



Grouse Hollow News

FALL 2015/WINTER 2016



Matzka Takes New Role as Forest Educator

Forests Forever, Inc. and Oregon State University's Extension Forestry program have re-joined forces to deliver youth, adult and public education at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. In November, Peter Matzka took over the reigns as OSU's faculty member leading education programs at Hopkins—a task he has become very familiar with over the past year and a half.

Matzka has been working at Hopkins since January, 2014 following the departure of Tim DeLano. At that time, FFI and OSU decided to re-evaluate the educational programs at Hopkins and determine the best way to deliver learning at the forest. The Forests Forever, Inc. Board of Directors has always valued the close working relationship with OSU and the science-based forestry education provided by OSU in the past, but changes create an opportunity to re-assess.

According to Ken Everett, FFI's Executive Director, "We want our programs led by professional educators with a strong forestry and management background. Our goal at Hopkins is to provide a place where practical, hands-on resource management and science can come together to provide benefits to

the entire community. Working with OSU to provide a place where real-life forestry education can be practiced makes our programs very unique."

OSU launched a national search for a new forestry educator this past summer—looking for someone with a Masters degree in forestry and experience working with youth. Matzka applied...and, the rest is history.

Matzka has three forestry degrees from Oregon State University—Bachelors, Masters, and PhD, all in forest engineering. He has practical skills and experience working as a logging engineer. In addition, Matzka worked with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute at the Oregon Garden's Rediscovery Forest in their youth education program for seven years. Also, Matzka has another seven years of experience teaching forestry at Humboldt State University.

"We are excited to have Peter join our team at the Oregon State University Extension office in Oregon City—and to become a permanent part of our programs at Hopkins," said Mike Bondi, OSU Extension Regional Administrator and FFI Board member. Bondi will be Matzka's direct supervisor. Matzka's primary working location will be at Hopkins, but he will work closely with OSU faculty and staff in Oregon City as a part of that team.



Peter standing in Little Buckner Creek talking with Robert Frost Elementary School (Silverton) students about water quality, aquatic habitat, and how Oregon's Forest Practices Act helps protect our streams. The students measured dissolved oxygen, pH, stream temperature, turbidity, and went looking for macro invertebrates during their day-long visit to Hopkins.

"Peter has excellent experience managing forest land and working with youth. We have really appreciated how he stepped into Hopkins and built programs. He brings a lot of energy, new ideas, and practical skills. We see our programs at Hopkins growing in new and exciting ways."

Peter and his wife, Jenny, have two children, Ari age 12 and Will age 8. The Matzkas live in Silverton where Jenny is an elementary school teacher.

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Phillips Tract Joins Forests Forever at Pedee

Bob Phillips was a Board Member of Forests Forever in our early years during the 1990s. Bob was a fisheries biologist by training, acquired several tracts of forest land over the years, and became an OSU Master Woodland Manager in Clackamas County in 1992. Bob loved the outdoors, his forests, and sharing what he knew with others.

Bob really embraced the Forests Forever, Inc. model and what we were doing at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. So much so, that he created his own non-profit organization to manage his Pedee Woodlands forest tract located in the central Coast Range west of Corvallis. Unfortunately, Pedee Woodlands didn't develop like Hopkins—nor have the advantage of our incredible community support—there just isn't much community down in the rural Pedee area!

Following Bob's passing the Oregon's Department of Justice contacted Forests Forever to ask if we would consider taking Pedee Woodlands over to help fulfill its forest management and education mission. We agreed in 2012 and, today, Pedee adds another 207 acres to our forest operation.

Now, Sharon Phillips, Bob's widow, and their family have offered the remaining 113 acres of their ownership in Coast Range to Forests Forever, Inc.

Ken Everett, FFI's Executive Director, said, "This is an incredible opportunity for Forests Forever. This is very productive forestland and growing a lot of wood. We have lots of wonderful management opportunities thanks to Bob and all his hard work."

