

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



from the desk of

Cheryl Todea
Executive Director



BE BOLD

As you may know, I have spent some of my teenage years and all of my adult life at Trees For Tomorrow — as a student, education intern, educator, interim director, operations manager, and now executive director. If I were to write a book about my 20+ years at Trees For Tomorrow, I would be at the beginning of Chapter 6 right now and it would be titled “Be Bold.”

This newest chapter would be about my time as the Executive Director of Trees For Tomorrow that began on March 1, 2021 and my commitment to be a brave and courageous leader, to strengthen relationships with our donors, partners, and community members, and to continue to focus everything we do on empowering even more people to make informed choices about the sustainable use of natural resources.

Thankfully throughout some of my previous roles at Trees For Tomorrow, I have gotten to know many of our supporters, board

members, friends, alumni, and partners with whom I will be working with even closer during this chapter. I am especially excited to explore the diverse commitment that our supporters give - volunteering, participating in programs, membership, sponsoring a school, donating gifts of stock, gifting furniture for our campus dorms, spreading the word to others, inviting family and friends to participate in programs with you, shopping in our on-site gift shop, purchasing tree seedlings, and so much more!

As Trees For Tomorrow comes out of one of the most financially challenging years in its 77 year history, these relationships are more important now than ever and are the key to meeting Trees For Tomorrow’s mission of promoting natural resources management through transformative educational experiences for all ages.

So, if you see my name on your caller ID or in your inbox, please know it is me reaching out to learn more about you, to remind you of the impact you have made, and to talk more about how we can work together to ensure Trees For Tomorrow survives another 77 years! And if you don’t see my name show up soon, hopefully I will see your name on my caller ID or in my inbox. Let’s Be Bold together! 🌲



Volume 8, Issue 2, Fall 2021

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

by Vern Gentele TFT Educator

The Wheels on the Bus Go Round & Round



Literally, the word bus comes from the Latin word omnibus, which means “for all.”

When school groups visit Trees For Tomorrow they typically arrive in some sort of a bus. We have seen everything from vans to motorcoaches, and even party buses bringing students to our campus. Have you ever wondered what it takes to be able to drive one of these big yellow monsters? It’s not as intimidating as you may think. As full-time education staff at Trees For Tomorrow we are required to be licensed to drive these buses to transport our groups to off-campus field sites. Needing to do this safely and efficiently makes the bus our best option.

Beginning the process of obtaining a commercial driver’s license (CDL) requires sufficient time reading and studying. Fortunately the Department of Transportation provides a regulations manual to anyone interested. When the candidate feels they are ready, there’s a

(continued on page 6)



On Campus

from the desk of

Mandy Gingerich
Operations Manager



Ringing in 2021 brought much optimism in finally saying goodbye to 2020. While we continued to face the same disappointment we endured in 2020, we all remained positive

that these feelings would not last for long, and we were right. Throughout the late winter and spring we safely provided programming for 25 groups on campus including outreach programs, facility use rental, day groups, and even a few overnight school groups. Things were buzzing again on campus, and we could not have been happier.

With things not being as busy as usual, staff embraced the opportunity to pivot and try some new programming. Our education staff put their heads together and worked hard to come up with several new programs to pilot. We are encouraged with the interest in our Sustainable Living Institute, Nature Adventures, and Custom Adventures programs! As the weather got warmer, we kicked off our in-person summer programming with a bang! All 4 series that we ran drew an audience every week! We continue to see growing interest in our KinderWild Camp program which filtered into the success of our summer program, JR SEEK. It became so popular we developed a waiting list each week for the first time!

We also welcomed back two week-long sessions this summer, Careers Week and Wisconsin Master Naturalist. We also partnered with the USFS in hosting their Cream City Conservation Crew who come up from the Milwaukee area and did work in our national forests. Cream City provided Trees For Tomorrow with 3 full workdays cleaning up our nature trail and helping remove invasive species.

Our maintenance department has been busy making updates to campus! This spring they worked with the USFS on hazardous tree removal throughout campus; we have a brand-new ADA compliant ramp just outside of Juday Hall; and a new bubbler was installed in the education building which has saved almost 400 plastic water bottles using our water bottle filling station. The July storms hit our campus hard so we still have hazardous trees to remove from the trail but are working with our community partners to ensure we are providing a safe trail for our visitors.

