

WORLD FORESTRY CENTER  
MAGAZINE



WORLD  
FORESTRY  
CENTER

2025 WINTER ISSUE

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Growing Together: A Year-End Reflection



*Joseph A. Furia*

*Executive Director,  
World Forestry Center*

As we close the year, I'm excited to share new developments at World Forestry Center and invite you to join us for the experiences and events ahead. Everything we do is focused on expanding our community and deepening our impact.

### ROOTED

For nearly 60 years, World Forestry Center has put down deep, steady roots—roots nourished by people like you. Your belief in our mission has helped us nurture both the forests we depend on and the communities that they sustain. We are grateful for your partnership.

### RESILIENT

This year marked a period of significant growth and renewal on our campus and in our Discovery Museum. We doubled museum visitation, set an all-time single-day attendance record, presented inventive art exhibitions, launched new performance art initiatives, and brought our collaborative Forest Pubs off-campus to new audiences every month, at an often sold-out Mission Theater. Most notably, we opened our first new permanent museum exhibit in 20 years—an immersive theater experience exploring wildfire, climate, and forests. We also wrapped up programming that brought together many non-forestry sectors in our first wildfire Fellowship cohort and deepened our engagement of a single non-forestry sector by organizing the first national workshop of public health leaders to discuss the public health impacts of catastrophic wildfire smoke. Through creative collaborations, we are welcoming new voices and inspiring all generations to join the sustainable forestry conversation. And we are only getting started.

### RISING

In 2026, we celebrate our 60th Anniversary—a moment that invites reflection and sparks transformation. We will expand our arts initiative with forest sound walks and musical performances, host thought-provoking art exhibitions and Forest Pubs, and advance major updates to the Discovery Museum and our campus that connect people to the living story of forests. The work we do this year lays the foundation for even greater impact in the decades ahead.

This giving season, I invite you to make a year-end gift to help sustain and grow this work. Together, we can ensure our forests—and the communities they support—remain rooted, resilient, and rising for generations to come. Thank you for being an important partner.

With appreciation,

Joseph A. Furia  
Executive Director



As the year draws to a close, let's come together to make a lasting impact on our forests and society.

Support World Forestry Center by donating at: [worldforestry.org/donate-now](https://worldforestry.org/donate-now)

Tax ID: 93-6034757

## New Permanent Exhibition Transforms Theater

This fall we began a museum transformation by renovating the theater to house an immersive film experience.

The three-part video installation uses powerful storytelling to highlight forest management as a vital climate solution and a shared social priority, and it is already reshaping how visitors understand the connection between climate change, catastrophic wildfire, and forest management.

“This new installation is unlike anything we’ve done before,” said Tim Hecox, Director of Experience and Programs. “It helps people see how deeply forests are connected to today’s climate and wildfire challenges—and how collective action is still possible.”

Learn more at [worldforestry.org/wildfire-climate-forests](http://worldforestry.org/wildfire-climate-forests).

**This project was made possible with funding from:**

TRAVEL  
**PORTLAND**

William D. Hagenstein



## World Forestry Center Hosts First National Wildfire Smoke and Public Health Workshop

In November, World Forestry Center convened public health experts, forestry professionals, and policy leaders from across the country for a two-day national workshop focused on one of today’s most urgent and under-recognized public health threats: wildfire smoke. Together, participants examined the root causes and cascading impacts of smoke, explored the links between forest management and community health, and built a shared understanding of what is at stake—and what must change—to enable meaningful, long-term solutions.

The gathering fostered new relationships and laid the foundation for a sustained cross-sector network committed to elevating wildfire smoke as a national priority. Representatives from the American Lung Association, Fire Adapted Learning Network, MegaFire Action, National Tribal Air Association, Oregon Health Authority, Stanford Medicine, The Nature Conservancy, and other leading organizations helped shape a roadmap that will guide continued collaboration and inform broader strategy development in 2026.

Learn more at [worldforestry.org/wfph-workshop](http://worldforestry.org/wfph-workshop).



**Sponsored by:**  **M.J. Murdock**  
CHARITABLE TRUST

## FEATURED ART ON CAMPUS

### *Experimental Music: Partnering with Third Angle New Music*

In October, we partnered with Portland's beloved experimental music commissioners, Third Angle New Music, to celebrate their 40th anniversary and co-curate forest-themed performances. Over two nights in Miller Hall, audiences experienced music inspired by the Pacific Northwest forests with poetry by 2022 Oregon Poet Laureate Kim Stafford—marking a first for us in presenting an arts partnership showcasing experimental music.

