

GROUSE HOLLOW NOTES

Spring 2023



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OUT IN THE FOREST

With a dry start to the year, winter finished up with a bang after several weeks of below normal temperatures, a record snow event, and several small ones, too. As a result, mountain snowpack increased across the state to 'normal' levels with an above average, snow water equivalent. If Mother Nature is kind and gives us a spring like 2022, we will be looking good going into the 2023 fire season with much needed drought relief to Oregon's southwest and eastside side communities, as well as abundant water here in the northwest (fingers crossed).

While some do not enjoy the winter wonderland, the late cold spells brought some perfect conditions to a new project at Hopkins— bigleaf maple tapping. With the help and encouragement of Eric Jones (OSU, College of Forestry Faculty), the Extension Forestry Team from Clackamas County set-up a small scale, maple sap production site between Grouse Hollow Road and Hopkins Trail.



Twenty-five bigleaf maples were tapped and connected to a 16-gallon holding tank via a network of food grade tubing with a vacuum pump facilitating the flow of sap from the tapping spiles.

In order for the sap to flow in any quantity there needed to be a freeze-thaw event which draws the water and sugar up into the tree's stem (from the roots), and then during the thaw flows back down. The late winter cold spells brought those conditions and provided two events to capture the sap as it journeyed back down the stem. Each sap flowing event lasted about two days and yielded a total of 150-gallons of sap. Now this is where it gets interesting... Since bigleaf maple has a lower sugar content compared to the eastern sugar maple, there is a tremendous amount of water that needs to be removed. To help reduce the boil/evaporation time to take the sap from 1% to 66% sugar content (the amount in syrup), a small scaled reverse osmosis system was used to remove over 75% of the water at a fraction of the energy required (compared to boiling from 1% in the 16-gallon stock kettle we used to finish the process). So, when reduced, about 1.5-gallons of syrup were rendered. While there is a bit of a learning curve, the process is relatively easy. You can read more about it at <https://beav.es/S5v>, go to the *Oregon Maple Project* <https://www.oregonmapleproject.org/>, or walk down Hopkins Trail and see our set-up.



Another active project you might have noticed is the continued work on the reforestation of the 2020 timber harvest along the upper portion of Grouse Hollow Road. Several events and conditions caused a high level of seedling mortality on this site. First, the heat dome in June of 2021, along with some rough planting conditions (rocky soil with a sunny exposure), added with seedling quality caused the 2021 planting and 2022 replanting survival rates to be low. As a result, the stand was inter-planted again this winter to bring it up to our target stocking level. In addition, a portion of the ice storm decimated Red Alder stand (located behind the now completed Outreach Center!) that got masticated last fall, was planted as well. Vexar tubes have been placed around the western red cedar for protection from deer browse with the Douglas-fir going un-tubed.

Come on out and see all the activities and new additions to the Hopkins forest!

Peter Matzka
OSU Extension Forestry Educator/Hopkins Demonstration Forest





Upcoming Events (Spring 2023):

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

With the impacts of Covid-19 in the rear view mirror, youth education returning to normal, and public visitation continuing to increase, it is time to look forward. With business (well education) as usual, there are always new opportunities and other ways that Forests Forever Inc. can engage the current and next generation of outdoor learners as well as the public.



There is a continued effort to add additional educational kiosks including two new interpretive panels (currently in the development stage) for the wetland ponds. This will bring the total of new panels installed to ten over the past year (Molalla Log House, Fire Tower, Wildfire/Home Defensible Space, Reforestation Unit, and soon the Wetland Ponds). In addition to the panels, we are reaching out and creating new partnerships within OSU, Clackamas County Extension's diverse programming (Master Gardeners, SNAP-ED & 4-H), home school groups, and community organizations.



Some other big news in the expansion of our educational opportunities is the Chartering of a new BSA Scouting group that is serving youth from the Oregon City/Beaver Creek area. Troop 452 received its official Charter from FFI and established its presence at the beginning of 2023. The Troop will initially serve a boys unit with plans in the coming years to create a girls unit as well. The enthusiasm of the adult leaders and their youth along with the prime location and facilities at Hopkins to hold their weekly meetings, will only generate more interest from Cub Scout groups to seek out Troop 452 as they advance up through the ranks of Scouting. The Troop meets Thursday evenings with plans for overnight campouts at Hopkins and Schink Demonstration Forest as well as the Peede Woodlands. The official ribbon cutting was held in Everett Hall on March 2nd.

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Monday with the Mike's @ Hopkins
(Bondi, Haasken, & Piazza)
Weekly—Call to Confirm
9:00am-3:00pm
Odd Jobs Around Hopkins, Great Exercise, @ Camaraderie
All are welcome — Even Non-Mikes!
Contact Mike Bondi (503-705-2434)

April 2nd
Forestry and Natural Resources Outreach Center - Dedication
2:00pm-4:00pm Public Tour
3:00pm Dedication & Ribbon Cutting
Come tour the new FNRO Center, help us reach our fund raising goal, and learn about how this addition to the Hopkins' facilities will expand our educational and outreach goals for years to come.

April 8th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Reforestation Activities @ Invasive Weed Removal @ Wetlands Ponds

May 13th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Lumber Milling @ Trail Improvements

June 10th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
TBD

For More information:
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COME BE A PART OF THE HOPKINS' VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

Have you ever wondered how Hopkins keeps its gate open 365 days a year with free admission to all, and provides facilities and forest access for youth programs, adult woodland tours/training, and public visitors? The facilities that are heavily used from the buildings, to the trails, to the demonstration areas are all maintained by a volunteer facilities crew, our Community Forest Days, and an emerging team that is meeting every Monday to try and keep up with the increased demands that come with more users. If you want to be a part of an amazing team of community members, woodland owners, and outdoor enthusiasts please consider volunteering and give back. While financial donations help with educational and operating costs (and are greatly appreciated), a small donation of your time can make a significant impact to help with our outreach efforts. For more information: peter.matzka@oregonstate.edu



LEARN BY DOING—IT'S THE HOPKINS WAY WE MANAGE OUR FOREST!

www.demonstrationforest.org