



# Grouse Hollow News

FALL 2011



## A Woodsy Young Veteran

BY JIM KADERA

Scores of adults work every year to maintain and improve Hopkins Demonstration Forest. And then there is Jackson Chandler, a junior at West Linn High School.

Chandler, now 16, began volunteering at Hopkins two years ago. He has cleared brush near trails, climbed trees to prune higher branches for visitor safety, worked in a small summer crew with teachers to measure research plots and mark timber for thinning. This spring he and helpers installed a split rail cedar fence near Hopkins Hall that he planned as an Eagle Scout project.

“Our experience with some teenagers has not always given us confidence in their capacity. Jackson is a different sort of young man,” said Tim Delano, Hopkins community forestry educator. With his previous work experience, Chandler “was more



PHOTO: TIM DELANO

**Eagle Scout projects provide an opportunity for Scouts to demonstrate leadership skills by planning and overseeing a project the benefits their community. Jackson Chandler (pictured on right) of West Linn selected the cedar rail fence installation for his Eagle project, completed in June 2011.**

or less an equal on the crew with the Teachers on Summer Assignment last year (2010),” Delano said.

You might say Chandler was a woodsy veteran before he set foot on Hopkins. “My uncle and grandfather have land not far from Hopkins Forest. I began helping there when I was nine or ten years old,” he explained.

When Chandler needed to complete a community service project to become an Eagle Scout, he asked Delano for suggestions. Of the options discussed, Chandler settled on installing a cedar rail fence to control off-road access to Hopkins Forest.

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### Youth Opportunities

Each year there is a variety of opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills, earn high school credit or complete a service project at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. In the coming year we are looking for youth journalists and photographers (for this newsletter), social media assistants, education program assistants, forestry technicians, and research assistants. Potential projects include (though not limited to) wildlife enhancements, trail maintenance, weed control, tree planting, erosion control and a variety of little construction projects.

Youth who want to consider a project or internship at Hopkins Demonstration Forest can contact Tim DeLano, Community Forestry Educator: 503-632-2150.

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# Ponds: Water for Fire & Wildlife

BY JIM KADERA

Two silt-laden ponds are being restored to enhance fire protection for the new classroom and community building (Forest Hall) at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



## Contact Info

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## Forests Forever Board of Directors

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## Grouse Hollow News

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Scheduled for completion this fall, the work was required to obtain a Clackamas County building permit for the new hall. Forests Forever Inc. received a grant of \$20,187 from Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District to pay for the pond restoration project. The contractor is Earl Buche of Molalla.

Located about 100 yards downslope from the Cedar Grove Picnic Shelter, the ponds cover about a half-acre, and were developed in the early 1960s by then-owner Howard Hopkins for his tree farm fire protection.

Most of the water storage capacity was lost gradually through the years to siltation and annual leaf-fall. The ponds are being deepened to about

five or six feet deep, according to Ken Everett, Forests Forever executive director.

"We're installing a hydrant nearby that takes water from the lower pond so state forestry or local fire tanker trucks can get water there," he said. "The available water supply will far exceed the amount we are required to have for our building permit."

The job assigned to Buche includes a half mile of gravel road improvement and widening plus a turn-around area for fire truck access. The Oregon Department of Forestry provided technical aid in planning the improvements.

"The restored ponds will make good habitat for wildlife and also give us more educational opportunities to learn about watershed resources," Everett pointed out.



PHOTO: TIM DELANO

**With water drained from the ponds, a track hoe excavator works to remove stumps and other organic debris. Follow the ponds rehabilitation project on our Facebook page.**

## EDUCATION PROGRAM ASSISTANTS NEEDED

During the school year there is a need for several volunteers who are available during the week and like to help young people learn in the outdoors. The fall calendar is full, winter is filling, and plenty of requests for spring dates at Hopkins are anticipated. Contact Tim DeLano at 503-632-2150 to discuss your interest in helping with education programs.



**Keep updated between issues of *Grouse Hollow News*—  
follow us on Facebook**

# Funds Needed to Complete Forest Hall

BY JIM KADERA

**F**orests Forever Inc. will step up action to complete the new classroom and community building at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

During their September meeting, the board of directors voted unanimously to secure a \$15,000 bank loan to finish plumbing, heating and electrical work to ensure there is no frost damage to the building this winter. The loan will be the first use of an existing \$20,000 line of credit with US Bank at 4.75% interest.

Several board members expressed concern about going into debt, saying they believe the nation's economic woes call for curbs on deficit spending. But their tone changed after board chairman Dan Green suggested it was prudent "to protect what we have." Besides approving the loan, the board named five of its members to a committee to plan an aggressive final push to complete fund raising.