As summer ends, we will miss the warmth it provides but welcome fall with a large embrace as it means once again our campus will be filled with students learning, laughing, and unplugging from technology that seems to hold us all hostage. A time to reset and provide balance in our lives as our students will receive a transformative experience that will last a life time.

Scan this code with your mobile device to quickly access the latest program schedule or make a donation.



Create Your Own Adventure



Nature Adventures



Careers Exploration Week



WI Master Naturalist



Summer Programs

FareHarbor- A New Online Registration System Comes to TFT

Earlier this year, Trees For Tomorrow switched to a new online booking software called FareHarbor. We're excited about the opportunities this allows both participants and staff during the program registration process. As a non-profit, staff hours are always precious, and one of the best things about FareHarbor is that it has allowed us to combine several pieces of the registration process into one easy experience.

FareHarbor is an online booking system that gives participants the freedom to register and pay for any of our programs 24/7. Once registered, they receive an automatic confirmation email (with content we create) with all the relevant information needed to adequately prepare for their program. This also gives the customer confidence that they have been accepted into the program.

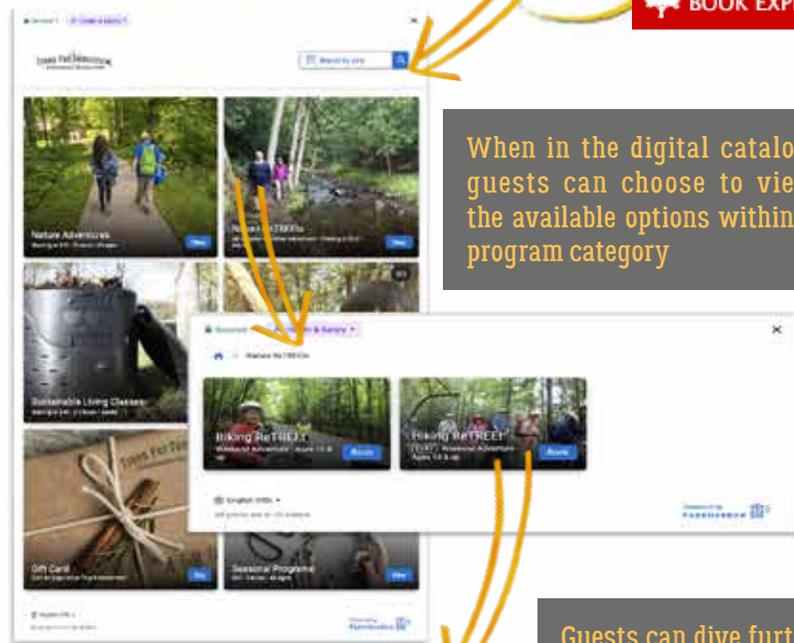
From a staff perspective, FareHarbor really streamlines the check-in process. Important customer information such as contact and health details are captured in a single manifest that can also be used to track attendance. Overall, participants have told us that the new software is easy and intuitive. TFT staff are also finding that managing program registration is now a breeze, and are excited to use this new tool as a way to grow our programs!

Benefits of FareHarbor

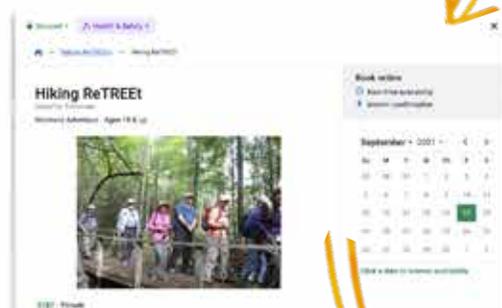
- Less phone registrations and less paperwork to file
- Easier for participants to navigate to specific program details
- TFT controls all content and can make changes at any time that are effective immediately through an intuitive interface
- Automatic calendar of events seamlessly integrated into TFT's website
- Participants have the option to pay with cash or check prior to or at the event
- Automatic confirmation emails remind participant of date, time, activity level, and what to bring for program
- Improves communication between both staff and with participants 🌲



