

tree tips

Natural Resources Education News


Trees For Tomorrow[®]
Environmental Education Center

...sustaining the world we live in through the science of nature

Fall 2026

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Building What Matters

Striking a spark is only the first step—the true test lies in working together to nurture and sustain a fire. These four students put teamwork, patience, and forest knowledge into practice alongside wilderness shelter building. By creating spaces for immersive field challenges and expanding access for youth of all backgrounds, Trees For Tomorrow is strengthening leadership through collaboration and building what matters: enduring skills, self-reliance, and a lasting commitment to natural resource stewardship for future generations.





from the desk of
Cheryl Brunzo, Executive Director

Building What Matters Celebrating Growth While Investing in the Future

If you've spent any time at Trees For Tomorrow recently, you've probably noticed something exciting: growth.

Not just in our forests and natural spaces, but in the people, programs, and places that make our mission possible.

As you flip through this issue of Tree Tips, you'll see stories about new spaces, new leadership, and new opportunities that are helping us build a stronger future for environmental education. From the completion of our Outdoor Learning Center to the addition of a new van, **these investments are creating more ways for students to learn, explore, and connect with the natural world.**

One of the most visible examples of that growth is the completion of our Outdoor Learning Center. What began as a vision has become a welcoming gathering space for students, educators, and community members. This June, it even served a very personal purpose for me and my family as the setting for my wedding. Celebrating such an important milestone in a place that means so much to Trees For Tomorrow was a powerful reminder that

the spaces we create become part of people's stories.

You'll also read about important work happening behind the scenes. The Trees For Tomorrow Board of Directors and leadership team have established new committees focused on financial sustainability, school programs, and facility rental opportunities. Along with our newly elected officers, these volunteers are helping strengthen the foundation that will support TFT's mission for years to come.

While we're proud of how far we've come, we know there is still much work to do. **Growth creates opportunity, but it also brings new needs.** As more schools and students participate in our programs, the demand for scholarships continues to increase. Facilities and learning spaces require ongoing improvements, from new flooring and campus signage to expanded outdoor and educational equipment. And as we look to the future, we remain committed to strengthening our endowment and other long-term investments that will ensure Trees For Tomorrow can serve generations to come.

Whether it's investing in spaces, strengthening leadership, or expanding opportunities for students, every step forward is possible because of people who believe in our mission.

Thank you for helping us build what matters. **We are all grateful to be on this journey with you.**



ANNUAL REPORT OMISSIONS!

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of our donor, partner, and supporter listings covering the past year. If your name was omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly attributed, please accept our sincere apologies.

Chuck and Linda Cloninger
Tia and David Duppler
Doug & Katherine Fisher
Jim & Katie Gennrich
Paula Hammersley
Tobi and Mark Johannsen
Karl & Gail Johnson
Patricia Juday
Jean and Jay Kreiser
Paula O'Neal
Joyce V Owens
Christine Perry
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Craig & Mary Root

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Trees For Tomorrow's campus 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.



Executive Director Cheryl Brunzo's June wedding on the TFT grounds beautifully illustrates how creating welcoming spaces connects us to nature, each other, and the stories we carry forward.



from the Operations Manager
Mandy Gingerich



Operations Update

Building What Matters

When people think about Trees For Tomorrow, they often picture students exploring forests, families discovering nature together, or Road Scholar participants creating lifelong memories. Behind each of those experiences is a great deal of planning, coordination, and teamwork that ensures every program is safe, welcoming, and meaningful. This year, our staff continued to focus on building what matters—not only maintaining the spaces that serve today’s participants, but creating opportunities that will inspire future generations.

Our summer day camp season once again reminded us why our work is so important.

