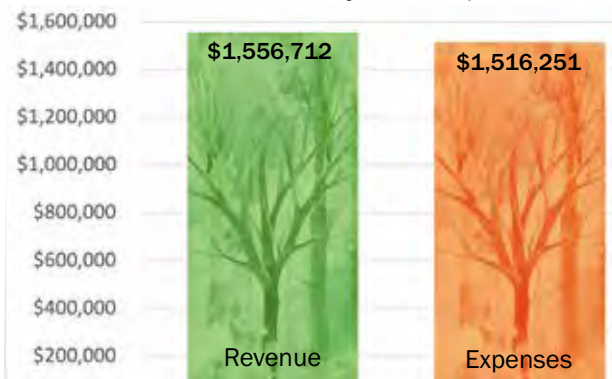
Trees For Tomorrow remains deeply committed to transparency and responsible financial stewardship. The following reflection offers a high level look at our financial performance, highlighting how community support fuels our mission. As in prior years, these figures reflect annual cash activity and will be finalized through our accountant’s financial review process.

Building on the positive momentum of 2024, 2025 marked our strongest year to date. We saw continued growth in donations, corporate sponsorships, and scholarship support. Contributions

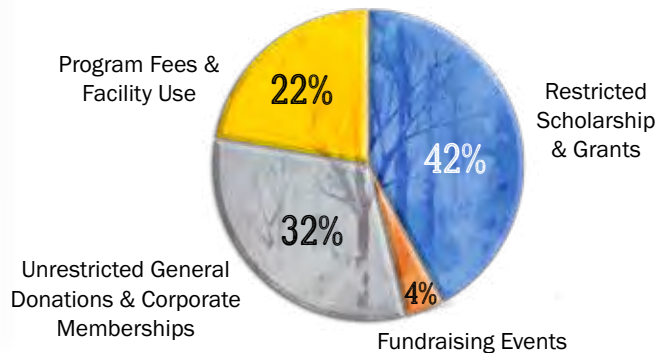
toward our Outdoor Learning Center gained meaningful traction, bringing this long anticipated vision closer to reality. Program revenue also continued to rise, reflecting strong demand for hands-on environmental education.

Support for Trees For Tomorrow comes from many sources—donors, foundations, program participants, and community partners—and together, this generosity allows us to expand access, strengthen programs, and invest confidently in the future. Your support truly makes this impact possible.

## 2025 Net Ordinary Income/Loss



## 2025 Revenue Sources



## Giving That’s Changing the Game

*Planned giving is on the rise.* Over the past three years, more and more donors have chosen **IRA distributions and Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)** to support Trees For Tomorrow. In 2023, these gifts made up just 7% of our donations. By 2024, that number jumped to 16%, and **in 2025, nearly 20% of all donations came from IRA and DAF contributions.** That’s incredible growth—and it’s making a huge impact on outdoor education.

*“Using my IRA distribution to support Trees For Tomorrow is a win-win,” says Karen M, a longtime supporter. “It’s easy, it helps me meet my financial goals, and most importantly—it gives more students the chance to learn and grow outdoors.”*

### What is a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)?

A Donor-Advised Fund is like a charitable giving account—you place money into the fund, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants to nonprofits

you care about — such as Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) — whenever you’re ready.

Many donors like DAFs because they:

- simplify record-keeping
- allow you to plan gifts over time
- let you involve family members in choosing causes
- make giving easy — often just a few clicks online

### How do you set up a DAF?

Setting up a DAF is simpler than most people expect:

- Open a DAF through an organization via a financial advisor, or investment firm.
- Contribute assets and receive a tax deduction that year.
- Recommend a grant to TFT whenever you wish as part of your giving plan.

### Want to make your giving go further?

We’d love to show you how IRA distributions or DAF gifts can benefit you and Trees For Tomorrow. We can even schedule a meeting with you and our financial advisor to walk through the tax advantages and answer your questions.

Your gift today helps us inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.

**Ready to learn more? Contact us at 715-479-6456 or [ctodea@treesfortomorrow](mailto:ctodea@treesfortomorrow).**



# Thank You 2025 Corporate and Individual Donors

*For over eight decades our donors continue to reach thousands of students every year. On behalf of our students, families, and other program participants, thank you for your generosity in 2025! Your support allowed Trees For Tomorrow to continue to offer environmental education experiences to over 5,000 individuals in 2025.*

**THANK YOU!**

## Corporations & Foundations

*Corporate sponsors are businesses that partner with TFT because they believe in the power of environmental education and share our commitment to building a more informed, connected, and sustainable future.*

Ahlstrom  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
American Architectural Group, Inc.  
Applied Material Solutions, Inc.  
Appvion  
A.S.A.P. Garage Door Repair, Inc.  
Asplundh  
Associated Bank  
ATC  
Biewer Wisconsin Sawmill, Inc.  
Billerud  
Bleser Family Foundation  
BPM, Inc.  
Bulkley Dunton  
CellCom/NSight  
Community Church Thrift Shop of St Germain  
Community Foundation for the  
Fox Valley Region  
CrossTrac Equipment, LLC  
Cycling Without Age - Vilas Oneida  
Dimension Lumber Company, Inc.  
Domtar  
Domtar Nekoosa  
Eagle River Dentist, LLC  
Eagle River Light & Water Dept.  
Eagle River NAPA, LLC  
Einari Vidgrén Foundation  
Enbridge

