Busy Time as FFI Launches New Programming

The five months since our last newsletter marks some of the busiest time ever for Forests Forever and the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm. During this brief period we have...

• Hired our first full-time employee, Tim Lichen, as Community Outreach Coordinator; his office is now based at Hopkins Hall and he can be reached at the tree farm phone, 503-632-2150;
• Purchased a people mover van to transport visitors around the farm and on tree farm tours;
• Welcomed two new members to the FFI Board of Directors;
• Expanded our community work day program to every month—the second Saturday;
• Hosted 8 school and youth groups for farm tours and educational activities; more than 125 students participated;
• Educated 286 adults through tours and trainings designed to provide new insights and skills for improving forest land management in the county;
• Upgraded about 5,000 feet of trail; widening, improving drainage and spreading new gravel;
• Completed construction on one new information kiosk; a second is about half done and a third is planned for the September work day;
• Hosted a local school teacher on an intensive six week summer project completed at the tree farm;
• Hosted about 8 school and youth groups for farm tours and educational activities; more than 125 students participated;

If you haven’t been to the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm, come by for a look and bring a friend. There’s plenty of new and exciting things to see!

See our Calendar of Events on the back page.

Jessup and Barsotti Join Board

Dave Jessup, a retired forester with the Oregon Forest Industries Council, and Mike Barsotti, a long-time employee of the Oregon Department of Forestry, are the newest members of the FFI Board of Directors. The Board now includes twelve members who meet quarterly and provide oversight and policy guidance for the non-profit organization.

FFI President Ken Everett said, “We are very fortunate to have Dave and Mike join our team. They both have outstanding experience and credentials that will be a big help as we move forward in the coming years.”

Jessup will take over as Membership Chairman hoping to expand Forests Forever’s support base. Barsotti will participate on the Forest Management Committee and serve as the FFI’s liaison to the Department of Forestry.
Forests Forever added a new vehicle to its fleet this past Spring. A 20-passenger mini-bus is now available to transport visitors around the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm. The bus can travel any of the roads at the farm.

“It’s great to be able to easily move our visitors,” says Tim Lichen, FFI’s Community Outreach Coordinator. “Some individuals and groups like to walk. For others, it’s easier to ride and, then, stop at points of interest. The amount of time we have for a tour or activity may limit how much we can see, so the bus is a big help.”

Purchase of the bus was made possible with a Title III forestry and natural resource education grant provided by the Clackamas County Commissioners.

Checkpoint Motors of Oregon City has agreed to provide regular maintenance for our people mover. FFI greatly appreciates this community partner.

Community Work Days Planned

The last Community Work Day was a big event with more than 20 participants. Included were seven participants from the County’s community service program. We have a huge number of priority projects as we come into the fall and winter. If you can, we’d sure appreciate any help. Lunch is provided. Call ahead (503-655-5524) to reserve your spot so we can plan food—and, provide instructions on tools to bring.

Here’s what’s planned in the coming months...

- **September 13:** Goal—finish information kiosk at Uneven Age Management Area; complete gravel hauling and spreading gravel on trails; if time and volunteers available...fall herbicide brush control
- **October 11:** Goal—complete fall herbicide brush control, complete trail and kiosk projects, clean cedar shake/shingle roofs and apply sealant, clean out culverts, ditches for winter drainage
- **November 8:** Goal—roadside and trail vegetation clearing and chipping, preparing sites for winter planting.

Other areas of assistance for each Work Day are **Greeter** (being around to meet and greet any visitors who come by), **Photographer** (get pictures of all the action) and **Lunch Crew** (assembling, cleaning up meal time).

PHOTO: MIKE BONDI

Volunteers Scott Hanson, Oregon City, and Robert Wenzel, Clackamas, cutting, fitting, and positioning a cross beam for the new information kiosk under construction at the Uneven Age Management Area.
Teacher on Summer Assignment

For six weeks this summer Forests Forever hosted a “Teacher on Summer Assignment.” The program, sponsored by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, places classroom teachers in forestry work experience roles to increase their understanding about Oregon’s forests and how they are managed.

