

Teacher Tours Feedback from NAUFRP

Summary of responses received to request for information.

Compiled by Andrew Storer, storer@mtu.edu, NAUFRP Education Chair

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Request to NAUFRP for feedback regarding Teacher Tours:

On behalf of one of their members, Lee Ann Fisch of the Florida Forestry Association, is hoping to find out if other states across the U.S. do tours for teachers similar to Florida's Forestry Teachers' Tour. The Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour is an annual event that brings together teachers from across the state to see firsthand how forestry works in Florida. This four-day event allows participating teachers to experience all aspects of forestry practices from the planting and growing processes to the mills and end products.

If your state has a similar program, please let Lee Ann (cc'd on this email) know. Additionally please let her know how long the tour is (such as an afternoon, a day or more), and provide the contact information for someone in charge of the tour, if possible.

Responses and sources organized alphabetically by state:

California

We have done this at Berkeley in the past from time to time, but more often in recent years for new administrators (deans, AES directors, etc) who didn't have forestry backgrounds.

J. Keith Gilliss
Dean Emeritus & Professor Emeritus of Forest Economics
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Florida

From request above:

The Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour is an annual event that brings together teachers from across the state to see firsthand how forestry works in Florida. This four-day event allows participating teachers to experience all aspects of forestry practices from the planting and growing processes to the mills and end products.

Lee Ann Fisch <leeann@flforestry.org>
Florida Forestry Association

Idaho

We do an annual teachers tour through the Idaho Forest Products
Commission: <https://idahoforests.org/content-item/sustainable-forestry-tour/>

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Louisiana

The Louisiana Forestry Association has held an annual Teachers tour (<https://www.laforestry.com/lfa-teachers-tour>) for many years. Although it was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19-related issues, they hope to resume in 2021. AllenR.

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Michigan

The Michigan DNR hosts week long Academy of Natural Resources (ANR) programs in both lower and upper Michigan. The Academy of Natural Resources offers educators the opportunity to learn about Michigan's diverse natural resources, discover current trends in their management, and experience activities that bring knowledge to the classroom. These week-long programs at two locations that qualify for State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) Credits.
<https://tinyurl.com/sv37t7u>

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Oregon

I don't know if Oregon State still does a teachers' tour but they did in the late 70s and early 80s, run by Walt Hopkins, a former industry forester/bull-of-the-woods kind of guy. As a new graduate student from back-East, I was included in that year's group to help me better understand Western forestry. Among

other places, we toured Weyerhaeuser's Mt. Saint Helens Tree Farm in Washington. Darius Adams (now emeritus professor) once recounted how he went on an earlier trip in the Coast Range when he first got to OSU. Walt put him, the newly minted assistant professor, on the spot at one stop, asking Darius what he thought the per acre volume of the stand was. Darius said that he made a wild, even clueless guess that was actually within 5% of the cruised volume, thereby earning immediate credibility with Walt!

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Texas

The Texas Forestry Association has several programs that involve educators in learning about forestry. Our faculty are often involved in these activities. The link to the relevant TFA webpage is below. Rob Hughes, TFA Executive Director (rhughes@texasforestry.org), or Ted Stevens, TFA Education Director (tstevens@texasforestry.org) can provide additional information. Our college is also involved in various activities such as career days, FFA, and Woodland Clinic that involve both teachers and students in learning about forestry.

<https://www.texasforestry.org/educators/overview>

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Virginia

At Virginia Tech, our extension folks have conducted Fall Bus Tours for over 40 years that can include teachers, and they are still quite popular. We also have a geospatial extension program that is directed primarily at teachers.

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