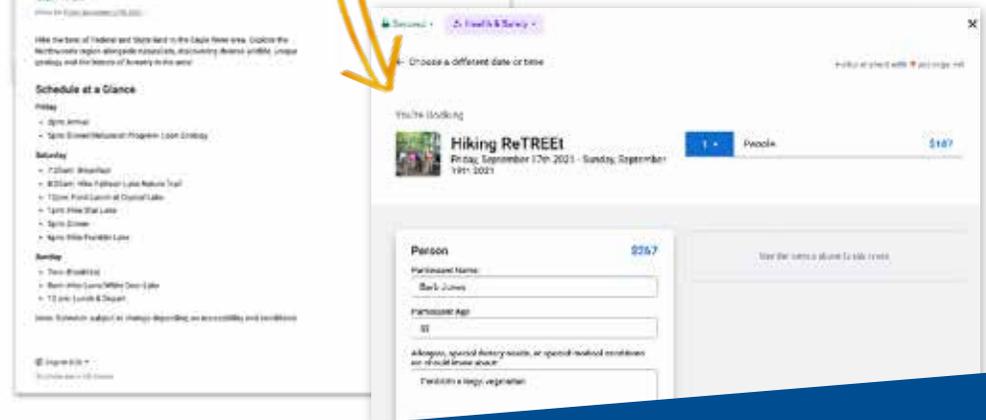
Guests can easily navigate to a digital catalog of program options with the click of a button from any webpage.



When in the digital catalog, guests can choose to view the available options within a program category



Guests can dive further into information about a specific program including schedule, cost, and description. Once a program is selected, the guest is guided through an online self-registration and payment process.



In their natural form, rivers are not the most ideal mode of transportation.

Working Rivers

By Amy Ester

TFT Environmental Science Educator

Wisconsin's logging history is a story of back-breaking labor, ingenuity, and the eventual depletion of forest resources. The historic logging practices of the past not only inspired the formation of Trees for Tomorrow itself, but also continue to provide opportunities for ecological restoration today.

The towering old growth stands of pines were too valuable for loggers of the past to pass by, and yet these trees came with challenging obstacles. Namely, the transportation of these vast supplies of timber. It was soon discovered that without a large network of roads or railways, a different mode of transportation would be necessary. An unlikely solution came onto the scene. Soon, Wisconsin's rivers became logging highways. These networks of energy-rich water propelled and fueled the logging industry, but unfortunately, this led to the river's own impairment.

In their natural form, rivers are not the most ideal mode of transportation. They are sinuous (meandering), they have unpredictable flow rates, and their depth and debris can greatly fluctuate. This meant that logging in the 19th century wasn't as simple as cutting down a tree and depositing it in a nearby river. It took time, energy, and forethought to execute this plan.

Step 1. The first step in the process was cutting logs. Sawyers would fell trees,

preferably close to the riverbank, in the winter. The logs were then transported on skid trails, which are simply iced pathways, directly to the river.

Step 2. The next step was storing the logs. The logs were either stacked in large piles on the riverbank, or stored directly on the ice of dammed rivers, ready for the spring melt.

Step 3. A rollway was the path from the stacked logs on the riverbank to the river. The logs were either blasted or pushed down these rollways to the water, where they began to float downstream.

Step 4. Often, rivers were manipulated to straighten, deepen, and widen certain areas for the ease of log passage. Even then, the floating logs would sometimes jam. These jams were massive, and dangerous. Dynamite was the primary tool used to free these jams.

Step 5. Dams were often used to create a reservoir for log storage. Then, the dams were opened or destroyed to increase flow rates during a log drive. The release of water would create increased rivers flows for days, weeks, or even a month.

Each of the above 5 steps for river-driven logging had an impact on riparian and riverine ecosystems.

River "Cleaning"

Perhaps the most obvious harmful practice was the direct manipulation of natural river features. When crews of workers prepared a river for a log drive, they would clear the river of

large boulders, submerged trees and overhanging trees. They also manipulated the streambed to create uniform flow depths (natural rivers are deep around the outside of meanders and shallow along the inside). In present day, river ecologists and fisheries biologists have discovered the value of boulders, submerged and overhanging trees (Large Woody Debris), and variable river depths. These components provide essential habitat for many fish species, and the removal of this habitat impacts fish as well as other aquatic and terrestrial organisms within the food chain.

Dams

Another impact to rivers was logging dams. These dams were used to create artificial floods which propelled large quantities of logs downstream. Floods of all sizes are natural and necessary for a healthy river system. A flooding river brings not only water downstream but also Large Woody Debris and sediment. While floods erode banks in some places and deposit sediment in other places, over time, these processes balance each other out and ultimately determine the natural width and depth of the river. The natural width and depth of a river is perfectly built to accommodate variable flow rates. Natural channels are narrow and deep enough that fish can thrive during summer low flows, while also providing floodplains that store flood flows. Logging dams produced large flood flows more frequently than they would naturally occur. This caused river channels to destabilize, becoming wider and shallower as banks eroded. In over-

widened rivers, low flows are spread too thin, warming the waters and decreasing habitat availability for aquatic species.



