

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**HOPKINS**  
Demonstration Forest







## 2015 Forests Forever, Inc. and Hopkins Demonstration Forest Annual Report

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# Executive Director Report

2015 was another banner year for Forests Forever, Inc. and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. More than 4700 students and 1600 adults visited Hopkins this past year to take advantage of our educational programs. Also, Forests Forever rejoined forces with Oregon State University Extension Forestry to deliver our education programs. In December, OSU hired Peter Matzka as a Forestry Educator in Clackamas County and assigned him to work with us at Hopkins. Peter is a full-time, permanent employee of OSU. Forests Forever and OSU share the costs for this important position. Peter had been working at Hopkins as a contractor over the past year and a half. Having this relationship with OSU provides Forests Forever with important credibility in maintaining a science-based forestry education program.



A clear-cut of approximately 7 acres was completed this past summer at Hopkins to clean up a poorly stocked area of the property containing hardwoods and scattered conifer. A portion of the harvest unit was adjacent to Little Buckner Creek which was protected by maintaining a 50 foot buffer strip along the stream. Not only does the timber harvest help support our operating costs for the organization, but it also provides us with new opportunities to educate students and visitors about reforestation which takes place after a timber harvest—as well as, stream protection. Students will be involved in tree planting activities, plantation maintenance and will be reconstructing a trail which runs through the harvest area during 2016 and beyond.

Many other projects continue to be accomplished at Hopkins often with help from the community. A new stone fire pit was built next to our Cedar Grove Shelter and a wood bridge was built across a creek—both the result of impressive Eagle Scout projects. And, we completed rocking our overflow parking area and built concrete bunkers to hold surplus gravel and wood chips. Finally, we received a USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service grant to help with erosion control work on our road by installing new culverts and adding gravel.

You may recall that Forests Forever acquired Pedee Woodlands—a demonstration forest in the Pedee area, located west of Dallas—back in 2013. Pedee Woodlands was set up as a non-profit demonstration forest by one of our past board members, Bob Phillips. After Bob's passing, FFI was asked to take over ownership of the 207 acre Pedee Woodlands to continue fulfilling the education mission Bob had envisioned. This year, Bob's wife, Sharon, and her two daughters decided to gift the remaining 113 acres they owned adjacent to the Pedee Woodlands property. Even though this property is located two hours from Hopkins and in a more rural area, we plan to actively manage the property and provide forestry education opportunities for youth and adults in the local community and carry forward the mission Bob had for this land.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the companies, organizations, donors and volunteers that have given so much of their money, time, talents, and resources to make Hopkins a premier demonstration forest where students, teachers, professionals, and the community can come to learn about Oregon's forests and sustainable management—and, enjoy our beautiful woodlands. I invite you to visit Hopkins during 2016 and experience, for yourself, the many opportunities we offer.

Ken Everett  
Executive Director



# ABOUT US

Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI) is a federally tax-exempt non-profit organization incorporated in Oregon in 1990. The volunteer organization was formed to receive the gift of 120 acres of forest land in Clackamas County known as the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The property is located near Beavercreek—about 7 miles southeast of Oregon City. FFI has the fiduciary and management responsibility for the Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Forests Forever, Inc. is served by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Together, these community members volunteer more than 2,000 per year to help manage the demonstration forest and the non-profit organization.

Our Board is a “working” Board. Besides attending monthly three-hour meetings to conduct the business of FFI, Board members volunteer at monthly Community Forestry Days, provide leadership for Board and farm operational committees, help with education programs, write newsletter articles and newspaper stories, and raise funding support for FFI. This is an amazing group!

## Thank you to our Consortium Members

The education programs and our full-time Forestry Educator position at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest are supported each year by community donations provided by a group of very loyal businesses and organizations through our Education Consortium. During 2015 those listed below contributed \$114,000 of financial support to FFI enabling us to bring our unique hands-on and field-based forestry and natural resource learning to our community. Please help us thank each of these great friends when you have the chance!

- Clackamas County Extension and 4-H Service District of Oregon State University
- Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- RSG Forest Products
- Key Bank Foundation
- A.J. Frank Family Foundation

- Port Blakely Tree Farms, Ltd.
- Freres Foundation
- Walker Family Foundation
- Beavercreek Lions

If you'd like to join the Consortium, our 2016 group is now forming. Contact FFI at 503-655-5524.