Facebook Fundraisers  
FISTA, Inc.  
Frank's Logging  
Futurewood Corporation  
Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home  
George Kress Foundation  
GF Companies, LLC  
GFWC Lakeland Area  
GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club  
GFWC Woman's Club of Greenfield  
GFWC Woman's Club of West Allis  
Grandma's Toy Box/Eagle Craft & Hobby  
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Assoc.  
Green Bay Innovation Group  
IncredibleBank  
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Ivy League Garden  
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Loggers Insurance Agency II, LLC  
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LP - Sagola  
LP - Tomahawk  
Lumberjack RC&D  
Lux Foundation  
Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands  
MACS Group, LLC  
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Mauck Insurance Agency  
Mead Witter Foundation  
Menasha Corporation Foundation

Merjent Foundation  
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Meyercord  
MI SFI Implementation Committee  
Michigan Society of American Foresters  
Midland Paper  
Midwest Trust  
Milltown Paper  
Nelson's Ace Hardware  
Nicolet National Bank  
North & South Twin Lakes Riparian Assn  
Northwoods Blizzard Blast  
Nova Integrated Care  
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation  
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Ponsse  
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ProCon  
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Smurfit Westrock  
Speiser Trust  
Stantec  
Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc.  
Superior Woodlands Co.  
Svee Trucking, Inc.  
TC Energy  
The Boldt Company  
Thomas S. Kemp Foundation  
Trim-Tex  
USDA Forest Service  
Veritiv/Bulkley Dunton  
We Energies Foundation, Inc.  
WI Society of American Foresters  
WI Society of Science Teachers  
Wisconsin County Forests Association  
Wisconsin DNR-Division of Forestry  
Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Assn.  
Wisconsin Public Service Corp.  
Wisconsin Public Service Foundation  
Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee  
Zelazoski Wood Products

## Individuals

*Individual donors are people who give because they care deeply about nature, learning, and young people—helping ensure that meaningful outdoor education is accessible to students of all backgrounds.*

DJ & Kari Aderman  
Judith B. Ahlberg  
Joseph Aiello  
Chris Aldagarie  
Virginia Allen  
Scott & Barbara Anderson  
Chris Arrowood

Larry & Teri Axlen  
Richard & Amy Jo Aylward  
Kari Bachinski  
Tom Baker  
Kathleen Barkow  
Nancie Battaglia  
Armand Battisti  
Steven Baumann  
Erika Berendsen  
Sandy Berner  
Robert D. Bjork  
John & Sue Boerner  
Lynn Bolz  
Justin & Lyndsay Borkovetz  
Kathryn Bosket  
Beverly Bower  
Marion Breen  
Nancy Brennan

Mark Brenner  
Dave Bricco  
David & Sharon Brochtrup  
Kay Brown  
Christine M Brunner  
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Gary Chapman  
Joe & Maggie Coil  
Gene & Mollie Conrad  
Patricia Crerar  
Randall Crow

James & Elaine Czajkoski  
John & Susan Darby  
Carol De Groot  
Laura DeGolier  
Carolyn DeJongh  
Dennin Family  
Father Bogdan & Peggy  
Djurdjulov  
Constance Downey  
Susan Drelicharz  
Luann Dreska  
Wendy Driver  
Jacob Ebben  
Branden & Colleen  
Ebersole  
Ryan, Nicole & Ellie Eckert  
Robert Erdman  
Craig & Donna Ericksen

Maureen Feely  
Doug Feivor  
Bonnie Fischer  
Kelly Fischer  
Jay Franke  
Bob & Lynne Frey  
Pete Gaal  
Louis & Evette Gallo  
Diane & John Galvin  
James & Edith Gardner  
Vicki Gilson  
Mandy Gingerich  
Brad Glock  
Sam Golbach  
Greg & Patricia Goodwin  
Linda & Tony Granato  
Tim Guetzke  
Steve Gulan

Andrew & Susan Gumm  
 Chuck & LouAnn Gunderson  
 Diane Gunderson  
 Carl Haberly  
 Martha Hake  
 Randy & Nancy Harbath  
 Brooke Hareid  
 John & Dana Harris  
 Mike Harris  
 Alex Haupt  
 Lynne Malsin Heidt  
 Kelli & Marty Heindel  
 Jim & Anita Heinzelman  
 Carol Hendricks  
 Shelly Hertel  
 Jane Hicks  
 Adam Hilger  
 Laura Hill  
 Betsy & Rusty Hlavacek  
 Anne Hletko  
 Eric Hochkammer  
 Don Hodkiewicz  
 Wes Hodkiewicz  
 Jim & Kathy Holperin  
 Jim & Denise Hoppe  
 Kim Hughes  
 Heidi & Maxwell Hultquist  
 Robert M Andrew Memorial  
 Eileen Innecken  
 Tim & Tavy Jadin  
 Frankie Lewis & Jan Lewis  
 Chad & JeAnn Jensen  
 Marna Johnson  
 Andrew Kaftan  
 Dana Kahle  
 Daniel Kalupa  
 Luci Kelliher  
 Norman Kenney  
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 Susan Kingery  
 Dale Kleffman  
 James Koch  
 Jenny Kogen  
 Katherine Kolb  
 Janice Grosse  
 Debra Kowalski  
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 Paul Kuske  
 Ben Lamers  
 Kathy Lamers  
 Chris & Bill Lamon  
 Amy Lee  
 Dick Leiterman  
 Al Lemanczyk  
 Mary Lemke  
 Kelly Lewis  
 Brianne Lisowe-Johnson  
 Howard Lodl  
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 Sandra Lotto  
 Dan Lynch  
 Mary Mac Kinnon  
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 Suzanne Roberts  
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 In-kind donations are gifts of goods, services, or expertise that directly strengthen our programs, allowing us to steward our resources wisely while expanding our impact on students and the land.

