

2011 Annual Report of Forests Forever, Inc.



*highlighting accomplishments of the non-profit organization
Forests Forever, Inc. at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest*

Board of Directors 2011

Executive Director,
Ken Everett, Oregon City

Chair
Dan Green, Oregon City

Treasurer
Mike McCoy, West Linn

Secretary
Maralyn Turner, Portland

Keith Baldwin, Salem

Mike Bondi, Lake Oswego

Mary Castle, Molalla

Michael Daly, Oregon City

Jim Kadera, Oregon City

Mike Piazza, West Linn

John Poppino, Milwaukie

Staff

Tim Delano, Community Forestry
Educator

Inside This Report

Executive Director Report.....	Page 2
Resource Review.....	Page 3
Facilities.....	Page 3
Education Programs.....	Page 4
Community Events.....	Page 7
Partner Programs.....	Page 8
Volunteers.....	Page 9
Outreach and Media.....	Page 10



Mission Statement

Forest Forever, Inc. promotes science-based education to enhance understanding of, and appreciation for the complexities and benefits of woodland management.

Forests Forever, Inc. operates Hopkins Demonstration Forest as an accessible example of sustainable forestry, which provides woodland products, fish and wildlife habitat, and experiential learning opportunities. Youth, woodland owners, and the broader community are invited to learn through visits, educational events, and participation in the operation of Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



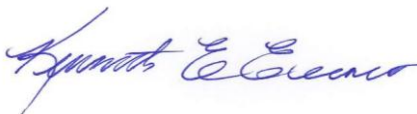
Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am pleased to present our 2011 annual report of accomplishments for the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. More people in the community are taking advantage of the many benefits this community resource provides. Our community comes to hike and enjoy the forest, they volunteer to help with various projects or learn new skills in a workshop. Hopkins Demonstration Forest was full of children learning through play or field studies; sampling natural resource careers constructing trails and planting trees.

The businesses and organizations that comprise our *Education Consortium* have continued to support the educational and volunteer programs at Hopkins throughout the current economic cycle.

Most gratifying is the support from the woodland community that provided the majority of funding to complete Forest Hall, our new community meeting facility. After four years of fund-raising and construction, Forest Hall is nearly ready to open.

I anticipate many changes and new opportunities in 2012. Please join us.



Ken Everett
Executive Director



The Organization

Forests Forever

is served by an all-volunteer board of directors: twelve individuals who collectively invested more than 2,000 hours last year, to help move the organization forward. Beyond the boardroom, board members assisted with community outreach and education programs, resource management and mentoring other volunteers from the community. Board members wrote stories for our newsletter, helped us keep our finances in order and secured funding to support programs. Forests Forever board members exemplify how we get things done at Hopkins Demonstration Forest—it's a community effort!



Douglas-fir
Psuedotsuga menzesii

Resource Review

With log prices low we did not make a harvest in 2011. However, there was much activity in the forest to prepare stands for future harvests. Fuels treatments to reduce risk of fire spread continued through a partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry.

Our Teachers in the Woods participants collected material from seed-fall traps in the Uneven-age Management Demonstration, marked trees in the Riparian Management Demonstration, and confirmed timber marked for harvest. Reforestation success exceeded 90% survival for trees planted early in 2011.

A focus of activity around the ponds included clearing adjacent red alder and removal of brushy vegetation prior to emptying and digging sediment from the upper pond. With technical support from Oregon Department of Forestry and funding through Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District, the re-developed ponds will provide improved access to water in case of fire emergency on the Hopkins property. Work around the ponds will continue in 2012.



Pond at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Facilities

After four years of fund raising and construction, the finishing touches to complete forest Hall will allow our opening in 2012. Groups are already requesting use of this new community building.

Forest Hall construction was supported in part by grants from MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, the Collins Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust. We are proud this building is constructed primarily from wood grown in sustainably managed forests here in Oregon.

The maple trimmed interior cedar pillars at the front entrance come from Hopkins!



Forest Hall flooring and installation.

Education Programs

This section describes the programs, services, outreach, volunteerism and other benefits that result from the investments of the FFI *Education Consortium* donors in calendar-year 2011. This special group of program funders includes:

- The Campbell Group*
- Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association*
- Frank Family Foundation*
- Freres Foundation*
- Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation*
- Key Bank Foundation*
- Longview Timber Corporation*
- Oregon Forest Resources Institute*
- OSU Clackamas County Extension Service*
- PNW Forest Service Association*
- Port Blakely*
- RSG Forest Products*
- Walker Family Foundation*

Youth Programs



Schools are the primary audience for youth programs offered at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Thirty schools or youth groups, including 916 youth participated in forestry education programs provided by the Forestry Outreach Educator and volunteers during 2011.



