

# GROUSE HOLLOW NOTES

Summer2023

## OUT IN THE FOREST



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As quick as summer changed to fall last year, the shift back to summer was about as fast. The change in seasons always offers new opportunities for outdoor education here at Hopkins, and the changes at Hopkins over the years have opened the doors to enhance and expand these opportunities also (as well as the addition of the Schink Demonstration Forest). It is amazing what has been added to Hopkins over the last ten years and the expansion of all the educational outreach activities (talking about fast... this is my 10<sup>th</sup> summer at Hopkins).

When I arrived in the winter of 2014, the then Forest Hall was just getting the back patio completed and there were an estimated 2,000 youth and 5,000 public visitors being served each year. Since then, educational outreach for youth is in excess of 5,000 youth annually and over 15,000 public visitors each year. In those 10 years

we saw the addition of the Sawmill House, Restroom, Yurt, Forest Host Building upgrade, Lookout Tower completion, Poppino Family Pavilion, Implement/Equipment Storage Building, and the recently completed Belton Outreach Center for forestry and natural resources education. Named after long time supporter John Belton, this most recent addition is home to Hopkins' full time caretaker and can provide short-term accommodations to visiting educators, interns, and forestry graduate students as well as host small meetings for woodland owners and community partners. It's not just a beautiful space, but a place that will help expand and enhance the outreach efforts here at Hopkins and with OSU.

While I arrived the year after John's passing, his name came up often and continued to come up many times over the years. For those who did not know John and his family, this is the story board that was placed in the Belton Outreach Center on June 9th at the dedication and naming ceremony.

Peter Matzka

OSU Extension Forestry Educator/Hopkins Demonstration Forest

# John Belton (1934-2013)

The Belton Outreach Center is named in memory of John Belton—prominent woodland owner in Clackamas County, passionate educator extraordinaire, innovator and leader in the family forest community, and friend of many.

John was an Oregon State University Master Woodland Manager, the Clackamas Woodland Farmer of the Year in 1992 and an Evergreen Awardee in 2006.

John grew up in the Canby area. His younger years were spent on his family's forest property east of Sandy. John graduated from Lewis and Clark College and Oregon State University with BS, MS and PhD degrees in Biology. His professional career was spent in university research, teaching and administration in California.

John retired in 1988 to focus his time and attention on the family's forest. John quickly became engaged with the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, American Tree Farm System, the OSU Extension Service—as well as Forests Forever, Inc. John served on OSU's Extension Advisory Council in Clackamas County.

John loved teaching and sharing his knowledge and insights with woodland owners, professional foresters and natural resource managers, and the public. He hosted many tours and study groups on his land—from around the county, state and internationally. John was also a regular teacher at the Clackamas Tree School.



**John loved teaching and sharing his knowledge and insights...**

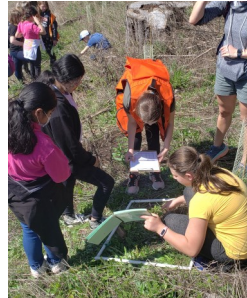
John's wife, Carol, and sons, Arthur and Stephen, named the Belton Outreach Center in John's memory for his love of teaching and outreach that the Hopkins Demonstration Forest represents. That naming dedication was Sunday, July 9th, 2023.



BELTON OUTREACH CENTER

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

This spring, 30 individual school and public organizations were directly engaged at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest as well as a host of wood-land management classes. Several of these groups came multiple times which resulted in over 1,500 youth visits (including many adult chaper-ones). In addition, Clackamas Community College brought their Forestry class out weekly, a visiting Charter School from Hawaii was on site for ten days, and the chartered BSA Troop continues to come weekly. Ad-ditionally, there were three home school networks using Hopkins. We are currently working with them, coordinating facilities and curriculum/activities to enrich their time at Hopkins. The Home School Network Groups are also using Hopkins weekly dur-ing the summer months and have participant numbers ranging from 8-16 youth/group. Also, this summer we have several en-richment groups using both Hopkins and Schink plus the Teacher in the Woods Program with five registered participants for July.



In the forest, we are expanding the interpretation efforts with additional educational panels being in-stalled around our ponds. They are currently in print and will be installed soon. In addition, the new refor-estation panel installation overlooking our 2020 har-vest area is getting a wooden structure built over it.

Lastly, the current youth/group entrance that is ac-cessed from the bus parking area is being enhanced to increase accessibility for educational programs (elimination of stairs) and provide a day use entrance for users that is closer to the restroom, on a more level parking surface, and less crowded when large group events are occurring in Everett Hall. Interpretive panels will be added to enhance visi-tors' forest experience as well as some exciting new features.



## Upcoming Events (Summer 2023):

**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)

**Every Saturday, July-Sept.**  
**Lookout Tower Open\***  
9:00am-1:00pm  
\*Depending on volunteer availability

**August 12th**  
**Community Forest Day**  
8:30am-2:30pm  
*Western Red Cedar Health Inventory  
and Forest Entrance Improvements*

**September 9th**  
**Community Forest Day**  
8:30am-2:30pm  
*Lumber Milling, Cedar Health Invento-ry, and Trail Improvements*

**October 7th**  
**Tree School Field Day\***  
8:00am-4:30pm  
A variety of field based forestry clas-ses and live demonstrations sites  
\*Registration Required

**October 14th**  
**Community Forest Day**  
8:30am-2:30pm  
TBD

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## NEW CARETAKER AND FOREST HOST ARRIVES AT HOPKINS

If you have been out to Hopkins lately, you will notice things have been spruced up around our newly named Belton Outreach Center due, in part to our new caretaker and forest host, Rebecca “Becky” Fidler. Becky moved into her new residence inside the outreach center in early April and has settled in now that summer is here. Becky is an avid gardener and enjoys getting her hands dirty in the yard. She enjoys helping on the community workdays accomplishing tasks needing to be done. She is grandma to three, with the fourth arriving in August. Hopkins has been a perfect area for her to spend time with the kids. She currently works at Clackamas Community College as an Administrative Assistant for the Business and Computer Department. Becky will be helping to maintain our facilities at Hopkins and increase our security by living on the property and interacting with our visitors. Next time you are visiting Hopkins, introduce yourself and say hi to Becky as well as her dog Jade.