Everett does acknowledge that the management and education at Pedee and the Phillips Tract will be different than what is done at Hopkins. "These properties are very rural. We don't have the population base to work with. We will have occasional forest management projects and related educational tours and activities. But, we won't have a resident educator like Hopkins and there are no structures or facilities currently at the forest."

And, the Phillips Tract is set up differently than FFI and Pedee. Revenues generated at the Phillips Tract are to be earmarked to support the work of Forests Forever, Inc.—the umbrella organization that manages, Hopkins, Pedee, and now the Phillips Tract. This collective ownership for FFI is now 460 acres.

"This is a huge gift," said Everett. "Being able to build capacity in Forests Forever will give us the opportunity to better support Pedee and Hopkins, too. We are positioned for significant growth thanks to the generosity of Sharon and her family—and, Bob's vision."

FFI will be developing a management plan for the Phillips Tract this winter. Stay tuned for more news in the coming months.



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Grouse Hollow News

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Forest Hall Report

Those who enjoy coming to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest know what a special place Forest Hall is. The 2,400 square foot education and meeting hall has been a great addition to the property. In recent weeks, the comments from users of Forest Hall all seem to agree—this is a beautiful building in a magical setting.

And, in the three years of operation, the use of Forest Hall is growing—despite the fact that we do only minimal advertising. Just since July 1st, the building has been used for 15 different rental events and activities including weddings, birthday celebrations, business and agency retreats, and Forest of Arts.

In addition, we hosted another 10 educational programs and meetings, such as, the recent Clackamas County Tree Farmer Recognition Banquet.



The operating costs of Forest Hall are about \$13,000 per year. By the end of October, Forest Hall rental income was approximately this amount with two months left in the calendar year.

To schedule use of Forest Hall, contact FFI Board member, Mike Daly, at dalymj42@aol.com.

Logging Center Stage at Hopkins this Summer

A clear-cut was recently finished at Hopkins on the hillside across from the vented ford—an area we've been wanting to get over to for many years. Access has always been a challenge. This was a part of the property that Howard Hopkins never did much with. A new spur road was built into the unit to open the way.

The harvest area is approximately 7 acres and contained a mixture of Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and hardwoods. Also, the unit includes a small draw containing a seasonal stream which drains into Little Buckner Creek. In order to protect the drainage, a buffer strip consisting of hardwoods and scattered conifer was left on both sides of the stream. A portion of the harvest area was also located adjacent to Little Buckner Creek which is classified by the Oregon Department of Forestry as a small fish stream. The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires a 50 foot buffer be maintained to provide protection to the creek.

Just over 103,000 board feet of timber was harvested on the unit with export logs shipped to Pacific Lumber & Shipping in Longview. Cedar sawlogs shipped to Gram Lumber in Kalama. Maple and alder sawlogs were sent to

Northwest Hardwood in Longview, and the domestic sawlogs went to RSG Forest Products in Molalla. Jack Thronson, Thronson Forest Products in Molalla, did the logging as our contractor for this project.

The gross value of the timber sold was \$79,053. After paying the harvest costs and the 40% of the gross income to the Hopkins family, FFI's net income was \$18,453. The Hopkins Demonstration Forest is managed as a working tree farm. Revenues generated from the sale of forest products help maintain our infrastructure, support our educational mission, and bring our programs to the public.

Following logging, the slash and brush was piled by Ken Stone using an excavator equipped with a brush rake. Nearly 30, tall, dirt-free piles have



Products on their way to the market.

already been burned. Also, local high school and college students and woodland owners will have the opportunity to help burn some of the piles providing important hands-on experience with preparing a logging site for planting next spring.

The logging unit was sprayed using backpack sprayers this fall to help control the regrowth of unwanted competing vegetation before planting. The clear-cut unit is scheduled for planting this coming winter—again, during our education programs for students and adults.