Ken Everett, executive director, said a short-term loan was necessary because Forests Forever lacks about \$40,000 to complete the building. Some of the additional work, such as installing a sound system and rest-rooms tile, can wait until fund raising

brings in more money, he said.

Board member Mike Piazza, a banker, estimated loan payments will be about \$325 a month, and the loan can be paid off early if fund raising is sufficient. Everett said the fresh round of fund raising will tap potential new givers and ask past givers to donate again to help reach the goal. An auction of donated items also may be scheduled.

Total construction cost has been estimated at about \$330,000 excluding chairs, tables and related furnishings, and landscaping. Forests Forever had hoped to complete the building before winter, but a slow-down in donations made that impossible. Board member Mike Bondi said it appears the work might be finished by next spring.

Meanwhile, Everett predicted the retired Mount Clatskanie fire lookout tower erected at Hopkins Forest this year will be ready for public use by next summer. The tower, which once stood in a state-owned forest in the coast range, still needs a small cabin to be built on the top. Everett said Dan Coleman, contractor for the classroom building, will construct the cabin.

Another contractor recently installed security screening around

the base of the tower stairs at cost of \$1,025. Financing for the tower project is separate from the building construction and is sufficient to complete that project.

***This series of images shows progression of Forest Hall development since earth moving activities in fall 2008, through laying of rustic oak flooring as this issue of Grouse Hollow News goes to print. Keep up with Forest Hall progress on our Facebook page.***



PHOTOS: TIM DELANO

## YES! I want to help with the New Classroom Building at Hopkins

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a pledge in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please send me a bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!** Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.  
Please mail form with check or pledge 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 (CFD)

**2nd Saturday each month, 8:30am-4:00pm.** These family-friendly community events include volunteer projects that vary depending on the season. Lunch is provided for volunteers, often including a brief topical program. A tour or demonstration activity is offered in the afternoon to see what we're up to. Community Forestry Days begin at 8:30 am; lunch at noon; tour/activity at 2:00 pm; clean-up and depart by 4:00 pm.

### November 12; Pruning Young Conifers, Slash Burning/Chipping, Preventing Erosion

Learn by doing essential fall forestry chores: volunteers are needed to cut limbs, clean ditches and chip or burn slash. Novices will be paired with experienced volunteers. It's a great chance to try a variety of hand tools and different equipment, and to see how much important work can be done with little effort.

### December 10; Water, Fire and Holiday Greens

If ditches are running full, we'll make sure the water goes where we want it to go. If conditions allow, we'll burn slash. Afternoon attention will shift to pruning in the bough orchard and assembling holiday decorations in lieu of a tour.

### Community Forestry Days in 2012 ...

#### January 14; Wildlife Habitat Projects

Winter is a good time to construct and place nest boxes in the forest - before busy spring migration and breeding. Stay warm and dry in the shop building bird houses, or adapt to the elements and help enhance the habitat for some of our favored forest residents. During the tour we will place nest boxes and see habitat improvements.

### February 11 & March 10; Tree Planting—Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Families and groups are encouraged to sign up in advance for tree planting as this is the most popular volunteer activity we offer. Learn how to plant and protect seedlings, including initial weed control. Two shifts are offered on both dates: 9:00 am-Noon & 1:00-4:00 pm. Come early or stay after your shift to enjoy a campfire lunch between noon and 100pm.

Please RSVP to 503-632-2150 by the Thursday prior to each CFD if you plan to join us for Community Lunch or the Tour.



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"I measured the length for the fence and thought about how much time it would take to build it," Chandler continued. "I estimated it would take six people 84 hours total to build the fence of about 250 feet." His planning and organizing the project took Chandler 34 hours. The only change from his planning was Ken Everett, Hopkins executive director, asking for different fencing, which was then purchased by Forests Forever.

"We built the fence in two days this June. My helpers included about 15 other Scouts, relatives and people from my church," he said.

Chandler sees Hopkins Forest as "a great place for doing community service and for people to learn about forests."

He expects to continue volunteering there through his high school years.



PHOTO: TIM DELANO

**High climbing high schooler, Jackson Chandler, scaled several Douglas-fir trees near the main parking lot at Hopkins Demonstration Forest during the October 2009 Community Forestry Day. Once situated 30 to 40 feet off the ground, Chandler used a hand saw to remove large dead branches hanging over picnic tables and an information kiosk.**



PHOTO: DAVID SCHARFENBERG

**Jackson Chandler (left) assisting Jeremy Shibley to install a seed-fall trap in the Uneven-age Demonstration during July 2010.**