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*If you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact us at 715-479-6456 so that we may correct our records.*

# Your Impact by the Numbers

Because of you, these numbers tell a powerful story.



At Trees For Tomorrow, every number represents something far greater — a student discovering confidence in the woods, a teacher finding renewed inspiration, a future conservation professional taking their first step.

This year, your support helped us expand access to outdoor learning, strengthen partnerships across Wisconsin and beyond, and invest in the next generation of environmental leaders.

From day programs and multi-day field experiences to Natural Resources Career Exploration Week and community outreach, each statistic on this page reflects real people, real experiences, and real impact.

Behind every number is a story. Together, we are growing a future rooted in knowledge, stewardship, and connection to the natural world.

Each number on this page represents a life touched by outdoor learning.



22

Careers  
Exploration  
Students



153

Workshops  
and Events



347

Summer  
Program  
Participants



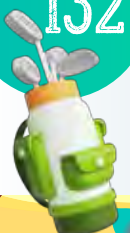
357

Days with  
People On TFT's  
Campus



132

Golf Outing  
Fundraiser  
Participants



Record Breaking Number!

Hours of  
Campus Forest  
Management

428

Adult  
Program  
Participants



36

States of Origin  
Represented

that adult participants  
traveled from



557

Donors



*When I was a Gibraltar student, I had the wonderful experience of taking a school trip to Trees For Tomorrow. When I became a teacher and advisor at Gibraltar, it became a dream to restart the tradition of taking students to TFT. There's nothing like getting away from your normal routine and immersed in hands-on learning to extend what you know about science.*

*Planning a trip with Trees for Tomorrow was very easy and the staff was extremely flexible—they pivoted easily and getting students to the campus was very easy to accomplish. I was very impressed with the educators and the facilities. And the food was amazing! Students and chaperones all had a great time and learned a lot in the 3 days and 2 nights that we were there.*

~ A. Knapp



# tree tips

Natural Resources Education News

Trees For Tomorrow®  
Environmental Education Center

Winter/Spring 2026



from the Executive Director  
**Cheryl Todea**

## Building the Future of Outdoor Learning— One Conversation at a Time

*When I think about* what it truly means to build the future of outdoor learning, it's not just about new buildings or strategic plans—it's about people. It's about the conversations that spark ideas, the relationships that grow into partnerships, and the shared commitment to helping students discover the wonders of the natural world.

*Some of those conversations happen at industry conferences.* At the WI Association of Arborists Conference, I exhibit to promote our Natural Resource Careers Exploration Week (NRCEW) and Forest Fest, while learning about urban forestry trends. At the Lake States Lumber Association Winter Meeting, I share the impact of their scholarship support and explore new ways to collaborate. The Sustainable Forestry Conference gives me the chance to connect with leaders in forestry and forest products, while events like the Green Bay Innovation Group 5P Expo, the WI Paper Council Annual Meeting, the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Spring Celebration, and the GLTPA Logging Expo open doors to sponsors and partners who believe in preparing the next generation for careers in natural resources.

*Beyond conferences, engagement continues through committees and partner meetings.* The WI Paper Council Workforce Relations Committee focuses on building a strong workforce for the paper and forestry industries, and we're proud to represent

youth education in those discussions. And through quarterly meetings with the WI and MI SFI Implementation Committees, we secure grant support for programs like SOLE and NRCEW—critical resources that help us connect students to careers in natural resources.

*But just as important are the quieter moments*—the coffee meetings with donors who want to hear how their gifts are changing lives, the phone calls where I share updates and listen to their hopes for the future, the campus tours where supporters see firsthand the impact of their

generosity. These personal connections matter. They remind me that every gift, every conversation, every handshake is part of something bigger—a shared vision for inspiring curiosity and confidence in young minds.

*Together, these efforts—industry engagement and personal outreach*—are the roots that keep Trees For Tomorrow strong and growing. They ensure that our programs remain relevant, our students stay connected to real-world opportunities, and our mission continues to thrive for generations to come.

### **BREAKING RECORDS AT TFT**

We're thrilled to share that 2025 was a record-breaking year for Trees For Tomorrow! Our fundraising campaigns reached new heights thanks to the incredible support of our community:

- **Golf Outing Fundraiser: >\$40,000 net proceeds and 132 golfers** (a golf course maximum). Record number of golfers and record net proceeds allowing us to educate even more students in 2025!
- **Natural Resource Careers Exploration Week: >\$38,000 net proceeds.** Record sponsorships ensured every student received a scholarship for our 59th year of this impactful program.
- **TFT4All Annual Giving Campaign: \$173,000 net proceeds and**

**>200 donors.** Record number of donations and total gifts, helping us guarantee that even more students will learn about sustainable natural resource management at Trees For Tomorrow in 2026.