Figure 1. Logging Dam in Wisconsin
(Source: USFS National Stream and Aquatic Ecology Center)

Rollways and Harvest

Log rollways and riparian (near riverbank) zone harvests have also contributed to modern day stream impairment. Rollways created large, exposed riverbanks, increasing sediment deposits to river systems. While many rollways have fully recovered, there are some whose scars are clearly visible, and still contribute large amounts of sediment to river systems. Additionally, harvesting trees in riparian zones caused banks to erode, decreased shade, and reduced the quantity of future Large Woody Debris to rivers. Increased input of sediment in rivers can create wide and shallow channels, as well as disrupt spawning habitat for certain species such as trout.



Figure 2. Logging Rollway Along a River
(Source: USFS National Stream and Aquatic Ecology Center)

These disruptions all lead to similar conclusions. Rivers affected by log drives are often wide and shallow, with limited Large Woody Debris, boulders, and river complexity, with increased sediment supplies. All these impairments lead to decreased habitat for aquatic species. Anglers and ecologists alike hope to see diverse and complex river systems with healthy fish populations.

Logging Today

Modern day logging is significantly different from the past. Not only do modern logging companies reforest logged areas, but they also manage their land and care for the entire forest ecosystem. They will often replant seedlings after harvest, protect endangered species, and leave river and riparian areas untouched. Sustainable forestry is common practice in Wisconsin. These measures are taken to care for the land as well as to comply with modern regulations. Road infrastructure has allowed for more efficient transportation, and the ability to pick and choose ideal logging sites.



Figure 3. An Example of Large Woody Debris in a Stream
(Source: Green Mountain National Forest)

While these are great strides that have been made for the future of our forest and water resources, many of Wisconsin's rivers are still impaired from historic practices. Organizations and government agencies such as Trout Unlimited, DNR,

and USFS have made river restoration a priority. Some common restoration practices include sediment traps to remove excess sediment in the river, large woody debris placement, stream channel restoration, and dam removals. These practices can be complicated and costly; however, partnerships and grants make it all possible. There's a bright future for Wisconsin's rivers and fisheries.



Melvin "Mully" Taylor, TFT executive director for 31 years, surveys a Norway pine plantation circa 1944.

A special thanks to Dale Higgins, USFS Hydrologist, for his research, insight, and writings concerning this topic.

Reference:

Higgins, D., 2006. *Effects of Historical Logging on Rivers in the Lake States*. Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.



test to take. The new candidate goes to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office to take a variety of computerized tests that verify knowledge of such things as traffic signs, traffic situations, allowed cargo, drop off procedures, etc. A candidate that successfully passes these tests are issued their learner's permit.

During the next phase, the candidate will practice driving the bus without passengers to gain experience handling the vehicle like driving forward, backing up (this is the intimidating part to many) and letting "passengers" disembark. There are many parts of a bus that must work properly for the safety of all so during this time, the candidate will also study and practice going over a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle. The engine compartment is checked as well as the lights, horn, tires, seats, and mirrors, just to mention a few.

When the candidate feels confident in their knowledge and handling of the bus they will schedule a "road test" with a professional examiner who will check for knowledge and comfort level of handling such a big responsibility. If the road test is passed, the candidate can now pay the fee to get their official Class B CDL with various endorsements that means they are one of the few, the proud, a bus driver.

Holding a CDL means also having a current Fed Med card, which ensures the licensee is healthy enough to safely drive a busload of people around. This card must be renewed every two years. Though it may look like a lot of work, be able to drive a bus is a very rewarding experience and very much appreciated by our students. 🌲

Safely Serving Our Community

Despite being open for programs throughout most of the pandemic, we officially opened our doors to the public on June 14th! There was an emotion of excitement in the air on that morning that's for sure! This means we can better answer questions, direct visitors to our trails, provide a restroom break, and open the gift shop! We were also able to welcome volunteers back and that has proven to be a great decision! While we are not requiring face coverings in our buildings at the time of this writing, they are available at the front door, there is a new hands-free water bottle filler, hand sanitizer stations are permanently stationed throughout all the buildings, and we continue to socially distance and spend as much time outdoors as possible! As always, visitors continue to be welcomed to walk our trails, explore campus, use the Nature Playscape, and participate in one of our many scheduled programs. Thank you for your patience as your safety is always our priority! We look forward to seeing you on our campus soon! 🌲



Ben Hansen, Hayward, Wisconsin

What program did you participate in?