## 2015 Sets Record for Learning, Doing, and Being at Hopkins

This past year was incredibly busy at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Educational programs designed for grade, middle, and high school youth—plus college students, woodland owners, and the public—took center stage. Hopkins Forestry Educator, Peter Matzka, coordinated nearly all of the youth forestry and natural resource educational programs at Hopkins. Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forestry Agent, led many of the woodland owner activities. And, the community came out for the monthly volunteer forestry days, Master Gardener work days, and to enjoy walking and jogging at the demonstration forest.

All-together, more than 13,000 people visited the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in 2015—with about half engaged in designed educational activities most lasting a few hours to a full day—and the other half enjoying the woods on their own.

Here's a few of the key statistics from the past year:

- Youth and their teachers—plus adult learners—participated in over 225 educational programs at Hopkins in 2015.
- 4712 youth and 1618 adults were engaged in designed, delivered and evaluated educational experiences in forestry and natural resources this past year.
- The busiest months for youth learning and field trips to Hopkins were March, April, May and September with about 60% of the activity occurring at these times.





# 2015 RECAP

- The monthly Community Forestry Days—a hallmark since the beginning days at Hopkins 25 years ago— attracted 172 participants who provided over 800 hours of volunteer service (valued at more than \$16,000) on twelve Saturdays throughout the year.
- Six teachers in the community participated in two one-week intensive **Teacher In the Woods** forestry and natural resource field work, study, and lesson development trainings during July and August.
- The largest single forestry and natural resource education event at Hopkins during 2015 was the **Forest of Arts** in September—bringing about 500 people to the forest for a weekend of activities.

In addition, it is estimated that about 7,000 people came to Hopkins during 2015 to enjoy our forest, walk, hike or jog on our trails, read our interpretive display signs, and see what we are doing in the woods.

As you can see, 2015 was a very busy year!

## Matzka Takes New Role as Forest Educator

Forests Forever, Inc. and Oregon State University's Extension Forestry program have come together 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 18 months.



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 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 is married to Jenny and has two children, Ari, age 12 and Will, age 8. The Matzkas live in Silverton where Jenny is an elementary school teacher.





# 2015 RECAP

## Forest Hall Renamed to Honor Everett

As 2015 came to a close this past December, the Forests Forever, Inc. Board of Directors approved the re-naming of our Forest Hall classroom and meeting space—to Everett Forest Hall—in honor of the family instrumental in making this outstanding venue a reality at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. FFI Executive Director, Ken Everett, and his wife, Glenda, received the surprise announcement at the FFI Christmas party held in the meeting room now bearing their name.

“We (the Board) felt this special recognition for Ken and Glenda was long overdue. If it wasn’t for Ken’s vision and determination, we wouldn’t be here tonight,” FFI Board Member Mike Bondi said, addressing the gathering of more than 50 attendees, including Board Members, staff, volunteers, and spouses.

Ken worked with over 200 community donors to raise the nearly \$300,000 to make the 2,100 square foot, all wood structure possible. But, more than this, Ken personally worked closely with the designer of the building on all the details leading up to construction—including the permitting process, with the contractors on all phases of construction, plus solicited significant donations of supplies, services and materials from the forest industry and local businesses.

Glenda was closely involved, too, taking the lead on the interior design, painting and color schemes, and touches that make Everett Forest Hall a wonderful space for teaching, business events and meetings, weddings and other social activities.

Bondi continued, “Ken is one of the original creators of Forests Forever, Inc. and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. For the past 25 years, he has poured his heart and soul into this tree farm and the work we do in this community in forestry and natural resource education. Having the Everett name attached to such an important part of our identity is a very fitting honor. We are all thankful, beyond words, for what Ken and Glenda have accomplished here.”

## Community Forestry Days

The second Saturday of every month out at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest is dedicated to a Community Forestry Day where volunteers that include forestry professionals, FFI Board Members, small woodland owners, and the general public learn by doing and get a chance to give back through service at Hopkins.