Throughout the summer, young learners spent their days exploring the outdoors, asking questions, making discoveries, and developing a deeper appreciation for Wisconsin’s natural resources. The smiles, curiosity, and excitement we witnessed each week were a testament to the lasting impact that hands-on environmental education can have on children. By introducing young learners to the outdoors at an early age, we are helping cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

Road Scholar also enjoyed another successful season as participants traveled from across the country to experience the Northwoods through expert-led field experiences by Trees For Tomorrow professional educators, engaging discussions, and meaningful connections with fellow lifelong learners. The positive feedback we received throughout the season reflected not only the quality of our educational programming, but also the hospitality, organization, and care provided by every member of the Trees For Tomorrow staff. It is always rewarding to see participants leave with a deeper appreciation for our natural world and a renewed enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

As another successful summer comes to a close, there is little time to slow down around Trees For Tomorrow. Summer may end, but at TFT there’s always another group



Summer campers immerse themselves in field study on a Northwoods bog boardwalk. Operational updates and campus enhancements ensure these hands-on, muddy-boots learning spaces remain safe, accessible, and ready for future generations to explore.

just around the corner. Just as one season wraps up, another is already pulling in!

We are excited to welcome schools back to campus for another SOLE season.

Each fall, our campus fills with the energy and excitement of students eager to step outside the classroom and into the forests, lakes, and learning spaces that make Trees For Tomorrow such a unique educational experience. We look forward to reconnecting with returning schools while also welcoming new schools that will experience TFT for the very first time.

Preparing for a SOLE season is truly a team effort.

Dorms are readied, classrooms are organized, schedules are finalized, meals are planned, and countless behind-the-scenes details come together so teachers can focus on teaching and students can focus on discovering the natural world. Every school that arrives on campus represents months of planning and collaboration across our operations, hospitality, maintenance, and education teams. Seeing those buses pull onto campus each fall is a reminder of why we do what we do—and we couldn’t be

more excited for another season of inspiring curiosity, fostering leadership, and creating lifelong connections to the outdoors.

One exciting addition that will further enhance these experiences is the Outdoor Learning Center.

This beautiful new gathering space expands opportunities for outdoor instruction, special events, and community engagement while providing students and visitors with another place to connect with nature. The Outdoor Learning Center represents more than a new facility—it reflects our commitment to creating spaces that foster learning, strengthen community connections, and ensure Trees For Tomorrow continues to serve learners of all ages for years to come.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building what matters. By investing in our facilities, supporting exceptional educational experiences, and creating welcoming spaces for learners of all ages, we continue laying the foundation for future generations to discover, appreciate, and responsibly manage the natural resources that surround us.

We’re Social! Follow, like and share us on your favorite social media sites





from the Education Manager
Jenny Sadak



Beyond the Classroom

How Outdoor Spaces Connect Students to the Natural World



Connecting students to the natural world is at the heart of our mission at Trees For Tomorrow (TFT). Outdoor learning spaces are essential to that goal, providing opportunities for students to engage directly with the environments they are studying. We strive to ensure that every group participating in our programs spends at least half of their time in direct contact with nature,

making the outdoors an extension of the classroom.

We are fortunate to partner with national, state, and local agencies and organizations that provide access to diverse field sites, including trail systems, wetlands, and active logging sites. These spaces help students experience natural and working landscapes firsthand while learning about sustainable land management and the value of public lands.

Outdoor spaces create hands-on learning opportunities that connect classroom concepts to real-world experiences. Rather than simply reading about ecosystems, forestry, or water resources, students can explore these topics where they occur naturally, making lessons more engaging and memorable.

The impact is often clear in students' reflections. Comments such as, "I've

never been to a bog before. That was really cool!" highlight the power of introducing young people to places they might never otherwise experience. These moments of discovery help foster curiosity, appreciation, and a lifelong connection to nature.

In our commitment to hands-on, nature-based education, TFT's John and Melissa Besse Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) is officially complete! This new space will enhance learning opportunities for students, educators, and community members while supporting our mission to connect people with nature and promote sustainability. In fact, the OLC is already featured in this upcoming school year's programming plans. Students will use the space to learn water science skills, tree identification, animal adaptations, orienteering, forest succession, and so much more.

This long-awaited addition will increase the time students spend immersed in the natural world, and we could not be more excited to provide these meaningful outdoor learning experiences.

A Unique Northwoods Setting for Your Next Gathering

Nestled among towering trees, the Trees For Tomorrow campus has always been a place where people gather to learn, connect, and create lasting memories. While thousands of students visit each year for environmental education programs, our campus also provides a peaceful, unique setting for organizations, families, and community groups looking to meet, celebrate, or reconnect away from everyday distractions.