Thank you to everyone who made these milestones possible—your generosity is shaping the future of conservation education!



# A New Era For Hands-On Learning

*BIG THINGS are happening*, at Trees For Tomorrow! The John & Melissa Besse Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) is quickly becoming a reality, and we couldn't be more excited to share the progress. Since our last update, the roof is on and shingled, the fireplace and chimney are complete, power is hooked up, and the closet is finished—just waiting on doors. It's really starting to look like the space we've been dreaming about!

There's still a little work ahead this spring: tongue-and-groove on the ceiling, siding behind the closet, masonry on the fireplace and posts, and a few finishing touches. **But we're right on track for an end-of-May completion—perfect timing for summer programs!**

This project wouldn't be possible without an incredible group of supporters. **More than 20 donors have given over \$250,000 in cash and pledges, and another nine donors have contributed nearly \$30,000 in donated services and materials.** Leading the way is the John and Melissa Besse Foundation, whose generosity and vision have made this dream possible. Along with the Besse family, these donors have stepped up to create a space that will transform outdoor learning for years to come.

So, what will this new space mean? The OLC will give us an extra learning area for our School Outdoor Learning Experiences (SOLE), a backup archery range, and a flexible event space for workshops, community gatherings, and even weddings (including Cheryl's in summer 2026!). Our educators are especially looking forward to the completion of the OLC! Outdoor education is at the heart of our mission, so having a learning area that is outdoors, but can still provide the appropriate space and materials (like white boards and projectors) for our students to reflect and make sense of their observations is a major boost to our science-based outdoor curriculum. Having an additional space for learning will also help keep things fresh and exciting for our audiences, helping to make their TFT experience even more memorable.

**This is truly a new era for hands-on learning at Trees For Tomorrow.** To the Besse family and every donor who has helped make this happen—thank you! Your support ensures that students and visitors will have a place to learn, connect, and create memories for generations.

Stay tuned for more updates as we finish the final touches. We can't wait to welcome you to the John & Melissa Besse Outdoor Learning Center in 2026!



**Building tomorrow's outdoor learning center from Wisconsin-grown resources.**





Article by Terry Schwaller,  
High School Science Teacher  
District of Shiocton, WI

# More Than a Field Trip WHEN LEARNING STICKS

Each year, schools return to Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) not just for a field trip – but for an experience that reshapes how students see learning, nature, and their own future. For educators like Terry Schwaller of Shiocton High School, TFT fills a gap traditional classrooms cannot: real-world, hands-on exploration of forestry, wildlife, and conservation concepts brought to life outdoors. Over decades of bringing students to campus, he has watched curiosity turn into confidence, and classroom lessons become meaningful understanding – proof that when students learn by doing, the impact lasts well beyond the bus ride home. Here's his story...

**Coming from a small school** district like Shiocton, our curriculum options are limited. Trees For Tomorrow offers a curriculum experience that our students would otherwise not get a chance to experience. From conservation, to forestry, to wildlife management, our students are not only able to learn a variety of new topics, but also get real world, hands-on experience in the field.

**The hands-on experience is really what makes Trees For Tomorrow special.** Students don't just hear about topics, they get to take their new learning out into nature. Having the opportunity to go to a variety of field sites, put ideas into practice, and then bring all of their learning back together in a culminating project allows students to see how everything they learn fits together. It also gives them a great look into new career opportunities!

The moment I knew TFT mattered...We used to only bring students one time, and then a totally new group would be brought the next year. Students always enjoyed the experience, and spoke highly of it after returning. As a chaperone of over 20 years, I can say that I was always impressed with the

programming, and knew it was beneficial to students. Hence why I continued to bring students.

When we grew the size of the group we could bring (around 2021), everything changed. **Students who attended once, jumped at the opportunity to attend 2-3 times!** Trees For Tomorrow is a really fun trip, but it is still a school and the kids are still in class learning. The fact that kids get excited to return year after year, to engage in the sort of in-depth experience that Trees For Tomorrow offers speaks so highly of what TFT has to offer. I think their enjoyment of the programming shows in the final projects the students produce and the effort put into them. **If students are willing to spend 2.5 hours on a Saturday morning doing a research project/presentation and have fun doing it, I think it shows the impact Trees For Tomorrow is having on the students.**

One of my favorite quotes from a student after returning to school is, "Trees For Tomorrow was not only a lot of fun, but it showed me what school should really look like."

Outdoor hands-on learning is everything!

If students simply sat in a classroom and heard about energy conservation, wildlife management, and forestry practices they would quit attending years ago. As with many things in life, you can hear and read about something only so much before you need that hands-on experience to really understand it. **Learning about something like wildlife capture techniques only means so much, if you don't go outside, capture some little critters, and then engage in the sort of research that scientists do.** You can hear about logging practices all day, but it won't mean as much as going outside and identifying trees and taking measurements to study a plot of land.