Over the year, there are annual tasks and special projects that allow volunteers to learn something new, teach others, or just have a sense of place in a forest that they use and enjoy. Activities vary depending on the season but include: tree planting, slash burning, vegetation management, trail maintenance, infrastructure maintenance and improvements, equipment training and practice, and so much more.

You can join in the fun, learning and community service, too! Bring your friends, family, or organize your church or neighborhood group. Just show up on the second Saturday of every month at 8:30am in the main parking lot at Hopkins. If you call a couple of days ahead, you’ll know what the projects for the day will be, the tools to bring, and get your name on the list for a complimentary lunch for all volunteers.







# YOUTH

## Sunnyside Environmental

Second grade students from Sunnyside Environmental School in Portland get one of their first forest experiences out in the woods at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. In fact, the Sunnyside students made several trips to Hopkins in the 2014-15 school year including twice in the fall, once in the winter, and two more times in the spring. That's five total visits with about 140 second graders each time! The school brings about 20 teachers, program aides and parent helpers to support the days in the forest.

Students are given the freedom to explore and also time for journaling about what they observe. Topics include defining what a forest is, explaining why forests are important, what is habitat, identifying native plants and wildlife, and having fun.



## Robert Frost Elementary

Robert Forest Elementary in Silverton holds its Outdoor School in the fall shortly after the new school year begins. To prepare their 6th grade students for their 3-day/2-night program, the 5th grade classes come out to Hopkins—the preceding spring—for a day of exploring and learning about outdoor etiquette, the forests of Oregon, and to focus on aquatic habitats, water quality, and forest management.

Each of Frost's five fifth grade classes get an overview of the native plants in the forest and, then, step into a riparian buffer to investigate the macro invertebrates and take water samples to determine temperature, acidity, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. Along the way students stop to observe and discuss the many management examples at Hopkins—with special attention on timber harvesting and streamside management.

## Trost Elementary School



Sixty, Canby fifth grade students from Trost Elementary School participated this past year to do a stream habitat assessment of Little Buckner Creek—the stream that runs along our southern property boundary. The students did water quality testing (acidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen and macro invertebrates) to determine if the stream would be suitable for a fish release project.

The students were also assessing another stream in the community that was running through an agricultural and urban area.





# YOUTH

## St. John Fischer

St. John Fischer, a private school in Portland, brings three classes to Hopkins each year—each with about 30 students. Their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes each come for a full day visit. It's a unique experience, when compared to other groups, since the St. John students and their teacher have been coming annually to Hopkins for nearly ten years. When they return each year, they continue or expand on the work they did the year before.

The 6th grade students get to explore the forest and learn about the plants, animals, and different ways we manage forests in Oregon. As 7th graders, they come back and do a reforestation activity and learn about Oregon's Forest Practice Rules. Finally, as 8th graders, they do a reforestation survey of an area they planted the year before. Also, the 8th graders do a basic forest inventory of an older forest during their field day at Hopkins.

## Boring Middle School

Boring Middle School brought nearly 150 students to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest this past fall to study science in the forest. Students were given background information about Hopkins prior to their visit back in their classrooms along with training with basic tools used to collect data in the forest environment and a standardized data collection sheet.

Students developed a science inquiry question and used their data sheets and tools to gather information that would allow them to answer their questions. When returning back to the classroom, students analyzed their data and prepared reports about their findings.

Besides Boring Middle School, two other middle schools followed a similar model of learning for their students. In the fall of 2015, Sunnyside Environmental and Bridger Middle Schools—both from Portland—brought more than 200 students and 35 teachers and chaperones over a seven day period.

## Sabin Schellenberg Center

The Sabin Schellenberg Center in Milwaukie is a high school Career and Technical Education hub for four Clackamas County high schools—Clackamas, Milwaukie, Rex Putnam and New Urban. Their Natural Resources Program uses Hopkins as an outdoor learning laboratory to provide hands-on learning for three classes. Each month two *Introduction to Natural Resources* classes, and each week one *Advanced Natural Resources* class come to Hopkins. Classes average about 24 students and are part of a yearlong program for the Sabin Schellenberg Center students—one of only a few vocational forestry programs in Oregon High Schools. Hopkins provides the working field laboratory for students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real world problems and activities. Students do a variety of projects such as trail building, fuels reduction, firewood gathering, forest inventory, and wildlife surveys.