Natural Resources Careers Exploration Week in 2008 as a high schooler from Auburndale High School.

What did you learn during your visit at Trees For Tomorrow?

My visit during the careers workshop was my first introduction to forestry.

How did Trees For Tomorrow impact your life?

Living in a small farm community, my exposure to environmental careers was limited. The careers workshop at Trees for Tomorrow was a great opportunity to learn about natural resource professions.

What is your fondest memory of your visit to Trees For Tomorrow?

When I signed up for the careers workshop, I originally chose to spend a day with a taxidermist. However, that option wasn't available when I arrived and instead I ended up going on a tour of Michigan Tech to explore forestry careers. Forestry was originally not an interest to me at the time but that day was my introduction to forestry and I ultimately went down that road after my first year of college.

Did Trees For Tomorrow inspire your career choice? If so, please explain.

In high school, my interest was in natural resources. Trees for Tomorrow gave me the opportunity to solidify my decision to pursue a natural resources career.

What is your occupation (or former occupation, if retired)?

Industrial Forester and Land Manager at Futurewood Corp. 🌲

Your...
Our...
Their... **IMPACT.**



Did you know for every \$1 donated to Trees For Tomorrow a student will spend 15 more minutes outside learning about the science of nature with us? What an impact that is!! No matter if it is during a global pandemic or not, we could not meet our mission without the support of our members, donors, and corporate supporters. The impact of our donors was especially realized during our 2021 Spring Fundraiser, which included our

19th Annual Golf Outing. Collectively our sponsors, donors and 68 golfers raised over \$25,000 to support getting more students immersed in nature at Trees For Tomorrow. That \$25,000 supports 75 students for more than 3 days or 225 students for one full day at Trees For Tomorrow. What a collective impact that is!!! If you missed out on supporting the 2021 spring fundraiser, don't worry it's not too late! We are gearing up for our fall fundraiser so we can continue

to provide transformative educational experiences through 2022 and beyond. If you would rather spread out your gift to Trees For Tomorrow throughout the year you can now convert your membership or donation to a recurring monthly gift to Trees For Tomorrow. Visit TreesForTomorrow.com and click "Donate Now" to schedule your gift. While all gifts make an impact, scheduling a recurring gift helps in our budget planning! 🌲

**thank you
for your
awesomeness**

A big thanks to our community who all together helped us raise almost \$25,000 at the Trees For Tomorrow 19th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser on June 4th at the Eagle River Golf Course! All proceeds enable students to learn about sustaining the world we live in through the science of nature!

Volunteers

- Robin Ginner
- Jacob Harbath
- Matthew Harbath
- Megan Harbath
- Nancy Harbath
- Randy Harbath
- Pat Henning
- Luke Ingham
- Sue Ingham
- Dave Klinner
- Dan Lynch
- Norman Nass
- Bill O'Brion
- Cheryl Olejniczak
- Jen Reinke
- Cindy Thompson
- Curt Welnetz



golf hole sponsors

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- DRS Forestry
- Financial Planning & Information Services
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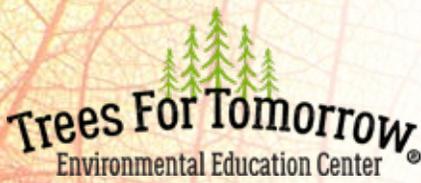


breakfast & lunch sponsors



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Trees For Tomorrow's campus includes National Forest Property under permit from the USDA Forest Service.

Please send editorial comments & suggestions to:
TreeTips@TreesForTomorrow.com
(715) 479-6456

YES! I Want to Support Trees For Tomorrow

As a private, nonprofit natural resources specialty school, we rely on donations from people like you to support our educational efforts. Please consider making a financial contribution.

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!

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- Other \$ _____

Every \$1 donated is 15 more minutes a student explores the science of nature at Trees For Tomorrow!



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to Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) for printing this newsletter. Thank you!

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