Besides increasing the student learning, getting outside and engaging students helps make connections between learning and also their love of the outdoors. Many kids enjoy nature, but don't connect that enjoyment with learning or possible career options. **Seeing that their future office could be outdoors in the wild, is an exciting opportunity for students.**

I would tell a teacher considering bringing students to Trees for Tomorrow—just do it! The Trees For Tomorrow staff are awesome to work with, and they can answer any questions you might have about the opportunity. **They will also work closely with you to ensure that the program you want is the program that you get.** No matter what time of year you look at bringing kids to Trees For Tomorrow, they will make sure that your students have a fun, engaging, hands-on experience. We almost always go in December, and the cold and snow never limit what we do.

Over the years I have brought students who



Shiocton students on a recent overnight School Outdoor Learning Experience (SOLE) for K12.

(continued on page 19)



Article by Bethany Heft,  
Environmental Educator

*"Strength in Numbers"* is a common enough term. We see examples of it every day in the natural world from animals living in herds or flocks to mutualistic relationships where each partner is made better by the other. I truly believe that Trees for Tomorrow embodies that term -strength in numbers- with our core value of "collaboration" at every given opportunity. Through partnerships with other organizations, Trees has been able to spread it's reach further not only geographically, but by serving those with different economic needs as well. Let me introduce you to some of our wonderful partnerships.

**Natural Resources Foundation (NRF):**

The NRF mentions right in their mission statement that they aim to connect people with nature. One of the ways that they do this is by forming partnerships with organizations all over the state to run educational outdoor experience. While we have the expertise to run such programs, we lack their extensive marketing budget and wide audience. By them handling the advertising for our programs, we've been able to have people from all over the state travel to the Eagle River area for a day program learning not just about our local flora and fauna, but about Trees for Tomorrow and what we do!

# Strength in Numbers



*Shared learning in shared lands: Road Scholars exploring the Gems of the Northwoods in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.*

**Tara Lila Outdoor Adventures:**

Through a partnership with Tara Lila LLC and a generous sponsorship from the Aylward family (the landowners and founders of Tara Lila), Trees for Tomorrow is able to offer a series of 6 outdoor adventure programs a year to the public free of charge! This partnership is grounded in a shared mission: helping the public get outdoors, connect with nature, and discover the remarkable natural resources available in our community. By providing this opportunity free of charge, we are helping to make outdoor education accessible to people of all economic backgrounds.

WIMN partners with organizations across the state to train a fleet of professional and educated naturalists to increase volunteerism across the state in areas of education, citizen science, and stewardship. This means that by receiving educational experience in natural resource topics at Trees for Tomorrow, the teaching we do can have a ripple affect to many different organizations across the state!

**Road Scholar:**

Road Scholar believes strongly in participants being an active learner and not a passive tourist. Luckily for them, we love to teach! Through a partnership with this organization we can bring people from across the country to our little corner of the Northwoods to experience the beauty that we see every day. In 2025 alone this partnership brought 143 participants from 31 different states to our campus!

Research continues to show that spending time outside supports physical health, reduces stress, boosts mental wellbeing, and helps foster meaningful connections between people and the natural world. Trees for Tomorrow is proud to continue to find strength in numbers by partnering with other organizations who have the common goal of helping the public get out into nature and experience our world.

**Wisconsin Master Naturalist (WIMN):**

Run by UW-Madison Extension, this program seeks to promote awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the natural environment by developing a network of well-informed volunteers dedicated to conservation service within their communities.



*Learning, leading, and giving back – Wisconsin Master Naturalists in action.*

# northbound

A Forum for Natural Resource Issues & Education

A Tree Tips supplement since 1984



## Braving the Cold: How Birds Survive Winter in Northern Wisconsin

*We are all familiar* with fall migration of birds, we know that when we no longer see the robins or loons, winter is surely on the way. However, several species like Black-Capped Chickadees, Cardinals, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Barred Owls, Goldfinches, and Nuthatches, just to name a few, stay with us year-round. With snow, subzero temperatures, and limited daylight, how is it that some bird species stick around and tough out the winter? Despite harsh conditions, local bird species have a mix of physiological and behavioral strategies to survive the winter.

### Physiological Adaptations

Birds' fundamental challenge in winter is to maintain body temperature by increasing the production, and reducing the loss, of body heat. Many birds have physiological adaptations that help them. Physiological adaptations are internal, often invisible, functional changes within an organism's body (like metabolism, hormones, organ function) that help it survive. For birds in winter, this includes changes in feathers, brain cell growth, and torpor.

In late summer and early fall, after breeding season is over, most birds molt or shed "old" feathers and grow fresh ones and often more insulating ones in preparation for either migration or winter survival. Often the color of their feathers

change. For example, the male American Goldfinch goes from his bright yellow breeding plumage to a more subdued olive-green color. If you've ever seen a bird and it looks extra fluffy, that's because it is! They fluff out their feathers to trap air that keeps them warm. However, wind can ruffle feathers, allowing cold air to reach the body. So, birds try to avoid windy places as much as possible. Keeping feathers dry is also important as wet feathers don't provide good insulation.



