

Grouse Hollow

NEWS

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Building Youth at Hopkins

In an eruption of talent and hard labor, nine young people placed 35 tons of dry rock and gravel to form two walls, walkways and related improvements this summer at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Seven members of the Clackamas County Environmental Youth Corps and two crew leaders spent six weeks working on the projects under Title III money provided by the county. The most difficult job was erecting a wall—70 feet long by up to 5 feet high—between Grouse Hollow Road and Hopkins Hall.

“This was our first rock wall,” said Holly Huntley of



The Clackamas County Youth Corps crew was given 35 tons of rock and a simple picture of how to stack a dry wall, and built the wall like a puzzle—sometimes pulling rock out to fit another into place.

Portland, one of the crew leaders. “It was mostly hand stacking. Every rock on the wall was handled by someone.” There were a few bruises in handling the heavy rocks, but no serious injuries during six weeks of 6-hour work days.

The crew was composed of five males and two females aged 15 to 21. For some, the minimum wage rate was their first paid job, according to Jessica Antoine of Portland, the youth corps coordinator. “Each Thursday they get apprenticeship training through the Oregon Building Congress to learn building trade basics. We do tests and evaluations, and I can write letters of recom-

mendation if they want to get into a trade,” Antoine said.

The program has no income barriers. Enrollees only must live in Clackamas County and be 14 to 21 years old. “They learn what is sustainable and green. Ten years from now they can return to see the wall and take pride in it.”

The rock was donated by Avison Rock Quarry. A portion not needed for the big wall went into a smaller one the crew also made nearby.

“I enjoy doing this kind of work,” said crew member Solveig Lee, 17, of West Linn. “I enjoy the problem solving but it gets kind of depressing when things don’t work out as you expect.” She referred to the crew needing to change rock placements when the first effort didn’t look right.

The crew also built two small lean-to shelters for Hopkins field classes and other visitors, and helped complete an RV pad. ▲



Youth crew members used primarily native materials found at Hopkins to build two rain shelters now found in our woodland. The shelters are built from small Douglas-fir poles as structural members, assembled with mortis and tenon joints; and cedar shake cut by hand for roof and siding.



A publication
for friends of
Forests
Forever, Inc.
& Hopkins
Demonstration
Forest



A Dream Meets an Opportunity

The dream began in 1990 when Margaret Hopkins donated her family's woodland to a new non-profit organization, Forests Forever, and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest was born. A new opportunity arose earlier this year when Forests Forever president, Ken Everett was approached by a local family forest owner about the possibility of making a significant donation to initiate development of a new classroom and meeting facility at the demonstration forest.

"Part of the vision for a new building at Hopkins is to create a space where we can tell the stories of family forestry in Clackamas County," said

Mike Bondi, founding board member, and secretary of the FFI board.

"There are a number of families in this county that have been involved in the forest industry and family forestry for generations, who would like to share their artifacts, photos, and stories of this rich history.

FFI President, Ken Everett adds, "We have simply outgrown our current meeting space—Hopkins Hall" which only seats about 15 people comfortably; and in the Oregon City area there are not a lot of inexpensive meeting facilities of the size we want to build.

Everett invited a local architect, Mark Schmidt, to meet with a committee of FFI board members to talk about ideas and needs, and the concept of a new building at Hopkins. The full board reviewed Schmidt's rough sketches at their October meet-

ing; the drawings showed a 40' x 60' wood frame structure—enough to accommodate up to 125 people—and includes a catering kitchen, indoor restrooms, and storage. Board members provided some additional input to Schmidt, who will make some modifications to his preliminary drawings.

At the same board meeting, Everett announced that an anonymous donor provided a \$5,000 gift, specifically committed to move FFI through the county's land-use planning process. The board was asked and gave their permission to file the necessary papers with Clackamas County. Assuming the county approves our concept, the next step is completion of the preliminary construction drawings, development of a materials list, and cost analysis. Meanwhile, Everett is quietly talking with other potential supporters who also want this new opportunity to be part of the dream at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. ▲



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Logging Completed Before Rains

This past summer's harvest at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest was a commercial thinning in a 60 year old forest that included the Pole Management Unit. The area is just south and west of Hopkins Hall. This was the third thinning in the pole stand since Forests Forever acquired the property in 1990.

The thinning removed about 70,000 board feet of mostly Douglas-fir timber on about six acres. The average diameter of the trees removed was nearly 25"—with many trees beginning to reach or exceed maximum diameter sizes for local sawmills.

"This year's logging at the tree farm was overdue in the pole stand," said John Poppino, FFI's Management Committee Chair. "We needed to get in and remove a lot of trees pushing the diameter limit for size while creating space for western redcedar in the stand."

Poppino reported that despite generally weak log markets this past summer, FFI's management plan calls for annual harvests at Hopkins. "We'd like

to play the log markets to always sell at the top of the cycles, but we do like to have activities of all types on the farm every year. This is really important for our education programs and opportunities for our visitors."

Bruce Norgren from the Colton area did this year's logging at Hopkins using a rubber tired skidder for moving logs to the landings. "The good news is that Bruce was able to get in and out before the early fall rains this year. He did a nice job, the stand looks good and it's ready to grow," said Poppino.