The performance featured a string quartet and clarinet performing works that captured the region's forested landscapes and spirit. Stafford's poetry wove through the compositions, creating a meditative dialogue between words and music.

Stay tuned! May 15th, 2026, we will be closing Third Angle's 40th anniversary season as we celebrate our own 60th anniversary. Join us for a world-premiere wildfire oratorio created in partnership with Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir, Third Angle, and yours truly, World Forestry Center.



#### *Start Your Sound Walk Journey*

World Forestry Center's first two Forest Sound Walks are ready for you to explore:

##### **Columbia River Gorge, Oregon**

**Trail:** Multnomah Falls / Wiesendanger Falls

**Artist:** Wayne Grim

**Length:** 2.6 miles, approx. 2 hours of music

##### **Portland, Oregon**

**Trail:** Forest Park – Witch's Castle

**Artists:** Bora Yoon & Third Angle New Music

**Length:** 0.9 mile, approx. 40 minutes of music

#### *Experience the Forest Like Never Before*

Forest Sound Walks is a new, free experimental music series that invites you to experience local forests in an entirely new way. Collaborating with contemporary musicians and sound ecologists, we have created original site-specific compositions inspired by Oregon's trails.

"These place-based walks give us permission to rethink how we move through and relate to forests." - Stephanie Stewart Bailey, Experience Developer

Each piece comes with a downloadable map, a forester's introduction, and an indigenous perspective, offering insight into the landscape's ecology, history, and stewardship.

Hikers can listen while exploring the trail, turning an ordinary walk into an immersive, meditative experience. The series invites listeners to slow down, tune in, and discover the subtle rhythms of the forest. For those unable to visit the trails in person, each composition can also be enjoyed anywhere as a calming, restorative sound bath. More to come in 2026! To download available soundwalks, visit [worldforestry.org/forest-soundwalks](http://worldforestry.org/forest-soundwalks).

## *Innovation Takes Center Stage Spring 2026*

Our next featured art exhibition, *Forest Hope Through Innovation*, opens March 1, 2026. This interdisciplinary collection showcases how creativity, research, art, and community action are shaping a sustainable future for forests. The exhibition highlights emerging forest-based technologies, design, and artist–scientist collaborations, featuring the work of 12 innovators. By bringing behind-the-scenes research into a public gallery, the show acts as a living laboratory that invites visitors to engage, inquire, and imagine solutions.

This exhibition reflects our commitment to fostering curiosity, inspiring climate hope, and exploring new ways for communities to support resilient forests. Learn more at [worldforestry.org/hopethroughinnovation](http://worldforestry.org/hopethroughinnovation).



## *Sasquatch Exhibition Extended Through January 31*

There's still time to explore *Sasquatch: Ancestral Guardians*, highlighting seven Indigenous artists and their longstanding relationship with these forest protectors.

You can also catch the Sasquatch art exhibit promotional film playing in the Hollywood Theatre miniplex at Portland International Airport—a perfect way to preview the exhibition or enjoy it on the go. Learn more at [worldforestry.org/sasquatch](http://worldforestry.org/sasquatch).

## *Exciting Membership Updates Coming in 2026!*

Starting January 2026, we are introducing new membership options designed to help you connect more deeply with forests and World Forestry Center. In addition to current family memberships, we are adding individual and dual memberships. To celebrate our 60th anniversary, we'll also be offering special membership promotions throughout the year.

Corporate membership is getting a refresh too! Companies can enjoy expanded benefits, including networking opportunities, brand visibility, event rental discounts, and employee engagement options.

We're also updating our website to make joining and renewing easier than ever. Visit [worldforestry.org/membership](http://worldforestry.org/membership) beginning January 2026 to learn more and select the membership that's right for you. *A membership to World Forestry Center makes a tree-mendous gift!*



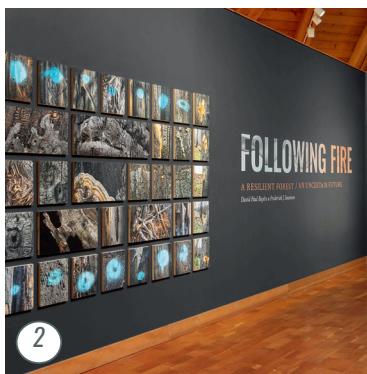
## *Membership Benefits Include:*

- Free admission to the Discovery Museum
- Discounts at the Forest Store
- Early access to programs, including Forest Pubs
- A monthly newsletter with upcoming events and updates
- Invitations to special events

## 2025: A YEAR IN REVIEW



As the year comes to an end, we reflect on some additional highlights from 2025.