## Oregon City Service Learning Academy

The Oregon City Service Learning Academy is an alternative high school who has been bringing students to Hopkins for the past decade. In 2015, the Academy brought 2 different classes out to Hopkins, five times each, for full days learning and doing beginning in the fall and ending in late spring. The goal of the Academy's work at Hopkins is to expose high school students to science in a natural forest ecosystem and to learn about job opportunities available either right out of high school or after obtaining secondary education.

After an introductory visit, students return four more times as a class to conduct service learning activities like tree planting, erosion control, and fuels reduction, and while here, receive basic training and an overview of the skills needed to perform these activities in the employment setting.



# YOUTH

## Teacher in the Woods

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest has been hosting elementary, middle and high school teachers for summer learning experiences for the past ten years. The purpose of the Hopkins Teacher in the Woods program (HTW) is to engage educators in authentic, real-world forestry work and study so they can better incorporate forest-related contexts in their teaching.



The HTW experience is hands-on and project-centered. In 2015, two one week sessions were hosted for six teachers. Participants learn by doing the practice of forestry in order to develop curriculum and connections that can be applied in classroom and/or field studies. The focus for teachers is on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) linkages to Oregon's Next Generation Science Standards.

The best outcome for HTW is when teachers incorporate their forestry experiences into their teaching, including field studies at Hopkins Demonstration Forest (or other similar facilities), and share their experiences and resources with colleagues and the community.

## Eagle Scout Projects

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest is a great place for scouts to do community service and Eagle projects. In 2015, Hopkins hosted four Eagle projects. These projects involved the design and coordination of projects to demonstrate leadership while performing a service to the community.

This past year's projects included the construction of a 25-foot log stringer foot bridge, a stone masonry fireplace next

to the Cedar Shelter, upgrades to the amphitheater, and the rehabilitation of tent/activity pads around the Cedar Shelter. A special thanks to all of our Eagle Scouts and their dedicated leaders and members.







# HIGHER EDUCATION

## OSU Art Students Discover the Creative Forest at Hopkins

Inspired by their experience at the Hopkins Forest of Arts in 2014, five OSU faculty from the College of Liberal Arts decided to make Hopkins Demonstration Forest part of the coursework for their students in spring term 2015. The result was the *Creative Forest* program for about forty OSU art students in two long field days at Hopkins Demonstration Forest (4/25/15 and 5/9/15). This involved students in music, art, theater, and new media communications, producing creative work and earning credit for the course.

Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester and FFI Board Member, worked closely with the Liberal Arts faculty to transform the Hopkins Forest into an art studio. According to Glenn "This was just what we were hoping to accomplish with Forest of Arts. That is, to engage new audiences to return to Hopkins, to inspire them in their work, while showing them what family forestry is all about."

OSU's drawing teacher, Andy Myers, said, "I think it's important to get students off-campus and working in an environment that's unique, because it really pushes their creativity." For Andy, Hopkins Forest provided "a beautiful studio space...out of our normal studio space that we're used to." Results are shared in a short video produced by the group <https://vimeo.com/146518978>. Enjoy!



## Clackamas Community College—an outdoor lab in their backyard

Clackamas Community College in Oregon City is only about 4 miles from the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. In recent years, we have developed a collaboration with the College to host their forestry, wildland fire science, and search and rescue classes out to Hopkins.

CCC instructors enjoy having a managed forest nearby their campus to use and the many different examples of land management that demonstrate a variety of practices. Also, the college appreciates having classroom that can be used for indoor activities prior to and/or following their field activities—and, especially the more "rustic feel" of Hopkins and being able to have the students get dirty and not worry about tracking in a little mud!

During 2015, the Clackamas Community College made 30 class visits to Hopkins.

## Portland State University Senior Capstone

*Science in the Forest* is a middle and high school forest science curriculum taught at Hopkins each year. Portland State University education students have a graduation requirement in their Senior Capstone course that includes a volunteer component. Hopkins and PSU joined forces this past year to conduct outdoor education together—and, help each other.

The PSU students help deliver science inquiry and service learning-based outdoor education programs. Our Hopkins Forest Educator provided training and mentoring opportunities to 9 PSU students in 2015. These students provided a total of 22 volunteer days during their fall semester working with more than twenty middle and high school classes from the Portland metropolitan area—serving more than 600 students.





