



Annual Report

2019



Recap of an Amazing Year

This has been another amazing year for the non-profit, Forests Forever, Inc. This volunteer organization was formed nearly 30 years ago to promote science-based education, to enhance understanding of, and appreciation for the processes, complexities, cultural heritage and benefits of sustainable woodland management. Our mission hasn't changed. Our impacts continue to grow. Our stories only become more compelling.

Forests Forever does our work, now, at multiple demonstration forest locations that are all accessible examples of sustainable forestry providing woodland products, fish and wildlife habitat, experiential woodland management learning, historic cultural features related to our forestry heritage, and recreation. Youth, woodland owners, and the broader community are invited to learn through visits, educational events, and participation in the operation of our demonstration forests.

We really appreciate the involvement of so many of you—our volunteers who support our many projects, our financial and in-kind donors, and all who participate in our educational programs and learning opportunities... and, just enjoy our forests. We look forward to seeing you in the coming year!

Ken Everett
FFI Executive Director





Our Board of Directors has the overall management responsibility of the Hopkins Demonstration Forest plus the legal and fiduciary oversight of Forests Forever, Inc. The Board meets monthly to conduct business.

FORESTS FOREVER, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBER	BOARD SINCE	REPRESENTING
Ken Everett <i>Executive Director</i> Colton	1991	Forest Consultant
Frank Wille <i>Board Chair</i> Oregon City	2012	Woodland Owner
Mike Piazza <i>Board Treasurer</i> West Linn	2007	Business Community
Maralyn Turner <i>Board Secretary</i> Lake Oswego	2019	Education
Glenn Ahrens <i>Extension Forester</i> Oregon City	2012	OSU Extension Service
Mike Bondi Lake Oswego	1991	General Public
Mary Castle Molalla	2008	Forest Products Industry
Michael Daly Beavercreek	2010	General Public
Mike Haasken <i>Stewardship Forester</i> Molalla	2013	Oregon Department of Forestry
Pam Hayden Lake Oswego	2018	General Public
Kimberly Johnson Milwaukie	2017	Business Community
Jim Kadera Hillsboro	2006	General Public
Bob Kahl Oregon City	2014	CCFFA Representative

STAFF

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The Gifts That Will Keep on Giving

Before Clem Hunter, Oregon City, passed last December, he made a very special gift to Forests Forever, Inc. to help sustain the organization in perpetuity. That was his vision. A long-time FFI supporter and Board Member, Clem wanted to ensure there was a permanent source of recurring funds to help support the non-profit. And, he really wanted to create a model others could follow with his lead. Clem made a \$50,000 gift to establish the “Phyllis Genevieve Hunter Memorial Fund” to honor his late wife. The fund produces 5% of the principal as annual income to FFI each year—or, about \$2,500. Any individual can make contributions to this fund to help grow the principal, too. *Truly, a gift that will keep on giving!*



Clem and Phyllis Hunter

The Schink family (Hannah and children Andrew and Janice) had a vision, too, when they donated their 21-acre Molalla River property to Forests Forever just over a year ago. They wanted their property to be enjoyed and experienced by future generations and provide an opportunity for the community to learn about the Dickey Prairie area, plus the Indians and pioneers who frequented this location.



Schink property's Molalla River frontage.

In addition, the property and its Molalla River frontage provides FFI with a unique new opportunity to teach students and adults about the importance of water quality, fish and how we can improve habitat while actively managing forestland. *Truly, a gift that will keep on giving!*

And, it has! In October, 2019, the Schink family made another gift—\$100,000—to help develop access and facilities at the new Schink Demonstration Forest in the coming year. According to FFI Executive Director, Ken Everett, “Andrew and Janice came out to our Hopkins forest to see some of our facilities, talk about forest management and road development. We agreed that there were some next steps needed to help maximize the family’s recent property gift.” *Truly, a gift that will keep on giving!*

A Busy Year for Construction, too

Each year we make improvements to our forests and facilities we manage to accomplish our mission of hands-on education about sustainable forestry. This past year was no different. It has been a very busy year. And, much of the work highlighted here was made possible thanks to the dedicated work of community volunteers—plus the opportunities we now have to mill our own lumber, thanks to recent donations. ***Our possibilities only keep growing!***



Restroom Opens—a huge new asset

Forests Forever volunteers—an intrepid group led by super volunteer, Pete Wille—completed the new restroom complex located in our lower parking lot area this past spring. The 800 square foot complex includes multiple stalls for boys and girls, running water, a shower stall for those needing to get cleaned up following work on the farm, and all of the modern conveniences.

What's very special about the restroom is the story that about 90% of the work was done with volunteers and that all of the exterior cedar siding was milled—again, with the help of volunteers—and our own mill and from trees harvested at Hopkins. ***More learning by doing!***



Welcome Center now Welcoming!