TFT offers flexible spaces and full-service accommodations to fit events of all sizes:

Outdoor Learning Center (OLC): Our newest addition, this open-air woodland venue is a favorite for weddings, ceremonies, receptions, and workshops.

Classrooms & Dining Facilities: Functional, comfortable, well-equipped spaces for trainings, board meetings, and shared meals.

On-Campus Dormitories: Convenient overnight lodging that allows guests to meet, dine and stay all in one central location.

Every gathering hosted at TFT directly supports our mission of connecting people to nature. To learn more about facility rentals or to schedule a tour of our campus, contact Mandy Gingerich, Operations Manager at (715) 479-6456 ext. 2024.

BUILDING SPACES THAT INSPIRE:

John & Melissa Besse Outdoor Learning Center Opening Dedication

On July 25, during Forest Fest, Trees For Tomorrow proudly celebrated the dedication of the John & Melissa Besse Outdoor Learning Center, marking the completion of a project that will serve students, educators, and community members for years to come.

The open house and dedication brought together supporters, friends, and partners to recognize the vision, generosity, and collaboration that made this space possible.

We are especially grateful to the John and Melissa Besse Foundation, whose leadership gift earned the naming sponsorship and helped turn this dream into a reality.

Designed as a flexible outdoor gathering space, the John & Melissa Besse Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) is already enhancing TFT programs by providing a welcoming environment for environmental education, demonstrations, and group activities. The facility is also available for rental and can accommodate meetings,

community events, celebrations, and other gatherings.

More than a structure, the OLC represents the power of investing in places that bring people together. Thanks to the generosity of so many donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners, we now have a space where learning, connection, and memories will continue to grow.

Thank you to everyone who helped us build this inspiring new addition to campus.

JOHN & MELISSA BESSE OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

est. 2026

Where Learning Comes to Life Outside



Indoor gathering space ready for guests



Log-cutting ceremony



The Besse Foundation & Family



Board of Directors & Staff

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Flames and Forests: Understanding Fire's Role



Article by Jenny Sadak,
Education Manager

Growing up as the child of a forester with the US Forest Service, I was very familiar with Smokey Bear's slogan "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires." Part of my dad's job was to go out on fires across the country to help with suppression and control efforts. I was always really interested in that aspect of his job to the point where, as a young adult, I took wildland fire fighting classes and the physical fitness test to get my "red card" in hopes that I would one day go out on a fire too. Life took me in another direction, and I never did pursue working on fires, but I still find fire ecology really interesting and often times misunderstood by the public.

Fire as a natural ecological process

Now, as an environmental educator at TFT, I have a better understanding of the ecological role of fire, not to mention the cultural importance fire has played for centuries. I think agencies have done a better job helping the public understand this too over the years. It's why Smokey's slogan was changed to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."

Fire has long been a natural and essential part of Wisconsin's forest ecosystems, shaping landscapes, maintaining biodiversity, and supporting ecological processes. Historically, many Wisconsin forests experienced regular fires—ranging from nearly annual to every 20 years—driven by

lightning and Indigenous land stewardship. This "good fire" kept ecosystems balanced and healthy.

Prescribed, intentional fire can be used to promote regeneration of fire adapted tree species and plants, control invasives, improve nutrient cycling in the soil, reduce hazardous fuel, and create habitat diversity.

While fire is natural, unplanned wildfires can cause significant harm. In Wisconsin, most wildfires occur in spring (March–May) due to dry conditions and before the "greening" of the landscape, and again in fall (October–November) when grasses and leaves are dry.

Intense wildfire can harm an ecosystem by increasing soil erosion, killing native vegetation, reduce air quality, and threaten human safety and property.

Fire-Adapted Forests

Northern Wisconsin forests have evolved over thousands of years with regular, low-intensity fires that shaped their structure, species composition, and resilience. Fire maintains open canopies and fuel mosaics, allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor. This supports species like aspens and birches that need open conditions to germinate and grow.

Other key species in northern Wisconsin, such as jack pine, red pine, white pine, spruce, and certain oaks, have traits that help them survive and regenerate after fire.

