Occupancy on New Property in Full Swing

During the past several months, since Nita Post’s passing in December, 2003, her family has gradually been in the process of relocating. Under the agreement of our life estate negotiated with the Post family in 1999, Forests Forever, Inc. takes occupancy of the 20-acre property at Nita’s death.

By May 31, 2004, the family had departed. At that time, Forests Forever began planning and making improvements to incorporate the additional land and facilities into our educational program.

There will be several priorities for the coming summer. First, an upgrade to the driveway access is underway (see photos to right) to widen and reconstruct the road. Second, additional cleanup around the buildings and grounds will be done. Third, the existing home will be examined, cleaned and prepared for possible use as a residential site.

You’ll see lots of action. Work days over the coming months will focus many of our activities in this new portion on the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm.

Kiosks Big Addition to Farm

New informational kiosks have been added in three locations at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm. In addition, new signs were installed at the farm’s parking lot kiosk—replacing the originals from nearly 10 years ago. And, additional educational signs have been located in two other key areas.

“The new signs are a great addition,” says Tim Lichen, FFI’s Community Outreach Coordinator. “We’ve needed these for a long time. Now visitors will have excellent interpretive information at any time while visiting the farm.”

The kiosks and signs were built with funds provided by the Clackamas County Commissioners through a Title III Secure Rural Schools grant. We appreciate the County’s support!
Mothers in the Woods

On May 8 the rain came and went over Hopkins Tree Farm, in between bright patches of sun. The up and down weather matched attendance in our second Take Mom for a Walk in the Woods. We had plenty of volunteer help to host the families and groups who brought mothers for a walk in our woods that day. This was our most successful Walk in the Woods to date, nearly matching the attendance of two events in 2003.

Over two-dozen different herb and shrub species were in bloom for the forty-plus walkers who visited the tree farm on that Saturday. A Girl Scout troop from Tigard and five other familiar faces were among the volunteer cadre who greeted guests and completed a bit of last-minute trail work and route marking. While the event was advertised for May 8, neighbors reported that several vehicles were parked outside our gate on Sunday May 9—the real Mother’s Day! Maybe next year we’ll open the entire weekend.

Oregon Forest Resources Institute sponsored the catering and advertising for the Moms Walk. Salmonberry catering delivered plenty of beverages, sweets and tasty fruit for the event. Print ads appeared in the Oregon City News, Clackamas Review and The Oregonian. Flyers and ads were designed and printed by Jackson Communications and Home Run Graphics. Fast Signs, Inc. produced trail signs and recognition placards. These vendors are members of North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce, as is Forests Forever, Inc.

Tree Farm staff and FFI Board members hope for continued success for our next Walk in the Woods, October 9, when we feature fall colors and mushrooms.

Volunteer Superstars!

During most weeks this year Jay Baker calls asking whether there’s any work to do for him and one or two teenagers—Michael Breckenridge and Matthew Schuster. The trio has come to plant and tube trees, clean winter storm debris and make firewood, brush trails and prune young Douglas-fir on the property. Jay, Michael and Matthew have worked over 100 hours among them just this year alone.

Even when it’s not a Saturday Workday, it’s not unusual to find Jay and the boys somewhere on the property doing whatever is needed at the time. “I don’t mind working up a sweat”, is Jay’s response to five hours of removing storm debris and stacking firewood. Michael, a student at Oregon City High School, told Tree Farm staff Tim Lichen, “I enjoy working out here”, even though he is still healing from contact with poison oak back in April.

Plan to Help Out at Work Days

There will be plenty of opportunities to learn by doing at Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm this summer. We can really use some help—see details below for each work day—plus an array of light duty work, including hosting lunch and refreshments.

Workday volunteers are fed a hearty lunch and plenty of liquids—call 503-632-2150 to sign up for chores and reserve your place at the volunteer table.

Saturday, July 10 . . . . . . . . debris removal and chipping; prepare the Post Property for use
Saturday, August 14 . . . . . . . . rehabilitate ponds and fix sinkhole; Post Property cleanup
Saturday, September 11 . . . fall weed control; Post Property cleanup
Sustainable Forestry Tours Begin

Guests ride along in the tree farm bus to a few select stops for short walks and a closer look at a variety of forestry demonstrations. Free, ninety-minute tours begin June 26 on select Saturdays through the summer. Other dates and times can be arranged. Call 503-632-2150 to register for scheduled tours, or to request a special tour for your family or group. A Title III Federal Grant administered by Clackamas County Commissioners supports sustainable Forestry Tours.

School’s Out!

In addition to the Sabin Skills Center Forestry Program that regularly uses the tree farm throughout the school year, some new and familiar teachers and their students visited the tree farm in 2003-04. Students from Oregon City High School, Binnsmead Middle School, Kelly Elementary and Candy Lane Elementary filled our woods with their joyful noise this spring.