# FOREST OF ARTS

## 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; and
- 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 a couple hundred people discover Hopkins Demonstration Forest is big success.”







## WOW for the Women Owning Woodlands Network at Hopkins Forest

"This is so useful," said Barbara Brad, after a tree felling demonstration at the Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWNet) event held at Hopkins Demonstration Forest on November 17. She was one of thirty women at the daylong workshop where six instructors shared and demonstrated their knowledge and skills.

Created and directed by OSU Extension educators, over the last ten years, WOWNet has grown to become an international network. Membership in Oregon is 300 and growing. The program at Hopkins was organized by Tiffany Fegel,

OSU Extension's WOWNet Director, in collaboration with Peter Matzka, Hopkins Forest Educator.

In keeping with the Hopkins Way of "learning by doing," activities included hands-on sessions on chainsaw use and maintenance. Peter Matzka discussed forest management options in the Thinning and Pruning Demonstration. Amy Grotta and Tammy Cushing (OSU Extension faculty) worked with the group in Forest Hall, in a session on "our families, our forests and our future," focusing on business and planning aspects.

For more information: <http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/WOWNet> Tiffany.Fegel@oregonstate.edu



## Tips on Weed Management Emerge from Workshop at Hopkins



The Weed Management Workshop convened at Hopkins in April showcased four weed scenarios and different approaches for control. Organized by OSU Extension, the workshop engaged 20 woodland owner participants at Hopkins and nearby field stops. Neighboring landowners, who recently learned about Extension programs (via contact with Hopkins Demonstration Forest), decided to host a great field stop for the tour.

Workshop participants learned how to outline site conditions, identify basic weed groups and learned how proper timing of control saves effort and money. Ken Everett (FFI





Executive Director and Consulting Forester with MAP Foresters, Inc.) and Nick Domes (herbicide contractor) shared their tips based on long experience with weed control for site preparation and reforestation maintenance.

Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester in Clackamas-Marion-Hood River Counties, said "Field workshops like this are a great way to bring the science-based information and the experts together with woodland owners, sharing and learning from each other on-the-ground." The Hopkins Demonstration Forest provided excellent learning sites, too. A few of the top tips on weed management:

- Target thistles and broadleaf weeds with early herbicide treatment to reserve moisture and nutrients for tree seedling growth.
- Spray Scotch broom in the spring when it's starting to flower or cut it close to the ground when in full flower, but before going to seed.
- Spray blackberry plants in the fall with when leaves are still present, so they can absorb the chemical.
- Blackberry can be controlled with repeated cutting over 5 years, as long as your establish some conifers to shade them out in the long run.

## Forest Hall the Perfect Place for Woodland Farmer Recognition Banquet

Forest Hall at Hopkins Demonstration Forest provided the perfect setting for a gathering of 80 woodland owners for the annual Clackamas Woodland Farmer of the Year Recognition Banquet on October 22, 2015. This was the first time the Woodland Farmer banquet has been held at Forest Hall.

Two outstanding woodland farmer nominees were recognized for 2015: The Bugni Forest and Tree Farm, Estacada, and the Thronson Family Tree Farm, Molalla. Ultimately, the Thronson Family Tree Farm was awarded the Clackamas Woodland Farmer of the Year 2015.



The Thronson Family (Jack with wife, Dee; mother, Ellen; and sister, Holly) recognized at last fall's Tree Farmer Recognition Banquet at Hopkins' Forest Hall.

The Clackamas Woodland Farmer of the Year is the oldest recognition event in the state (since 1955). The purpose is to bring attention and recognition to the excellent tree farming work being done in the county. Judging criteria include: sound forestry practices, goals for sustainable management, and community service and education activities to encourage others to practice good stewardship. Woodland Farmer of the Year committee members were: Derek Craven Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association; Sena Chase, Clackamas County Parks and Forests; Mike Haasken, Oregon Department of Forestry; and Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forestry.

Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester said, "It's a privilege for me as a forester to work with outstanding woodland owners like the Bugnis and the Thronsons. And there is no better place than Hopkins Forest Hall to share their stories and illustrate their good work to inspire other woodland owners."



# 2015 IN PHOTOS











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