Another lower parking lot area project was the conversion of a storage shed—formerly part of the Forest Host camp location that was vacated in the summer of 2018—into a new Welcoming Center. This is part of a larger redevelopment of the public's access to the Hopkins forest by the public. Besides having the physical space for a Welcome Host, we have appreciated the excellent public service provided by one very dedicated volunteer, Elizabeth Howley, Oregon City, who has staffed the Center most Sunday mornings. Elizabeth has been able to meet and greet visitors, learn about their experiences, and needs.

Our Welcome Center is another gift from our volunteers working this past summer. ***Come by some Sunday morning to meet Elizabeth—and enjoy one of her homemade cookies!***



Yurt Comes to Hopkins

The forest pre-school Hopkins hosts everyday needed their own space to gather participants each morning before heading to the forest. A yurt seemed like a great space for these young learners. Also, the new facility will be useful to other smaller groups needing a place to get out of the weather. Of course, the little people love the

yurt. It's fun—kind of like camping!

The yurt was purchased as a kit and our volunteers learned how to assemble it and get it ready for use. Lumber was milled for this project, too, for the platform the yurt sits on and the entry decking. ***Another great improvement!***



The Molalla Log House—an incredible story comes to Hopkins!

This past year saw huge progress on the long-anticipated relocation of the Molalla Log House to its permanent home. This is an amazing story about a very unique building—not to mention the incredible dedication and perseverance of the community volunteers who have been working so many years to research, preserve, restore—and, now re-locate the building.

Forests Forever, Inc. Board Member, Pam Hayden, has done a fabulous job securing grant funding to support the project. Also, she has worked hard to share information about the project. See this wonderful video produced this fall in conjunction with Clackamas County government for a glimpse of progress on the relocation plus hear from those involved—www.facebook.com/HopkinsDemonstrationForest/videos/937953703237580.

Phase I of the Molalla Log House project is now done—preparing the site, developing the foundation and assembling the lower half of the building structure. The remainder of the construction (walls, roof, and site development for public use) is scheduled for completion next year. ***Watch for grand opening and dedication in 2020!***

On the Land, with the People, Learning and Doing—Together!

More than 100 educational events, classes, tours, demonstrations, and meetings is a quick summary of community outreach at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest this past year. These activities were attended by more than 5000 youth and adult learners. In addition, it is estimated that approximately 7,500 to 10,000 community members visit Hopkins every year on their own to walk in our woods, enjoy the forest, and appreciate the environment.

Several important activities from the past year included:

Big Field Day Kicks Off April Fundraiser; Plants New Ponds

Dosha Salon Spa and Aveda Institute of Portland/Vancouver held their 4th annual Field Day at Hopkins in March. The fundraising kick-off day included forest tours and volunteerism to begin a two-month effort to raise funds that support the goals and mission of Hopkins. Over 150 staff, students, and family members joined FFI Board Members, Master Woodland Managers, Master Gardeners, and Friends of Hopkins for a day of planting native wetland trees and shrubs to complete the three-year effort to rehabilitate two ponds and wildlife habitat areas at Hopkins. Not only was the Dosha/Aveda service project day a Hopkins a huge success, their fundraiser was, too, generating nearly \$24,000 of donations to Forests Forever, Inc. *We are truly blessed!*

High School Forestry Leaders Continues to Grow

You build it, and they will come. The Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL) is the high school career and technical education organization formed thanks to the efforts of OSU Extension Forestry Educator at Hopkins, Peter Matzka, and local high school teacher, Rob Waibel. Formed in 2016 with 9 high school chapters around the state, FNRL now includes 25 chapters and nearly 1,000 high school students who participate in

forestry and natural resource educational programs, activities, and competitions throughout the school year. The culmination activity for FNRL is a state-wide convention for the chapters and held at Hopkins each year in April. This past spring, more than 150 youth participated in the two-day event.

Forests Forever, Inc. has played a pivotal roll to work with Peter to provide the corporate structure and fiduciary responsibility for funds being managed on behalf of FNRL. “We’ve seen great growth in FNRL. We are well on our way to fledging this group and helping them form their own non-profit organization,” said Matzka. The non-profit formation process for FNRL was launched during 2019 with hopes to have finalized sometime in 2020. *Investing in the future!*

1st Home School Day Attracts Crowd

A new event a Hopkins during 2019 was a Home School Field Day this past May. The Field Day included map and compass reading, native plant identification, sawmill production, healthy snack-making, tree measurements, aquatic invertebrates, animal track identification, and forest art—all designed for grades 2 through 12. Volunteers manned 15 stations throughout the forest. Approximately

400 youth and adults participated.

“It feels like Outdoor School in a day, said Jennifer Lundblad, a home-school parent from Boring. “It’s nice to be able to school outdoors and get them into the environment. It’s a little different than a textbook.” *A new audience for education; a new opportunity!*

Teachers in Woods Provides Important Link

Since 2003, the Hopkins Demonstration Forest has hosted school teachers to spend time during their summers out in the woods working with our staff to learn about the forest, land management practices, and caring for our natural resources. This past summer 12 teachers spent a combined 30 weeks of time exploring a variety of topics from tree measurements and soils, studying wildlife and fisheries habitat, and developing lesson plans to use when back in the classroom with their students.