A tour on Saturday, January 12 will look at this summer's logging, the condition of the remaining trees and review harvest data and marketing reports. Meet in our main parking lot: the tour will begin at 1:30pm and conclude about 3:00pm. January 12th is our monthly Community Forestry Day at Hopkins. Come for the entire day: work the morning shift before the afternoon tour. Lunch is provided for those who call ahead to reserve a place at the table—503-632-2150. ▲

Woodland Owners Get Hands-on at Hopkins

The sense of community spirit rang true at the Saturday volunteer work day in October at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Twenty people showed up to spend several hours maintaining and improving Hopkins resources. Most of the work involved removing roadside brush, spraying herbicide to put down blackberries and other invasive vegetation in plantations, and digging holes for sign posts.

About two thirds of the volunteers were members of Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, which designates one Hopkins work day a year for members to help out. CCFFA



Just in time for the cool seasons, the chimney is returned to service at Hopkins Hall—thanks to Joe Grassl, Doug Shannon, Gilbert Shibley and Dean Hardman, guests will be able to enjoy a warm classroom again. The chimney was removed prior to sandblasting and staining the building during the summer.



Loren Bowman, perched in the bucket of his tractor is able to spray herbicide farther into brushy areas, making it easier to control blackberries in forest openings. Blackberries are a particular problem in our young conifer stands where they invade forest openings and overtop the seedlings we plant—a common reforestation challenge.

members also prepared lunch for the volunteers with food donated by Safeway.

Scott Hanson of Oregon City, CCFFA president, and Loren Bowman of Estacada took turns in the raised bucket on Bowman's tractor to spray herbicides. "I've backpack sprayed before, and this is a lot more productive," Hanson said.

Some of their spraying was in a small plantation where brush threatened to suppress young trees put in the ground a few years ago. Hanson said Hopkins is a valuable place "for us to learn by doing. It's an outdoor laboratory." Some of his learning was in Tree School classes held at Hopkins for measuring riparian areas

and pruning trees.

"Every time I come here I learn something," Bowman said.

Sena Sanguinetti of Damascus worked on the crew that cut and chipped tree limbs from hanging over Hopkins roadsides. The chipping machine was on loan from Camp Howard near Sandy.

Sanguinetti said she attended two earlier work days this year to plant trees. "My first time here was as a high school junior in 1998," she said. "Now I'm a forest technician working for a forestry consultant. Hopkins was a big inspiration to me."

Joe Grassl of Sandy and Doug Shannon of Molalla used a mechanical digger loaned by Don Burton, an Oregon City landscaping contractor, to dig holes for sign posts. Grassl said he is interested in Hopkins demonstration plots, including uneven aged timber management.

Shannon said he pruned some of his tree farm firs after seeing the practice at Hopkins. "I'm always amazed how people respond when they find out about this place and enjoy it."

Finishing lunch in the Hopkins shop before returning to work, Grassl said, "Hopkins is a gem."

Hopkins had other visitors this day. A Cub Scout group from Sandy walked and looked through the place to earn their forestry badges. Before leaving, they did their good deed for the forest by donating \$40.50 to Hopkins. ▲

Special Opportunity*

Forests Forever, Inc. is recruiting new board members to keep a full board following retirements at the end of 2007. As you can read in this issue of *Grouse Hollow News*, we have an ambitious agenda ahead, based on solid successes to date. We need passionate people with leadership skills during this time of exciting growth for Hopkins Demonstration Forest. If you are interested in helping direct the future at Hopkins, please call Ken Everett, President of Forests Forever: 503-655-5524. ▲

Thank You...

....to Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation, Guardian Tax & Accounting, Blaine Meier, and Handcrafted For You—community sponsors of a 1st Aid/CPR course for local high school students who are interns at Hopkins this school year. ▲

COMING EVENTS...

Community Volunteer Workday

December 8 (8:30 am - 4:30 pm) This month we will be pruning in some of our young conifer stands, and working on our trails and roads—if conditions are right, we will burn some slash piles. Lunch provided: call 503-632-2150 by December 5.

Sustainable Forestry Tours

December 8 (1:30 - 3:00 pm) Join staff for a closer look at the diversity of habitats and forest management activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Please call ahead 503-632-2150.

Coming in 2008—Community Forestry Days!

Community Forestry Days will include the same sorts of activities as our workdays—some resource work and facilities chores, lunch, a brief topical presentation, and a tour. Come for all or part of the day. Community Forestry Days are the 2nd Saturday of each month, beginning at 830am, until 430pm.

The schedule on Community Forestry Days will look something like this:

- 8:30 am Crew leaders assemble
- 9:00 am Crews assemble for resource or facilities projects.
- 12:00 noon Lunch & Topical presentation
- 1:00 pm Crews return to projects
- 2:00 pm Tour, 90 minutes
- 4:30 pm Thank you. Have a safe drive home.

Join our Community Forestry days in the New Year, when we start off 2008 with three months of tree planting: January 12, February 9, March 8. Call ahead to let us know you are coming.

For info about any of these events, contact Hopkins Demonstration Forest at 503-632-2150

www.demonstrationforest.org/calendar.htm

Our website has just been updated with images from 2007 activities and a fresh schedule of activities in 2008—see the “CALENDAR” page on our website for information and images.

Grouse Hollow News

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