Know Your Hopkins Plants

A new feature of *Grouse Hollow News* will be a feature each issue on one of our native plants at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. When you visit the forest, look for these inhabitants. They may be everywhere you go—or, only a rarity. We thank Meredith Hildebrand, OSU Master Gardener—Clackamas County, for this contribution. Meredith volunteers on the native plant landscaping projects at Hopkins.

Western Sword Fern, *Polystichum munitum*
It's ours, all ours!

The Western Sword Fern, as familiar as our face in the mirror, is one of the most common ferns in the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. It is also one of the dominant ferns in the rest of the

Northwest, but did you know that it has been deemed “difficult or impossible to grow satisfactorily” east of the Rockies?

Here in its environment, the evergreen *Polystichum munitum* may grow to over three feet in height. Its preference is for the deep humus and clay of Northwest woods, but it is surprisingly tolerant of sunny conditions, too; frequently growing in the exposed conditions of roadside berms and clear cuts where it prospers until the conifers return to shade and mulch the ground.

In late summer, the sword fern covers



its surroundings with a dusting of yellow, powdery spores. This extreme fertility explains why tiny sword ferns are often found sprouting in flower pots and planters along with the exotic ornamentals or in cracks in sidewalks or pavement.

During fall and winter frosts, the edges of the fern's fronds collect moisture which forms a lovely crystalline border.

Forest of Arts

Participants were blessed with two beautiful days for the third annual Forest of Arts at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, September 19 & 20. The event was organized by Three Rivers Artists Guild (TRAG) and Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI), with the help of many hard-working volunteers from both the arts and forestry communities. Both Forest Hall and the Shop were transformed into Art Galleries with the works of over 30 artists.

About 500 people participated including attendees, volunteers, and artists. TRAG organized the art show and marketing of the event. FFI supported all the facilities and setup including food and drink. Forest Educator Peter Matzka

organized the Hopkins BBQ along with hands-on art activities including walking sticks, tree cookies, paper making, and a wood block mosaic. FFI Board Members were involved with directing traffic and greeting participants as they arrived at Hopkins.

Forest of Arts is a collaboration bringing together art, music and environment in a forest setting in order to:

- foster art created from, in, or about the Forest;
- learn, create, and share;
- celebrate our local forests for all they provide.

The event is a great way to

bring people together in the forest—people who might not normally mix and perhaps have different perspectives. Forest of Arts 2015 succeeded in attracting a good number of new people to Hopkins Demonstration Forest. FFI Board Member Mike Bondi noted “The majority of people I spoke with said they had never been here before. Having over 200 people discover Hopkins Demonstration Forest is big success.”



Artist in an outside booth at Forest of Arts.

Calendar

December 12 (8:30am-3:30pm):

Community Forestry Day; Equipment, Tool, and Supply Inventory & Winter Decorations for Forest Hall or yourself

January 9 (8:30am-3:30pm):

Community Forestry Day; Surface Little Buckner Trail (through the harvest unit) and Finish Tent Pads around Cedar Shelter


February 13 (8:30am-3:30pm):

Community Forestry Day; Reforestation Workshop and Tree Planting in the Harvest Unit

For more information, call: 503-632-2150 or visit: www.demonstrationforest.org



Hands on art, making tree cookies.

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Education Programs Continue to Reach Many

The outreach and education programs and activities at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest continue to grow and reach more and more participants. Under Forest Educator Peter Matzka's leadership, he continues to attract new schools, teachers, and groups interested in natural science education in a forest.

About 2,600 students and 635 adults participated in Hopkins education and outreach programs from January through June this year. Most of these activities were held at Hopkins; a few were outreach efforts led by Matzka at other sites.

Participants in our education programs range from pre-schoolers and students from elementary schools to middle and high school youth, young adults from Clackamas Community College, and adult woodland owners.

With schools off for the summer, the summer focus at Hopkins switched to teacher education. Six teachers—from local elementary, middle and high schools participated in field sessions designed to build their understanding of forest science and outdoor natural resource education opportunities.