Jack Pines have evolved to survive with fire with an important adaptation called serotiny, where cones remain closed for years or even decades, sealed with a resin that melts at temperatures above 122 degrees F. This heat is typically reached in crown fires, which open the cones and release seeds all at once onto the burned landscape. This timing ensures seeds land on a nutrient-rich, competition-free seed-bed created by the fire.



Overall, fire helps recycle nutrients through burning biomass and releasing locked nutrients like calcium, phosphorous, and nitrogen. Fire can also stimulate microbial activity in the soil and the ash from burning acts as a natural fertilizer boosting soil fertility.

Cultural Burning Practices

For centuries, Indigenous people along the shores of Lake Superior used fire, called "ishkode" in Ojibwe, to help manage the lands and forests. This ancient practice was passed down through generations of Anishinaabe people. This practice was used to clear brush, promote

fire-adapted plants (like blueberries!), improve grazing, and support game species such as bison and deer.

Fire has been misunderstood and disrespected in a lot of ways, and while it can be dangerous, it can also give life and create healing to the land in many ways.

Cultural burning has been suppressed for much of the 20th century due to fire suppression policies, but it is now being reintroduced in partnership with tribal nations and land managers. These burns are guided by Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and modern fire science to restore habitats and remove invasive species.

Suppression Era & Ecological Impacts

In the mid-to-late 1800s, large destructive fires were common, fueled by slash from extensive logging. Devastating WI wildfires such as the Peshtigo fire (1871), Marshfield fire (1887), and the Phillips fire (1914) emphasized the need for fire control. This led to decades of fire prevention and professional firefighting programs throughout Wisconsin and the United States.

Fire suppression and the loss of frequent fire on the landscape altered forest composition, reducing understory diversity, and a decline in early successional forests which reduced the habitat for species adapted to more open conditions. It also increased fuel accumulation which would later become significant in some regions (more so out west) and intense fire activity.

Fire Management in the Modern Northwoods

In modern Wisconsin forestry, prescribed fire, controlled burning, or “the good fire” — is a key tool for restoring and maintaining healthy forest ecosystems. It is the intentional, planned use of fire to achieve specific land management goals, replacing the long history of natural and Indigenous-managed fires that once shaped the state’s landscapes. Most prescribed burns occur in oak savannas, oak woodlands, pine barrens, and dry-mesic forests, which historically experienced fire every few years to decades.

The Wisconsin DNR and the Wisconsin

Prescribed Fire Council coordinate burns, ensuring they meet ecological goals and safety standards. Foresters can also advise landowners on how to conduct burns on private property. Always check your localized fire danger and burn restrictions before burning!

I’m sure you’ve also noticed the increase in smoky skies and poor air quality over the last few years due to the increase in wildfires in our region. Climate change is increasing the wildfire risk in the Great Lakes region and northern Wisconsin. Lower average snowpacks, warmer temperatures, longer periods of dry spells/

drought along with accumulation of fuel, are creating increased fire danger outside of our normal fire seasons.

Now that I’m older and work as an environmental science educator, I often discuss the role of fire in healthy ecosystems with program participants. Smokey Bear still evokes a sense of nostalgia for me, but I especially appreciate how the campaign evolved over time. The shift from “forest fire” to “wildfire” broadened its message beyond forests to include all natural landscapes, reflecting a more refined understanding of fire ecology and changing wildfire patterns.

Field Spotlight: Prescribed Fire Operations

Putting good fire on the ground takes meticulous planning, trained crews, and specialized equipment. Here is a look at what types of equipment wildland fire crews rely on to safely manage prescribed burns:

Nomex PPE & Leather Gear: Flame-resistant clothing, heavy leather gloves, and fire boots protect personnel from extreme radiant heat and embers.

Drip Torch: Dispenses a controlled fuel mix to ignite strip fires along pre-determined lines.

Hand Tools (Council Rakes, Pulaskis & Flappers): Cuts firebreaks down to bare mineral soil, clears duff, and smothers low flame along perimeters.

Backpack Water Pumps: Carries portable water for fast mop-up and knocking down small flare-ups on foot.

Engine & UTV Skid Units: Off-road platforms with water tanks and high-pressure hose reels for border wet-downs and rapid suppression support.

Two-Way Radios & Fire Shelters: Crucial for continuous operational communication across teams, paired with mandatory emergency safety equipment.