*Yellow-bellied woodpecker "fluffed up" to stay warm.*

Before the cold really begins another fascinating change occurs. Birds—in particular, chickadees—grow new brain cells. Chickadees discard cells that hold old memories that they don't need and replace them with new cells that will allow them to store new memories. This helps them to remember where they've cached all the seeds over the summer and fall for that particular year; they don't need to remember where they stored them the previous year. The part of the



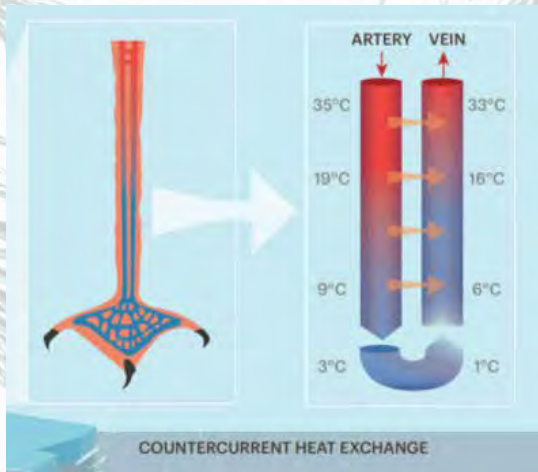
*Black-capped Chickadee's hippocampus (memory center) in the brain increases by 30% in winter!*

brain responsible for spatial organization expands by about 30 percent over the winter months! In the spring it shrinks back to its normal size.

I bet you're also wondering how birds keep their little legs warm in freezing temps, aren't you? Birds circulate blood through concurrent blood exchange. This is a vital adaptation where warm arterial blood flowing to the extremities (legs, feet, bill) runs alongside cool venous blood returning to the body's core, transferring heat efficiently to warm the returning blood and cool the outgoing blood, minimizing core heat loss in cold environments and preventing overheating in hot ones. Think warm blood down, cool blood up.

### Behavioral Adaptations

Birds will also act differently to survive the colder months. Food caching, roosting, and reducing activity and energy



use are a few behavioral adaptations for survival.

Have you ever noticed how birds will sometimes grab a seed from your feeder and fly off? There are a few reasons why they may do this and one of them is food caching. Birds like chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays survive by “caching” (hiding) food, storing seeds and insects in tree bark, under leaves, or in crevices for later retrieval. Even mammals such as squirrels, beavers, and bears—cache food for consumption later on, during lean times. Caching isn’t as straightforward as it might appear. A bird must not only fly back and forth, one or a few seeds at a time, over hundreds of trips. They also have to make sure the caches aren’t stolen and remember where all the food is hidden when hunger comes a-calling.

Bigger birds such as crows and jays are master long-term cachers with specialized adaptations. A distensible, or expandable, esophagus (in jays), or a pouch under or in front of the tongue (in crows) helps the birds carry multiple food items at a time - crows can carry several acorns in one trip under their tongue. Many caching species have keen spatial memory, and can remember precise locations using visual cues like distance and direction from landmarks such as rocks and vegetation.

Another tactic for conserving energy on cold winter nights is torpor. Torpor is a state of slowed body functions. In torpor, birds lower their body temperature and slow their heart, respiration and metabolic rate. Their metabolic rate decreases up to

95 percent. It’s like a short-term hibernation. Birds will use torpor to survive long winter nights or severe storms. Their reflexes and reaction times are also stunted when they are in torpor, making them more vulnerable to predators.

Birds will also “hunker down” during cold temperatures and storms. Birds seek shelter in dense trees or shrubs. Old tree cavities and nest boxes also serve as year-round roosting spaces. Birds will huddle together during the winter to share body heat and stay warm.

The ruffed grouse, a woodland game bird, will also “snow roost.” If the conditions are right (7 inches or more of fluffy snow), a grouse will either burrow below the surface or dive bomb into a snow bank (I’d like to see that.) Temperatures beneath this blanket of snow may be 20-30 degrees warmer than the air.



*Common Redpolls flock together*

### Changing the Menu: Winter Food Sources

Chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers swap their summer bug buffets for a strict seed-and-suet diet during northern Wisconsin winters. For many species winter becomes survival of the fittest. High-fat, high-calorie foods like sunflower seeds (especially black oil), suet, peanut hearts, and millet are needed to stay warm. Native berry-producing trees and shrubs are critical for high-energy food and essential shelter from harsh weather and predators. Persistent berries on shrubs like Winterberry, Hawthorn, and Dogwood remain available when other food sources disappear. The ecological relationship between birds and plants also benefits the plant. Birds eat berries and spread seeds, helping plants reproduce, a mutualistic relationship.

Even though most species that stay for the

winter do eat insects in other times of the year, woodpeckers enjoy them year-round and have an advantage. Many species of adult insects have disappeared, but larvae remain tucked inside the tree bark as they attempt to survive the winter. Woodpeckers, with their powerful bills made for drumming, pecking holes and their sensitive hearing, can locate and extract the hidden larvae. Yum!

### Human Support for Winter Birds

We can make meaningful differences in the survival rates of many bird species that stay with us during the cold, dark months. The colder weather requires a diet higher in fat and oils. Black oil sunflower seed is preferred for most species. It is high in protein and oil, and has a thinner and softer shell than their more familiar, grey shelled cousins. Peanut hearts, nyjer seed, and white safflower seed are also excellent choices that will please a large variety of wild birds. A few tips for feeding our wild birds...