Binnsmead teacher, Gerylin Nichols, brought students for the 11th year in a row earlier in May. Kelly and Candy Lane elementary schools are a younger lot. Both schools brought students last fall, and again this spring to complete their ecological change studies.

Our relationship with Wolftree, Inc. continues to provide benefits to students and tree farm staff—the extra hands and facility use fee helps make these ambitious field trips possible. Oregon Forest Resources Institute funds many of the busses that transport students to the tree farm—thank you OFRI!

Also, field days would not be possible without the kind help of a handful of adult volunteers from the community who mentor small groups of students; helping them navigate the property and teaching a variety of plant and animal identification and forest measurement activities. Schools are already calling to reserve dates for the coming fall. If you are interested in joining us for these valuable learning opportunities, please contact Tim Lichen at 503-632-2150.

Forests Forever’s Wish List

The Wish List from our last issue worked well enough to try this feature again: thanks to Jim Tedrow who donated a chainsaw to our cause, and Dennis Nelson who donated his electrical skills. An unexpected gift came to us from James Hendricksen—a box of over one-dozen pruning saws. We really appreciate all of this loyal support. You folks are GREAT!

Wish List

- Chipper for loan or donation
- More hand and power tools: chainsaws, shovels, Pulaskis,
- Cruiser vests and forestry gear, i.e., clinometer, logger’s tapes, compass
- Someone to open/close gate on a regular schedule, especially on Sundays
- Regular patrol person(s) to walk trails on farm & perform light duty work along the way
- Riding lawnmower—we now have grass to mow on the Post Property!

Summer Tour Schedule

- June 26
  - 9:30-11:00am and 1:00-2:30pm
- July 10
  - 9:30-11:00am and 1:00-2:30pm
- July 24
  - 9:30-11:00am and 1:00-2:30pm
- August 7
  - 9:30-11:00am and 1:00-2:30pm
- August 21
  - 9:30-11:00am and 1:00-2:30pm
- September 18
  - 9:30-11:00am and 1:00-2:30pm

PHOTO: TIM LICHEN
Dennis Nelson, an OSU Master Woodland Manager and electrician from Vernonia, installs fluorescent lighting in the changing room of our shop.

PHOTO: DAYLENE MARSHALL
Tree Farm guest uses a Woodland Stick to measure tree height during a woodland tour.
**COMING EVENTS...**

**Sustainable Forestry Tours**  June 26, 9:30-11:00am & 1:00-2:30pm. Free tours showcasing forest demonstrations at the tree farm plus local plant identification and natural history information. Encourage friends, neighbors and out of town guests to attend. Call 503-632-2150 to let us know how many will be coming.

**Volunteer Community Work Day**  July 10, 8:30am-4:00pm; lunch provided, call ahead (503-632-2150) for tool and project needs, plus any other information.

**Sustainable Forestry Tours**  July 10, 9:30-11:00am & 1:00-2:30pm. Free tours showcasing forest demonstrations at the tree farm plus local plant identification and natural history information. Encourage friends, neighbors and out of town guests to attend. Call 503-632-2150 to let us know how many will be coming.

**Basic Forest Tools Workshop—introduction to measuring height, diameter, distance and direction in the forest**  July 17, 8:30am-Noon. The $15/person fee covers cost of equipment, instruction, handout materials and refreshments. To register by July 9, call 503-632-2150.

**Sustainable Forestry Tours**  July 24, 9:30-11:00am & 1:00-2:30pm. Free tours showcasing forest demonstrations at the tree farm plus local plant identification and natural history information. Encourage friends, neighbors and out of town guests to attend. Call 503-632-2150 to let us know how many will be coming.

**Sustainable Forestry Tours**  August 7, 9:30-11:00am & 1:00-2:30pm. Free tours showcasing forest demonstrations at the tree farm plus local plant identification and natural history information. Encourage friends, neighbors and out of town guests to attend. Call 503-632-2150 to let us know how many will be coming.

**Volunteer Community Work Day**  August 14, 8:30am-4:00pm; lunch provided, call ahead (503-632-2150) for tool and project needs, plus any other information.

**Sustainable Forestry Tours**  August 21, 9:30-11:00am & 1:00-2:30pm. Free tours showcasing forest demonstrations at the tree farm plus local plant identification and natural history information. Encourage friends, neighbors and out of town guests to attend. Call 503-632-2150 to let us know how many will be coming.

**Volunteer Community Work Day**  September 11, 8:30am-4:00pm; lunch provided, call ahead (503-632-2150) for tool and project needs, plus any other information.

*These activities are supported by Title III Federal Grant administered by Clackamas County Commissioners*

*For information about any of these events, contact HMTF at 503-632-2150*