Photo courtesy of the WDNR

Your Gift. Their Future. Our Goal.

For more than 80 years, Trees For Tomorrow has connected students to the outdoors, inspired future natural resource professionals, and provided life-changing environmental education experiences.

This year, we're setting our most ambitious goal yet: \$250,000

Why such a big goal?

Because the need has never been greater. More schools are seeking environmental education experiences. More students need scholarship assistance. More facility improvements are needed to keep our campus welcoming, safe, and inspiring. And our commitment to long-term sustainability means continuing to grow the investments that will support Trees For Tomorrow for generations to come.

Every gift to the TFT4All Annual Fund helps make this possible.

Your support helps:

- Provide scholarships so cost is never a barrier to participation
- Maintain and improve campus facilities and learning spaces
- Update educational equipment and outdoor gear
- Support transportation solutions that expand access
- Strengthen TFT's future through strategic investments and endowment growth

But here's the exciting part: We're currently working with donors and partners to secure matching funds that will double the impact of your gift.

As you consider your year-end giving, we encourage you to think about ways to maximize your impact:

- Increase your annual gift to help meet this historic goal.
- Check whether your employer offers a

matching gift program.

- Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA.
- Recommend a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF).
- Explore planned giving opportunities that support TFT's future.

Every gift matters. Every dollar makes a difference. And every investment helps ensure that future generations have access to the same transformative experiences that have made Trees For Tomorrow special for decades.

Together, we can build what matters.

Watch your mailbox and email box this fall for more information about the TFT4All Annual Fund Campaign and opportunities to multiply your impact.



Article by Bill McCallum,
Maintenance Manager

One of the responsibilities I take most seriously at TFT is ensuring our staff and participants travel safely. Every off-campus adventure begins with reliable transportation we can trust.

The journey started with the generosity of several dedicated supporters whose donations provided the funding to begin our search. Finding the right fit wasn't as simple as picking the first option on the lot. We needed a vehicle dependable enough for thousands of miles across all seasons, which meant researching options, comparing specs, and working with the dealership to get every detail right.

More Than a Van: Investing in Safe Travels

In June, that effort paid off when we officially welcomed a "new-to-us" passenger van to campus.

Our vehicles play an important role in the TFT experience. They transport

students of all ages to the forests, wetlands, and lakes where hands-on learning come to life and participants discover the beauty of the Northwoods. Reliable transportation allows our educators to connect people with places they might never have the opportunity to explore.

While this van may not be the most visible addition to campus, it is an essential investment that quietly powers every field lesson, trail exploration, and Northwoods memory. I'm deeply grateful to our generous donors for making this possible, and proud to know this van will keep our community exploring safely for years to come.



Celebrating Community & Stewardship at Forest Fest

Forest Fest 2026 was a wonderful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together to celebrate the outdoors. We were thrilled to welcome approximately 600 participants to campus for a day filled with hands-on activities, educational demonstrations, and opportunities to connect with the people and organizations that make our Northwoods such a special place.

One of the highlights of the day was our Passport Program, where more than 100 children visited educational stations throughout campus, learning about forestry, wildlife, natural resources, conservation, and outdoor recreation. Watching children eagerly collect passport stamps while asking thoughtful questions and trying new activities was a wonderful reminder of why environmental education matters.

Forest Fest would not have been possible without the incredible exhibitors and demonstrators who generously shared their time, knowledge, and passion with our guests. From interactive displays to hands-on learning experiences, each organization played an important role in making the day educational, engaging, and memorable. Their enthusiasm helped create an event that truly reflected the spirit of Trees For Tomorrow.

On a personal note, one of my favorite parts of the day was watching my own son, Sage, experience Forest Fest through the eyes of a child. Like so many of the young participants, he eagerly explored each station, asked countless questions, and couldn't wait to tell me everything he had learned. Seeing his excitement and curiosity firsthand was a powerful reminder of the impact this event has on young learners. He went home not only with memories of a fun day but with a great-

er appreciation for the natural world around him.

As we reflect on another successful Forest Fest, we are incredibly grateful to our staff, volunteers, exhibitors, demonstrators, sponsors, and everyone who joined us. Together, we created more than just a community event—we created opportunities for discovery, inspired curiosity, and helped foster the next generation of environmental stewards.