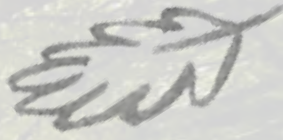
- Once you start feeding during the winter, you shouldn’t stop, because the birds will become used to your feeding stations. Wait until spring, once insects and vegetation are once again available.
- Keep feeders clean to prevent disease. Wash your feeders regularly with warm soapy water.
- Provide water if you can. A heated bird bath prevents freezing and is vital for drinking and bathing.
- Offer different foods and feeders to attract diverse species.

Surviving northern Wisconsin winters is no small feat, but many bird species are amazingly adapted to the challenge. Through many physiological adjustments and clever behaviors, they endure conditions that would challenge even larger animals. Each winter when you put out your bird feeders and watch the chickadees visit what seems like 100 times a day, may it be a reminder of nature’s resilience.



Article by Jenny Sadak,  
Education Manager

# Deepening Our Impact Through SFI



## Attending the Wisconsin and Michigan SFI

Implementation Committee meetings is more than just showing up—it's about listening, learning, and building partnerships that directly benefit our students and programs. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is a leading organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management, conservation, and workforce development. These quarterly state implementation meetings bring together leaders from across the forest industry, and being at the table gives Trees For Tomorrow a voice in conversations about sustainability, workforce development, and education.

Through these meetings, TFT gains valuable insights into industry trends and challenges, which helps us keep our programs relevant

and forward-thinking. It's where we learn what skills employers are looking for, what sustainability practices are shaping the future, and how we can better prepare students for careers in forestry and conservation. These connections also lead to tangible support—both committees provide grant funding that helps make programs like SOLE for K-12 and Natural Resource Careers Exploration Week (NRCEW) possible.

But the impact goes beyond funding. It's about relationships. Sitting alongside industry leaders allows us to share how Trees For Tomorrow is inspiring the next generation and to invite them to be part of that mission. In fact, at a recent MI SFI meeting, I had a great conversation with a logger from Dickinson County, Michigan,

who is willing to serve as a TFT ambassador and share TFT SOLE and NRCEW program information with the local school staff and high school students. Every conversation strengthens our ability to connect students with real-world opportunities and ensures our programs are growing.

By staying connected through these committees, we're not just keeping pace with the industry—we're helping shape its future while opening doors for students to explore careers in forestry and conservation.



**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE**

SFI-00001

## Volunteer Spotlight: Cindy Thompson



*Cindy Thompson*

Cindy Thompson has been a dedicated Trees For Tomorrow volunteer since April 2018. Over the years she has contributed to a wide range of programs

and projects — from mass mailings and office organization to hands-on support at major events. 2026 event, along with making calls to potential exhibitors and vendors. She has also assisted in the Gift Shop with stocking, labeling shelves, cleaning, and annual inventory; prepared student journals and thank-you materials; organized supply closets; and tackled countless behind-the-scenes projects.

Cindy has volunteered more than 150 hours across many areas of campus.

She is personable, organized, and detail-oriented — equally comfortable greeting guests at events or helping keep operations running smoothly behind the scenes. She brings thoughtful ideas and a willingness to jump in wherever needed, making her one of our go-to volunteers.

*Thank you, Cindy, for all you do for Trees For Tomorrow!*

and projects — from mass mailings and office organization to hands-on support at major events.

At our Golf Outings, Cindy helps solicit and collect raffle prizes and staffs the ticket sales table — often outselling everyone else. During Forest Fest she has worked in the Passport Pavilion and is now helping plan the area for the



*(right) Cindy helps families navigate Forest Fest through the Passport program, turning many activities into one cohesive learning experience.*



## 2026 Programs and Events

There are many ways to connect with nature at Trees For Tomorrow. From hands-on workshops and school programs to community events and seasonal experiences, there's always something happening on campus.

### WINTER

- School Outdoor Learning Experiences (SOLE) Season
- Tree Seedling Pre-Sale—March 2
- Summer Program Registration Opens—March 15
- Maple Syrup Making — March 21

### SPRING

- School Outdoor Learning Experiences (SOLE) Season
- Composting — April 18
- Outdoor Adventures Bio Blitz — April 25
- TFT Annual Board of Directors Meeting — May 28
- Golf Outing Fundraiser — May 29

### SUMMER

- Natural Resources Career Exploration Week (NRCEW) — June 7-12
- Jr. SEEK Summer Camp (ages 6-7) — June 9-August 4
- KinderWild Summer Camp (ages 3-5) — June 10-August 5
- SEEK Summer Camp (ages 8-12) — June 11-August 6
- Forest Fest — July 25
- Outdoor Adventures Forest Bathing — August 8
- Foraging — August 27

### FALL

- School Outdoor Learning Experiences (SOLE) Season
- Outdoor Adventures Orienteering — October 17
- Wreath Making — November 7
- New Year's Eve Snowshoe/Hike — December 31

Visit [treesfortomorrow.com](http://treesfortomorrow.com) or follow us on social media for dates and registration details.

### WHEN LEARNING STICKS

(continued from page 14)

have diverse learning, physical, and dietary needs. The Trees For Tomorrow staff are fantastic at ensuring that all of the diverse needs of students are addressed, so that the opportunity to attend TFT is open to everyone. Whether this is altering how the class is presented or how staff engage with students, to altering the field experience to meet physical needs, they have always been flexible to make those accommodations.