Tours are guided educational or interpretive walks that focus on a main theme or topic. Two standard tour themes are most often requested by schools: Ten Trees Tour and Sustainable Forestry Tour. Other tours focused on natural resource careers and wildlife habitat.

Field Studies provide youth an opportunity to be scientists for a day. Field studies are often provided in partnership with WolfTree, Inc. as the *Science in the Forest* program. This program is possible with support from Portland State University students and an extensive cadre of trained resource professionals who volunteer to mentor students in small science teams. Students use forest inventory tools and field guides to explore forest ecology.



A Canby Youth Corps student helps a study team of local fifth-graders interpret a tree-core sample.

Other field studies were developed in consultation with teachers to enhance their classroom curriculum. Field studies in 2011 included a focus on soils and erosion control; another compared fuel loads in different forest habitats. Three exceptional eighth-graders from Springwater Environmental Sciences School completed term-long independent study projects and presented their findings to the FFI board.

Service-learning opportunities for youth include projects for schools, scouts and youth groups. Service-learning is an educational design that uses meaningful projects as the catalyst for learning essential skills and knowledge. The variety of projects during 2011 had young people planting trees, controlling weeds, maintaining trails, reducing fuel load, and even supporting younger students with field studies.

Forest Product Enterprises challenged teens and college students to develop products and businesses based on non-timber forest resources. Firewood was one natural product that two teen groups processed and marketed. Other youth considered the business of walking sticks and wood art. One college student looked into ways to reduce logging slash by creating products such as charcoal and wood chips for meat smoking.



Long-term, ongoing service-learning programs developed in 2011 for Canby Youth Corps, the DePaul Center, and Parrott Creek Ranch engaged dozens of youth, multiple times each.



Hopkins Demonstration Forest is a great place to immerse children in a forest setting. Over 300 young children swarmed Hopkins in 2011 learning through play as they naturally do.

Self-directed Programs are those not requiring direct involvement by Hopkins education staff in program presentation. Staff assisted group leaders with activity planning, and coordinated some on-site logistics or loaned tools and materials. Self-directed activities are coordinated for audiences not usually served by Hopkins education staff, such as pre-school and primary grade students.

For Teachers

Teachers in the Woods 2011 included three dedicated teachers who completed three important field projects as their learning process. During their four week experience, teachers completed: riparian tree marking, timber sale preparation and seed collection. In addition the teachers assisted with youth programming and community outreach. They also devised lessons and collected resources for use in their respective classrooms.



Integral to Teachers in the Woods 2011 experience were opportunities to interact with several resource professionals. Among them, Oregon Department of Forestry staff helped the teacher-team understand application of the riparian forestry rules as an introduction to a riparian tree marking project.



Teachers in the Woods participants collected material from seed-fall traps in the Uneven-age Management Demonstration.



Service-learning Workshop was offered in conjunction with Oregon Forest Resources Institute and SOLV. The dozen attending teachers wanted to learn new ways to engage their students in learning through a service-project-based process. Examples of service-learning projects completed and ongoing opportunities at Hopkins were featured during field exercises.

Teachers appreciated an impromptu exhibit hall where fellow teachers and administrators from other school districts shared their successful service-learning programs. This kind of peer-sharing, direct involvement, and evidence of successful service-learning inspired the participants to develop challenging opportunities for their students.



Community Programs & Events

Tours reveal for guest an insider's perspective about sustainable forestry. Tours illuminate the importance of well-managed forests to a healthy environment and local economy.



Community Education Courses were offered by Extension staff for general public interest through Oregon City Community Schools: *Finding Your Way*, *Geometry, of Trees* and *Deck the Halls*.

Community Events have become annual traditions for some groups. The hamlets of Beaver Creek and Mulino held their sixth annual community potluck at Hopkins in September. Additionally, Beaver Creek Lions Club continues to provide support and enjoy meeting for breakfast at Hopkins.



A *Fall Mushroom Foray* took participants on a ramble through the woods where more than 40 species of mushrooms were observed during the hike—only one of them edible. Thankfully, plenty of fungi were on display and included in a breakfast buffet.

Partner Programs

Scout activities at Hopkins in 2011 included completion of requirements for two Girl Scout Silver Awards (2nd highest), while two Boy Scouts completed requirements for their Eagle Rank. Several local packs and troops continue to use Hopkins for a variety of scouting activities.



Two older girls organized an entire day of Girl Scout activities for 60 younger girls – singing, arts and crafts, plant identification and a guided nature walk.