Thank you to everyone who made Forest Fest 2026 such a tremendous success.



Sage taking on the match-light challenge for a spot in the Hall of Flame.



Article by **Mandy Gingerich**,
Operations Manager



Big machines, big impact! Up-close looks at the modern equipment shaping sustainable forestry at Forest Fest.

About us... founded in 1944 to advance northern Wisconsin's reforestation, Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) began with a clear purpose: ensure a sustainable future for our region's forests, wood supply, and local communities. Early on, TFT guided private landowners in sustainable forestry and distributed millions of seedlings through its landmark 2-for-1 planting program. As regional forests recovered, TFT turned its focus toward preparing future generations of conservation leaders.

Today, TFT reaches roughly 10,000 participants each year, primarily

K-12 students. Our accredited School Outdoor Learning Experiences (SOLE) program delivers hands-on, standards-aligned field science that builds critical thinking and practical outdoor skills. For many students, TFT offers transformative firsts—whether that is holding an animal ambassador, navigating a night hike without flashlights, or strapping on cross-country skis.

Over eight decades later, TFT continues to serve as an educational pillar, a cherished school tradition, and a trusted conservation resource. We take pride in our history and remain excited to see where we grow next.

Strengthening Our Roots, Guiding Our Future: New Leadership and Committees Shape TFT's Next Chapter

As Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) continues to grow, so does our commitment to thoughtful, long-term stewardship. Guided by our 24-member Board of Directors, TFT is taking proactive steps to ensure we continue serving students and families for generations to come through newly elected leadership and three dedicated forward-looking committees.

Meet the New Executive Committee

Elected this spring to lead TFT's financial stewardship, fundraising efforts, and sustainability initiatives, the Executive Committee brings valuable industry experience and passion to our mission:

Joe Huber (Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands) – President: Elected to a two-year term in May, Joe is a TFT alumnus and former Treasurer with longstanding ties to the organization.

"I believe in what Trees For Tomorrow is teaching and want to see the program continue to grow and succeed. To help the program do that, I felt it was a great opportunity to join the executive committee."

Tim Nordin (Billerud) – Vice President: A board member for three years who has actively shaped TFT's strategic planning.

"TFT's focus on sustainability and education overlaps with many of Billerud's core values. Serving on the Executive Committee allows me to help advance the mission of TFT while bringing a forest products industry perspective."

Steve Hipp (Leader Paper) – Treasurer: Stepping into an active financial leadership role after several years on the Board.

"The organization is inspiring, and the knowledge students gain at TFT will help them contribute in meaningful ways throughout their lives. If I can help TFT grow and make a greater impact, I walk away a more enriched person myself."

The Executive Committee also welcomes new members Jeff Carew (ProCon) & Paul Fliss (WEC Energy Group–We Energies): Jeff brings over three decades of Wisconsin paper industry experience, while Paul represents one of TFT's enduring corporate partners, continuing a rich legacy of community support.

Rounding out the Executive Committee are experienced members Don Nelson (Domtar Paper), Henry Schienebeck (Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association), Jim Hoppe (Packaging Corporation of America), and Rebekah Luedtke (Wisconsin County Forests Association), who continues to serve as Secretary.

New Committees Launched to Expand Access and Sustainability

To support our strategic goals and ensure the long-term sustainability of TFT, the Board of Directors and TFT's leadership team launched three new committees this summer:

Donor Engagement Committee: Focuses on cultivating meaningful relationships with supporters, identifying new opportunities for involvement, and demonstrating the direct impact of donor investments.

Transportation Committee: Addresses one of the largest barriers schools face when planning environmental education experiences. This team is identifying resources, partnerships, and strategies to make travel to TFT accessible for all students.

Planned Giving Committee: Works to build long-term support through estate gifts and beneficiary designations, ensuring future generations benefit from the transformative experiences that have defined TFT for decades.

Together, this dedicated leadership team and newly established committees lay a strong foundation to expand student opportunities, strengthen financial sus-

tainability, and carry Trees For Tomorrow confidently into the future.