By fall, it was time to welcome back an array schools groups, college students, scout projects and our adult learners—not to mention more than 500 who attended this year's Forest of Arts event in September.



Water sampling



Sprucing up for Forest of Arts



Sunnyside Elementary School

Board Member Welcome to Bob Kahl

Bob Kahl is our newest Forests Forever, Inc. Board member—joining the group this past summer. Bob and his wife, Marianne, live on a 52-acre forest property—where Bob was raised—just a mile and a half outside Oregon City, south of town.



Bob is retired now after more than 40 years working in the insurance industry here in the Pacific Northwest—including his last 10 years working cities and counties throughout the state on their insurance needs.

According to the Ken Everett, FFI's Executive Director, "Bob has been a huge asset to our organization providing advice to the Board for our insurance coverage. It's great having a professional

like Bob who we can rely on for expert assistance."

Bob has been involved at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest for the past five years since his retirement. His first visit was to help with the new Native Plant Garden just outside Hopkins Hall. OSU Master Gardeners established the garden and Marianne was on the team of MG volunteers who began working on this project. Bob came along to help one day.

"I think I recall noticing one of the pieces of equipment that needed work. I've always been a machinery guy. I like to keep things operating." Bob started getting involved in the Community Forestry Days, too.

Everett was hired by Bob to help with a logging job at the Kahl tree farm several years ago. At the time, Ken was forming a Facilities Management Committee for Hopkins—to ensure the proper maintenance

and upkeep of the buildings and equipment around the farm. Bob became one of the charter members for the committee.

Right now Bob says he is still feeling his way on the Board and doing a lot of listening and learning. But, he has a vision, too. "My daughter is working with an educational forest on Bainbridge Island in Washington. That's an amazing place. Bigger and more developed than Hopkins. But, a nice model for us. We have a huge need to educate kids and the public. Most people don't know where the boards come from any more. We do a great job of teaching. And, I really like that so many people come out to Hopkins to walk and enjoy the forest."

We welcome Bob to the Board of Directors for Forests Forever, Inc. and thank him for his service—in the past and in the future.



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HOPKINS
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December 3, 2015

Dear Friend:

Each year we invite participation to our **Friends of Hopkins** campaign. Our **Friends** provide wonderful support to what I believe is one of the most unique learning forests anywhere in the U.S.—and we are very fortunate to have this property right here in our community and available to thousands of youth, adults and the public every year.

Most of you are familiar with the amazing story of generosity by the Hopkins family to gift their Grouse Hollow Tree Farm with a vision to create an educational forest. Many of you have been involved in many ways to help us grow and develop this property and to create a special place for outdoor learning and enjoyment. If it wasn't for the volunteer time and energy, donated supplies and materials, and financial gifts, much of what we do at Hopkins would not be possible—much less available, at no cost in the community.

During this past year we have seen our educational programs continue to grow and reach more and more participants. The number of grade, middle and high schools students coming out to Hopkins will exceed 2,500 for 2015. In addition, we have seen a renewal of strong collaborations with the Clackamas Community College and with the Sabin Schellenberg vocational program.

And, the public continues to come out to Hopkins to walk on our trails, enjoy the forest, and to see what's new in our woodlands. Our Forest of Arts event in October brought out approximately 500 participants that weekend. Interestingly, a large number of these people said they had never been to Hopkins before—great outreach!

Our annual **Friends of Hopkins** fundraising campaign is an important source of income that is used to help support all of our work at Hopkins—from our education programs to the maintenance and operations of our buildings and infrastructure. Please join me to support this amazing community demonstration forest.

All funds contributed to our **Friends of Hopkins** campaign can be tax-deductible since Forests Forever is a federal 501 (C) 3 tax exempt organization. Enclosed is our contribution form and return envelope. All Friends receive our regular newsletters and invitations to special events—and a receipt acknowledging your donation.

Thanking you, in advance, for any support you can provide.

Michael C. Bondi, Board Member and Friends Campaign Co-Chair