The Hospitality Staff have always gone above and beyond to address dietary needs of students. Whether students are vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerant, gluten-free, etc, all of their needs have been met. They have even made-up meals for students who have gotten sick and need to be taken care of back in the dorms.

**My students and I have always been highly appreciative of the lengths that the TFT staff go to ensure we are well taken care of.**

The Trees For Tomorrow staff are excellent to work with. Mandy does such a great job of working with us to ensure that the trip planning goes smoothly. We always get all of our materials (permission slips, health forms, etc) well in advance so we can work with our school to set up the trip. She is also great at answering any and all questions we might have, at any time.

Working with the education staff is also a breeze. Well in advance of the trip, you receive a schedule for the planned workshop, so that you can review it. This allows you to ask ques-

tions, make changes, and advise on student needs all in advance of arriving at Trees For Tomorrow. It also allows you to let students know exactly what they will be doing once they get on campus. This definitely helps to get the students excited for the experience.

**Overall the Trees For Tomorrow staff make planning a workshop a breeze. Never in my 20 years of chaperoning trips has this process ever NOT gone smoothly.**

There is so much misinformation out there today about nature and the environment, including human impact and what certain practices actually accomplish. The type of learning that students engage in at Trees for Tomorrow not only gives them an opportunity to hear facts about these ideas, but also to experience them first hand. I know many students over the years have had negative views of logging practices or wildlife management techniques, only to have their eyes opened to the importance of these practices. Knowing the truth behind why we might need to heavily log a piece of land, or why we might need to trap an animal for study, brings into perspective that these types of things are done for the long term benefit of the environment or species studied.

The programming that Trees For Tomorrow provides to students, really does help to open eyes about the importance of understanding how to best take care of our natural resources. Especially if we want to be able to enjoy them for generations to come.

~Terry Schwaller

Shiocton High School Physics/Chemistry Instructor  
& Mentoring Coordinator;



*In Memory of  
Long-Time  
Advisory Council  
Member*

**CHUCK THIER**

Trees For Tomorrow honors the memory of a long-serving Advisory Council member and TFT ambassador, Chuck Thier, whose recent passing is felt deeply. Over the course of his long career in education—including serving as superintendent—he championed experiential learning and ensured that many students had the opportunity to learn at TFT.

Following his retirement to northern Wisconsin, Chuck continued that commitment by supporting environmental stewardship efforts in the Northwoods and serving on the Trees For Tomorrow Advisory Council, working to help secure a strong future for the Northwoods and our students.

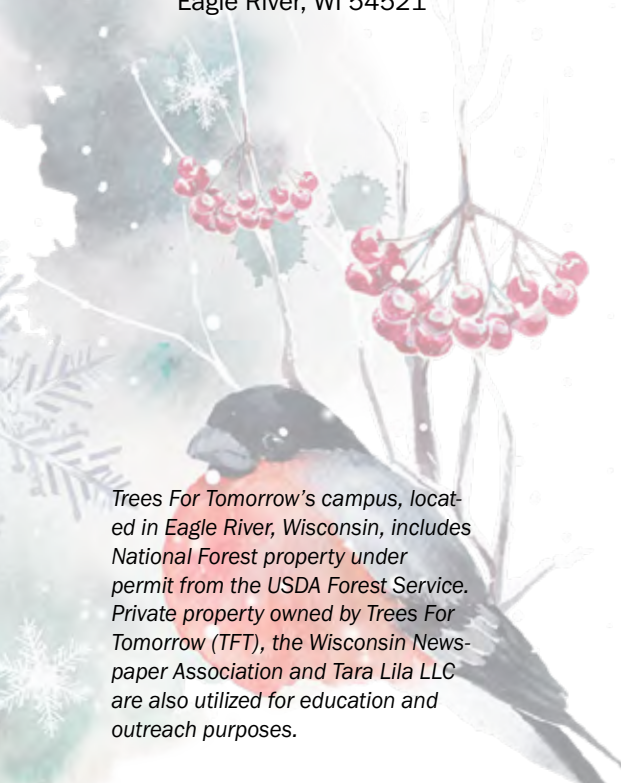
He leaves a meaningful legacy at TFT as a donor, advocate, and friend. We are grateful for his decades of support and the lasting impact of his dedication to education and the outdoors.



519 E. Sheridan St., PO BOX 609  
Eagle River, WI 54521

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Permit No. 26  
Eagle River, WI 54521

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Trees For Tomorrow's campus, located in Eagle River, Wisconsin, includes National Forest property under permit from the USDA Forest Service. Private property owned by Trees For Tomorrow (TFT), the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and Tara Lila LLC are also utilized for education and outreach purposes.

# YES! I Want to Support Trees For Tomorrow



As a private, nonprofit residential environmental education center, we rely on donations from people like you to support our educational efforts. **THANK YOU** for making a difference.

**YES! I want to have an important impact on Trees For Tomorrow's legacy of preparing today's youth to be tomorrow's stewards of our natural world!**

- \$100       \$1,000
- \$250       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$500

Every \$1 donated is 12 more minutes a student explores the science of nature at Trees For Tomorrow!

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OR donate online at:  
**www.TreesForTomorrow.com**