Trees For Tomorrow's Board of Directors 2026-2027

- **President:** Joe Huber, Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands
- **Vice President:** Tim Nordin, Billerud
- **Treasurer:** Steve Hipp, Leader Paper
- **Secretary:** Rebekah Luedtke, Wisconsin County Forests Association
- Ahlstrom, Brad Mischler
- Applied Materials Solutions, Inc., Dean Athans
- Asplundh, Jake Roelse
- ATC, Andrew Orthober
- The Boldt Company, Tony Meeuwsen
- BPM Inc., Dan Hietpas
- Bulkley Dunton, Daniel Kalupa
- Domtar-Rothchild, Don Nelson
- Futurewood Corporation, Ben Hansen
- Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products, Tim Jadin,
- Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Henry Schienebeck
- Konz Wood Products, Tyler Karner
- Lignetics, Andrew Reinemann
- Louisiana-Pacific, Chris Weber
- MillTown Paper, Inc., Trent Duerr
- Packaging Corp of America, Jim Hoppe
- ProCon, Jeff Carew
- Procter & Gamble, Jessica Geurts
- Steigerwaldt Land Services, Josh Burling
- WEC Energy Group, Paul Fliss



Our Mission

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

Building Future Stewards:

Milestone Traditions & Expanding Student Access



For decades, Trees For Tomorrow has connected youth with the natural world through transformative, hands-on experiences. Whether celebrating milestone traditions or creating innovative pathways for smaller classrooms, TFT continues to foster lifelong friendships, professional mentorship, and a deep appreciation for sustainable natural resource management.

A 60-Year Legacy: Natural Resources Careers Exploration Week (NRCEW)

Sixty years of NRCEW is a testament to building quality, resilience, and purpose. Over six decades, thousands of students from across different states and backgrounds have come together in the Northwoods, united by a shared passion for the outdoors.

The lasting impact of NRCEW is seen across every part of the TFT community: Mentorship & Career Paths: Guest speakers—many of them alumni—return each year to guide participants, sharing the same encouragement and professional direction that once shaped their own careers.

Purpose & Growth: Chaperones and staff witness participants gain clarity and confidence as they explore emerging interests, ask inquisitive questions, and build lasting friendships beyond the classroom.

A Living Mission: Decades of alumni now serve as active stewards and advocates, embodying TFT's mission to promote sustainable natural resources management through immersive education.

2027 NRCEW Dates: June 13–18, 2027
(Registration opens October 1st)

How to Register & Contact: For application details, scholarship opportunities, or questions, contact Program Coordinator Phoebe Yetley a Phoebe@TreesForTomorrow.com or call (715) 479-6456 ext. 2022.

Expanding Access: Multi-High School Programs

Building on this spirit of connection, TFT's Multi-High School (Multi-HS) programs ensure that students from schools of all sizes have access to full overnight School Outdoor Learning Experiences (SOLE).

Recognizing that assembling an entire

class for a trip is not always feasible, the Multi-HS format allows teachers to bring groups as small as three high school students. TFT handles the curriculum, lodging, and logistics, enabling students to collaborate with peers from across Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest on real-world field investigations and teamwork challenges.

2026–2027 Focus: Hands-On Forestry

This upcoming school year, the Multi-HS series dives deep into Forestry. Students will step into the field to practice professional assessment techniques and develop comprehensive forest management plans that balance ecological, economic, and social considerations.

The learning extends well beyond forestry. Students leave with practical field skills, a greater appreciation for sustainable natural resource management, and valuable connections with peers from across the region. For many participants, the friendships and confidence they gain are just as meaningful as the knowledge they acquire.

Upcoming 2026–2027 Multi-HS Forestry Dates:

- December 2–5, 2026
- January 27–30, 2027
- April 18–21, 2027

By bridging schools and celebrating generational milestones, Trees For Tomorrow continues Building What Matters: Creating Spaces, Strengthening Leadership, and Expanding Access for Future Generations.

Interested in Registering Your School?

To reserve space for your students or learn more about course options and scholarship assistance, contact Operations Manager Mandy Gingerich at Mandy@treesfortomorrow.com or call (715) 479-6456 ext. 2024.



Exploring future natural resources careers straight from the pros like the WDNR.



Trees For Tomorrow®

Environmental Education Center

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Please send editorial comments
& suggestions to:
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(715) 479-6456

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.

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