1. February was the annual Portland Timber's Blessing of the Victory Log, sponsored by Hampton Lumber.
2. *Following Fire* exhibition highlighted the aftermath of the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire.
3. Discovery Museum Free Day Series, sponsored by Ben B. Cheney Foundation, drove record-breaking attendance.
4. We went on the road with a series of regional "State of World Forestry Center" events.
5. Monthly Forest Pubs at McMenamins Mission Theater explored the intersection of forests and culture.
6. Celebrating 24 years, World Forestry Center's signature CANOPY Conference convened global investors, land stewards, and innovators.
7. In May, we honored legacy leaders with a special event.
8. We launched ForestFest, an annual summer celebration.
9. Our Fellowship Program on wildfire concluded with a final in-person workshop.



# Welcoming the New Faces of World Forestry Center

Our team is growing and we were thrilled to welcome several new members this year. Together, they bring fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, and a shared commitment to strengthening our team and amplifying our impact on and off campus.

Get to know them below and visit our website to read their full bios and learn more about the work they're leading at [worldforestry.org](http://worldforestry.org).



**Al Estep**  
Lead Facilities Technician

Al, from Lubbock, Texas, brings a strong commitment to forest stewardship. Previously with the City of Wimberley's parks department in Texas, she gained experience in tree care, trail work, landscaping, and park operations. She values contributing to education, healthy forests, and resilient communities.



**Janice Messervier**  
Finance Manager

Janice moved from Philadelphia to Portland in 1998 and discovered her passion for our forests through hiking and climbing. Before joining the team full time, she worked at the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. She connects deeply to the organization's mission and the supportive staff culture.



**Jay Miller**  
Facilities Technician

Jay grew up in Michigan and moved to Portland in 2008. He recently joined the team, and enjoys the campus, friendly community, and learning new skills while supporting daily operations. Skilled in hands-on problem-solving, he previously worked for Meals on Wheels maintaining facilities and delivering meals statewide.



**Maya Puggarana**  
Programs Associate

A native of Portland, Maya develops programming to help audiences understand forest management and climate resilience. She holds a master's in International Development from Sciences Po Paris and previously worked on a REDD+ project in Mozambique. She also serves on Portland's Sustainability and Climate Commission.



**Jessica Schantz**  
Event Coordinator

Jessica joined the team in 2024, guiding clients and coordinating campus events. She oversees weddings, event operations, and catering partnerships. A Portland State graduate, she combines her communications background and hospitality experience to manage and showcase the organization's venues.

## Meet Our New Board of Directors Members



**Sean O'Hollaren**

Sean is a nationally respected leader with over three decades of experience in policy, regulatory, and public-impact roles. He currently works at NetJets and has held senior positions at Nike, Albemarle, and U.S. transportation agencies, shaping aviation security, government affairs, and strategic public engagement at the national level.



**JF Thye**

JF is a leader in sustainable land management, conservation finance, and community impact. He advances regenerative agriculture, watershed restoration, and biodiversity protection at Alder Point Capital and serves on boards including The Nature Conservancy, supporting forest health, water quality, and rural economic resilience.



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**CELEBRATING  
60**

WORLD FORESTRY CENTER

*Save the Date!*

**Key 2026 60th Anniversary Dates:**

**April 13**  
Forest Pub Celebrating 60 Years of World  
Forestry Center

**May 14**  
Legacy Leaders Dinner

**July 18**  
Forest Families Picnic with Forest Fest

**November 14**  
World Forestry Center's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

## Support World Forestry Center!

Your tax-deductible donation helps us connect people and forests through innovative programs, community partnerships, and captivating art and science exhibits. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our mission is to create and inspire champions of sustainable forestry. Thank you for being a part of this vital work by donating at [worldforestry.org/donate-now](http://worldforestry.org/donate-now).

