



Grouse Hollow News

FALL/WINTER 2008



Merrily Enquist Goes to School

Our staff educator, Tim DeLano has encouraged me and other FFI board members, and adults in the community to observe what happens when a classroom of students visits Hopkins for *Science in the Forest*. I thought I would have to prepare to teach, or study a lesson plan to be of assistance, but what I experienced is that no special knowledge was necessary; the students lead their own learning! It's so easy to help that I encourage others in the community to see for themselves, and become directly involved in mentoring students at Hopkins.

The day I went to school at Hopkins, students from Binnsmead Middle School were investigating forest soils. What became evident is that SITF is very different than any other education program we have at Hopkins—it is not a vocational programs, nor a tour. Soon after arrival and brief introductions, teams of five or fewer students donned field vests loaded with tools



Students test pH of a soil sample, comparing differences between soils under a forest canopy with soil from a clearing, and soil from a recently burned area.

and field guides. Accompanied by an adult mentor the young scientists with compass and map in hand and led the way into the forest to study a question of their own choosing.

I followed and observed that the mentors did not tell students what to learn, rather, students found their own answers from field guides and by using tools to measure the forest around them. Through direct experience and hands-on activities, students paid attention and held focus on their chosen study.

From my perspective as a Forests Forever board member, woodland owner and retired teacher, this is a good use of school time and the resources that support education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. This type of learning is so much more powerful than listening to a talking head. I was impressed at the involvement of the eighth-graders. The field day concluded with a mini science conference. Students created white board posters to share their learning with peers. I saw how proud the students were and eager to share their work.

Science in the Forest happens at Hopkins because of a long-standing relationship that Tim DeLano has with Wolfree, Inc., another local not-for-profit organization that developed the program. Each SITF field day brings together trained resource professionals and Portland State University seniors to mentor students in 4th-12th grades. Hopkins Demonstration Forest is one of the field sites used by Wolfree to implement this award winning program. Oregon Forest Resources Institute subsidizes bus transportation for these field experiences. Without these partners and volunteers, we would not be able to offer SITF to schools in our community.

—by Merrily Enquist

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Hopkins Demonstration Forest Website Updated

Our website is updated with images from recent activities at Hopkins, and a list of upcoming activities on our CALENDAR page:
www.demonstrationforest.org/calendar.htm

A Community of Volunteers Comes Together

It wasn't difficult to interest Kelli Mahlum, Jeremy Vogl and Mike Iles to spend a day working to improve Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Mahlum of Molalla, and Vogl of Portland were volunteers representing Beneficial Finance during the November Community Forestry Day; Iles works for Beneficial's parent

company HSBC in Portland. They were joined by Mahlum's son Andrew, 13, and one of Andrew's friends, Toren Low, 14.

"Our company is a huge supporter of environmental education," Mahlum said during the lunch break. "And I love it," she said of Hopkins. "I'll have my Cub Scouts come to help, too." Besides providing labor to prune lower limbs from fir trees, Beneficial donated \$5,000 to Forests Forever for use at Hopkins, becoming one of the newest members of the education consortium.

The pruning was in a stand of Douglas-fir planted 15 years ago in a clearcut for Margaret Hopkins before her tree farm donation to Forests Forever. The stand will be ready for the first commercial thinning in another 8-10 years. "After doing the pruning, I know how to trim the trees in my yard," Mahlum said. "Last spring, I organized a work party of eight of us from Beneficial who helped others to clear trails in the Molalla River corridor."

Mahlum is a sales associate in Beneficial's Clackamas office where Vogl is the manager. Vogl said he also enjoys this type of volunteer work. "My last project was helping to clear brush and plant trees along the Springwater Trail," he noted.

Doug Loose of Oregon City, a member of Oregon City and North Clackamas chambers of commerce, cranked up a chainsaw to cut firewood. "I've been here several times to help. It's neat out here in the woods," Loose said. "Sometimes I bring my wife, Hope, to plant trees."

Jon Schell of Portland had a special need in mind when he arrived for the volunteer activities. Before he left, Schell wanted to get three small logs to pursue his hobby. The following day he planned to visit another

Portland area forest to teach primitive deer hide tanning. The logs would be leaned against a tree and hides spread across for scraping and cleaning. "I used to own a tree farm near Corbett," Schell said. "Primitive skills are my hobby. Tomorrow I'll teach hide tanning to a few people interested in Native American arts and skills. I'm an acupuncturist by profession."

Gilbert Shibley, a retired Forests Forever board member, was in charge of burning slash piles in the Fire-safe Demonstration project at Hopkins. "We burn them until there's nothing left but ash," he said. "Now with that slash gone there will be less wild fire risk."

Regular assistance on Community Forestry Days comes from members of Clackamas County Corrections crew. In November, the crew cleared slash from recent logging that had fallen across a trail.



Jeremy Vogl, Beneficial Finance Clackamas branch manager, learned quickly how to prune the lower branches from teenage Douglas-fir trees. Many companies and civic groups looking for service projects, turn to Hopkins Demonstration Forest to fill their community engagement activities.



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Hopkins Demonstration Forest is owned and managed by Forests Forever, Inc.
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New Extension District to Provide FFI Funding Help

This past November, Clackamas County voters passed a ballot measure forming an Extension and 4-H Service District. The new district will provide the Oregon State University Extension Service with a dedicated source of local funds to support education and applied research in the county.