“We have the opportunity to work closely with teachers during an intense time of hands-on and focused learning,” said Peter Matzka, Hopkins Forestry Educator. “Teachers not only learn skills, they see connections and develop ideas for how they can apply their new skills and understanding with their students. We have great interactions and sharing amongst the teachers in our program, too. Learning from each other is very powerful.” *Our core mission—education about sustainable forestry!*



Woodland Owners Come to Hopkins for Their Learning, too

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest was a great venue for a wide variety of forest landowner education classes in 2019. These events and activities were coordinated by OSU Extension Forestry Agent, Glenn Ahrens. According to Glenn, “Hopkins is such a perfect place to do my landowner education. I am incredibly fortunate to have this resource only a short drive from my office. Being able to teach, show and demonstrate real world examples of forestry, plus, now with more than 25 years of management experience on this property, is an amazing opportunity for me, our landowners, and the community.”

Here’s a summary of forest landowner education at Hopkins this past year.

Clackamas Tree School 2019: Hopkins was home to five field classes at Tree School this past March—each taking advantage of our forest’s resources to make learning “come alive”.

- *Managing stand density* for maintaining healthy trees, improving wildlife habitat, and maximizing timber production.

- *Multi-aged Forest Management* to develop forests with trees of different ages.

- *Logging with Farm Tractors* demonstrated the application of a farm tractor, Farmi winch, and synthetic rope for small-scale harvesting—including the essential steps for safe and effective use of farm tractors for harvesting small timber and yarding logs with the tractor.

- *Intro to small scale milling* provided an introduction to basic hands-on milling techniques, demonstration and discussion at Hopkins’ Woodmizer band saw mill.

- *Into the Woods* An inspiring, challenging, active, and fun immersion into the world of our remarkable forests, the native trees that grow in them, the wood they provide, and their connections to your life and work.

Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWNET) held two workshops at Hopkins in 2019. In May, women learned basic chainsaw safety, maintenance and use, including actual tree felling. On a walking tour, they learned about Hopkins’ mission to promote science-based education while visiting demonstration areas on thinning and selective management, riparian forestry, and reforestation.

Another WOWNET workshop in September provided field sessions on Tree ID and Tree Measurements, where participants learned how to identify most native tree species in the area. And, they also learned basic skills necessary to put in a plot, measure the trees in that plot, and calculate timber volumes based off of those measurements.

The Basic Forestry Field Day, last May, provided a great conclusion to multi-week *Woodland Management Shortcourse*, featuring the full range of forestry activities showcased at Hopkins, from reforestation to silviculture and timber harvesting.

Woodland Wildlife Field Day held last May, featured both habitat enhancement and wildlife damage aspects of managing private woodlands for wildlife. The varied habitats maintained at Hopkins provided a great field-learning opportunity for participants.


Thinning and Selective Management landowner workshop held in November, highlighted 25 years of results and experience at Hopkins in three demonstration areas where mature forest conditions (>80-years) are being developed with periodic thinning or selective harvesting.

Woodland Farmer of the Year Recognition Dinner was held again, this past October, in Everett Hall at Hopkins Demonstration Forest—always a great setting. Linda Buser and her son Michael, of *Lazy B Timber Farm* near Estacada, were awarded Clackamas Woodland Farmer of the Year 2019. Pam and Jack Dent, of *The Haven* out of Molalla, were Woodland Farmer Nominees.





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Education Consortium Members

These businesses, organizations, and agencies have provided financial support during the past year to specifically help fund our Hopkins Forest Education program. These funds support our full time forestry educator plus all of the resources (field equipment, teaching supplies, marketing, and infrastructure, etc.) needed to serve the 5,000+ youth and adults who participate in our hands-on learning events and activities—all at no cost.

We, sincerely, thank all of these contributors. Their investments are absolutely critical to our success.

Again, the gifts that keep on giving!

Clackamas County Extension and 4-H Service District	\$97,000
Oregon Forest Resources Institute	\$15,000
Walker Family Foundation	\$11,000
Weyerhaeuser Company	\$10,000
RSG Forest Products	\$5,000
Key Bank Foundation	\$3,500
Port Blakely Tree Farms, Ltd.	\$3,000
Freres Foundation	\$2,500
A.J. Frank Family Foundation	\$2,000
Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association	\$1,360
Beavercreek Lions	\$1,000

Exciting Plans Ahead in 2020!

Schink Demonstration Forest—new road and outdoor shelter (thanks to generous gift from Schink family)

Poppino Pavilion—honoring Board charter member John Poppino (thanks to generous gifts from Poppino & Everett families)

Clatskanie Mountain Historic Fire Lookout—finally opening to public!

Fledging the Oregon Future Natural Resource Leaders & its own non-profit

Expanding forestry & natural resource career & technical opportunities for local high school students

Recognizing the 30 year anniversary of Forests Forever, Inc.

Completing the Molalla Log House and dedication

Final planning and fundraising for the Forestry Outreach Center at Hopkins