Trackers NW arranged to use Hopkins Demonstration Forest as one of their primary field sites for spring, summer and winter break camps. Themed camps allowed children to learn about the forest through role-playing, practicing tracking and stealth techniques, and children’s literature. Over 2,200 youth visited Hopkins as part of their Trackers camp experience.



Clackamas Community College faculty used Hopkins forest for field practice that supports Wilderness Survival, Search and Rescue, and Chainsaw-related courses.

Partner organizations provide unique programming and opportunities for audiences not usually served by Hopkins education staff. These arrangements extend the potential outreach and community engagement in the Hopkins mission beyond that which staff is able to accomplish alone.



My Side of the Mountain campers mixed “ash cakes” in their hands to cook on a small fire, as they lived out the story that was being read to them.

Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to the success of Forests Forever in its management of Hopkins Demonstration Forest. In addition to organizational leadership, volunteers are responsible for daily operations, facilities management, and presentation of education programs. There are few places on the Hopkins property where the work of a volunteer is not visible. The evidence of volunteer efforts are found in bridges, fences, trails, kiosks, picnic table, planted and tubed seedlings, stacked firewood, pruned trees, engaged youth and more. Volunteers at Hopkins are young and old, some with forestry backgrounds and interests, yet most are novices. Some highlights of volunteer activities in 2011 follow.



Pacific Crest trail Association crew leaders shared their knowledge and skills with other volunteers who came to repair some of the more popular hiking trails in the Hopkins Forest.

Community Forestry Days are held the second Saturday each month. There are different “tree farm chores” offered to a community of eager volunteers. The model for Community Forestry Day is to mix the skills and knowledge of experienced project leaders with a variety of novices from the community. More than 200 volunteers participated in Community Forestry Days in 2011.

Master Gardeners completed the third year of development of a native plant demonstration landscape. The designed landscape is taking shape. Donated plants and the toil of Master Gardener volunteers on their hands and knees (with spade and rake), removed weeds and tucked-in new plants to their place.

Forest Hosts live on-site fulltime to help maintain facilities, greet visitors and keep an eye on things. Our Forest Hosts—Margi and Marcelino— have become integral to operations. In 2011 hosts provided 1,300 hours of valuable volunteer assistance.



The Native Plant Demonstration Garden showcases a designed landscape that conserves water, provides for native wildlife and reduces the potential for fire to spread. The entire landscape is possible through the efforts of Master Gardener volunteers and plants donated by two local nurseries. Like all gardens, it is a labor of love and is ever-changing.

Outreach and Media

Grouse Hollow News was published three times in 2011, including the inaugural “Schools Out” issue that featured students’ writing about their experiences at Hopkins during the 2010-2011 school year. *Grouse Hollow News* tells stories about the people, programs, resources and ongoing developments at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Tree School is an annual one-day learning event for people interested in trees and forests. 2011 was the 21st year of Tree School. More than 700 attendees, instructors and exhibitors participated. The event featured more than 60 different classes, an exhibit hall and great networking. Hopkins forest was used for a couple of the field courses.



A portable display featuring community activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest made the rounds of a half-dozen events, attended by almost 20,000 people in 2011 e.g., Tree School; Spring Garden Fair and Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone Backyard Bash.

Chambers of Commerce (North Clackamas County, Oregon City and West Linn) support the activities of Forests Forever as a non-profit member. Outreach to the business community often results in program participation, volunteers, and donations.

Speakers Bureau presentations in partnership with Oregon Forest Resources Institute were made to several civic clubs and chambers in Clackamas County during 2011. Programs requested included information on forests in Oregon, fire risk and prevention, and protecting water resources in managed forests.

Website & Facebook presence provides access to basic information about Hopkins Demonstration Forest with a few keystrokes. The website www.demonstrationforest.org features a calendar and descriptions of resources and programs with images of activities of interest to the community. A Facebook page was added late in 2011—our “Friend” list is growing at www.facebook.com/hopkinsdemonstrationforest.



Lunch hour at Tree School fills a gymnasium set up with tables, surrounded by dozens of exhibitors.

2011 Education & Outreach Totals

Youth Programs	provided to 30 groups; included 900 youth
Tours	100 people learned about sustainable forestry
Partner Programs	served an additional 3,000 youth
Volunteers	200 volunteers gave 3,000 total hours
Community Events	250 guests came to Hopkins to celebrate community
Outreach	5,000 people were reached through direct contact in the community



Forests Forever, Inc.

P.O. Box 1320
Oregon City, Oregon 97045
Business Office Phone 503-655-5524
Business Fax 503-824-5527

Hopkins Demonstration Forest

16750 S Brockway Road
Oregon City, Oregon 97045
Tree Farm Phone 503-632-2150
www.demonstrationforest.org