Education programs are provided at Hopkins through a partnership with Clackamas County Extension.

Forests Forever, Inc. will be one of the benefactors of this new district, too. "This is a great opportunity for Forests Forever," said Mike Bondi, OSU Extension Agent and Staff Chair in Clackamas County. Bondi and his staff at the Extension office in Oregon City worked the past two years with more than 250 volunteers in the community who spearheaded the effort to find a stable and secure source of funding for Extension.

Forests Forever's connection to OSU Extension comes with our forestry and natural resource education programs. Tim DeLano, FFI's Community Outreach Educator is actually an OSU faculty member—not

a FFI employee. His position is funded entirely with community resources—private business and individual donations, grants and contracts. There are no university dollars that fund this university position.

"This is a very unique position," Bondi said. "We value having OSU Extension leading our education

programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, but there aren't state dollars to fund a position like this. So, we turned to the community to make it happen. FFI and OSU both benefit by these collaborative arrangements."

Six years ago Clackamas County provided a grant to Forests Forever, Inc. to establish the Community Outreach Educator position. Monies were coming from the county's Title III funds—part of the federal government's payments to counties in lieu of timber harvest receipts. In recent years, the county's contribution to support FFI was about \$30,000 per year or about a third of the cost for FFI's education program.

With those dollars now gone, the

Community Support Still Key for FFI Education Program

The new county Extension district will be able to replace county government support for Forests Forever, but broader community support is still the largest segment of our education program budget. Can you help? End of the year giving is more than welcome. Our goal is to grow funding each year to expand programs and opportunities in the community. Our goal for 2009 is to grow our total education programming more than \$20,000 for the coming year—no amount is too small to help ensure our education programs can continue.

Contact FFI President Ken Everett for more information at 503-655-5524.

county's support for Forests Forever and our education program was going away, too.

Extension's new district will replace the county's contribution to FFI in order to sustain the forestry and natural resource education. "I really think the support the District can provide FFI is critical for the county, for OSU, for Forests Forever, and for the community. This is very exciting. We really look forward to continuing this unique partnership in the years ahead."

Make Your Tax Deductible Gift Today!

Yes! I want to support Forests Forever and Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Levels of Annual Support:

- Friend \$25
- Supporter \$50
- Contributor \$100
- Steward \$250
- Sponsor \$1,000
- Other _____

Please complete form and enclose check payable to Forests Forever, Inc.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank You! Your gift is tax deductible.

Please mail form with check to: Forests Forever, Inc., P.O. Box 1320, Oregon City, Oregon 97045.

Forests Forever, Incorporated is a publicly supported tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Federal tax identification number is 91-1846241.

Calendar

Community Forestry Days

These family-friendly community events include volunteer projects that vary depending on the season. Lunch is provided for volunteers, followed by a brief topical program, and optional tour. Community Forestry Days begin at 9:00 am; lunch at noon; tour at 2:00 pm. RSVP to 503-632-2150 by the Thursday prior to each CFD if you would like to join our community in the forest.

Learn by doing at these upcoming **Community Forestry Days:**

December 13, pruning, slash piling and burning, drainage system maintenance. Learn the best way to stack slash, and experiment with different ignition options. Lunch is a special family recipe for vegetable soup prepared by Sally and Jessica

January 10, February 14 and March 14 Community Forestry Days will focus on tree planting and other winter chores. Learn how to plant a tree and protect seedlings. Lunch is our tree planting tradition: hot dogs on a stick cooked the way you like over a fire. We provide the sticks, dogs and fixin's, drinks and other goodies, too.

Remember to call 503-632-2150 by the Thursday prior if you plan to join us for Community Lunch.

March 21, **Tree School Clackamas** at Clackamas Community College. Course catalogues will be mailed in mid January. Call Clackamas County Extension Office at 503-655-8631 to be included in the mailing. Pre-registration is required, early registration is encouraged.



P.O. Box 1320
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Recent Donors to Raise the Building Fund

Our Capital Campaign for a new classroom at Hopkins Demonstration Forest brought in \$10,000 in September, which was matched by an anonymous donor. Our auction on October 10 netted another \$5,700. To date the total funds received or pledged for the classroom project is \$126,000.

Approximately \$26,000 value in materials and services have been or will be donated. We need to raise another \$150,000 to complete the building. Your tax-deductible contributions are encouraged to help Forests Forever complete this \$300,000 capital campaign.

Hopkins Demonstration Forest Wish List—Can You Help?

Folding Tables

We use portable tables for many events and activities at Hopkins. Our old tables are wearing out and we need some new tables: the kind that work well for our needs are the plastic folding style, at least six feet long when set up.

Volunteer Cooks

We need a team of cooks to prepare the spread for volunteers and guests who come to Community Forestry Day, on the 2nd Saturday each month. We're looking for volunteers who might like to share a special family recipe, or who enjoy

preparing a seasonal dish: consider volunteering for the lunch crew at Hopkins.

Forest Hosts

Live in your RV at Hopkins Demonstration Forest—our new RV pad has full hook-ups. As Host you will greet many people from the community who visit Hopkins. Hosts perform light duty maintenance and cleaning, and assist guests with current information about the forest and facilities. Hosts are usually "on duty" 20-25 hours per week, for periods of 2 to 4 months at a time.