Donal Wilkinson, a science teacher with Oregon City School District’s Link Up program, helped develop a riparian management plan for the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm. During his six weeks he learned how to do a vegetation inventory of the streamside area, completed a stream survey, and mapped the stream channel. Finally, he began assembling the ideas for timber management and stream enhancement for fish and amphibians.

Ara Andrea, forestry instructor at Chemeketa Community College, and FFI’s Tim Lichen worked with OSU Extension Agent Mike Bondi to provide instruction and mentoring on the project.

Starting this fall, Donal plans to bring his students to the tree farm on a regular basis for field learning and research projects. The Link Up program is a charter school for homeschooled children, and includes about 500 enrollees.

Science teacher Donal Wilkinson checks stream flow during his riparian inventory and stream assessment project at the tree farm this past summer. Donal spent six weeks getting to know Hopkins and planning how he might use the property for outdoor education.

Terry Wertz Retires

Long-time vocational forestry instructor for the Owen Sabin Skill Center, Terry Wertz, retired this past summer. An original Board member for Forests Forever, Terry represented the educational community within the organization.

It was Terry’s foresight and energy that quickly began to involve his advanced forestry students in learning experiences at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm, soon after we opened the gate. First, he brought his students to the farm for short-term projects...then for several week blocks of time.

By 1999, once the new Shop was built, Terry moved his advanced forestry program to the farm full time. Forests Forever maintains an agreement with the North Clackamas School District to provide facilities and learning opportunities for the students.

“It will be very different not having Terry leading the Sabin forestry program,” said Ken Everett. “The arrangement between FFI and North Clackamas School District has been great for us and a chance to provide the students with real-life work experiences. I hope we can continue this tradition.”

Terry plans to remain in the community and stay involved in Forests Forever and work at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm.

Next Title III Proposal Submitted

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Forests Forever, Inc. has submitted a second-year proposal to the Clackamas County Commissioners for continued funding. This past year, a grant of $82,170 has supported the development of an array of community outreach educational activities at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm. The first step was hiring Community Outreach Coordinator, Tim Lichen.

In addition, grant funds are being used to upgrade our trail system, purchase our people mover tree farm bus, and construct three new informational kiosks and upgrade a fourth.

The new project proposal plans to continue our Coordinator, do additional facility upgrades and improve marketing and outreach to the public audience.

If you see one of the Commissioners during the next few weeks, tell them “thanks for their support of FFI” and your hope they will continue to help us build our programs in the coming year.
COMING EVENTS...

Owen Sabin Skill Center Vocational Forestry Program  Advanced Students; every other day of the week beginning on September 3 (9:15am-12:30pm)
Tree Farm Tours  Free 90 min. tours open to the public; September 6 (9:30am, 1:30pm)
Community Work Day  September 13 (8:30am-3:30pm)
Tree Farm Tours  Free 90 min. tours open to the public; September 20 (9:30am, 1:30pm)
Wolftree Forest Science Education Programs  Portland metro area middle schools—beginning September 29 (9:00am-3:00pm)
International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) tour  October 2 (8:00-10:00am)
Community Work Day  October 11 (8:30am-3:30pm)
Resource Management Planning Shortcourse  Module #1-classroom; October 15 (7:00-9:15pm)*
FFI Board of Directors Annual Meeting  October 16 (8:30am-noon)*
Resource Management Planning Shortcourse  Module #1-field; October 17 (8:30am-4:00pm)
Walk in the Woods  Enjoy a hike, at your own leisure, at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm; open to anyone—guided route and interpretive booklet available; October 18 (8:00am-4:00pm)
Resource Management Planning Shortcourse  Module #2-classroom; November 12 (7:00-9:15pm)*
Resource Management Planning Shortcourse  Module #2-field; November 14 (8:30am-4:00pm)
Resource Management Planning Shortcourse  Module #3-classroom; December 17 (7:00-9:15pm)*
Resource Management Planning Shortcourse  Module #3-field; December 19 (8:30am-4:00pm)

* These events held in Hopkins Hall  •  For information about any of these events, contact FFI at 503-655-5524