I t was the first time ever for the slim female banker to wield a pulaski. Grass, rocks and dirt flew every which way as she attacked the ground with all her force.

“I don’t think we’re looking for gold,” the co-worker next to her quipped. “What is this, some kind of chain gang?” another wondered.

Jesting aside, the abundant energy that 28 employees of KeyBank took to Hopkins Demonstration Forest on a cool May day resulted in benefits for all involved. The bankers learned how working together for a few hours to expand the forest trails system left Hopkins even more friendly to visitors.

The volunteer effort was part of KeyBank’s nationwide Neighbors Make a Difference program in which bank employees leave their offices for a day to make an improvement in their community. The 28 were from KeyBank venues in Portland, Beaverton, Oregon City and Milwaukie.

“The program started about 18 years ago. We close some of our branches and go out to work in our community,” explained Phil Allen, senior relationship manager at the Key branch in Milwaukie. “No one looks forward to hard labor, but most of our people commented that it was a lot of fun.”

The Key crew toiled for three hours, building about one-fourth mile of trail to complete the Red Alder Trail loop. They also put posts in the ground for two trail signs, and installed two signs near the Hopkins entrance to mark the Key Bank help. And they donated to Hopkins a weed eater and other tools they brought for their work.

“It also was a team building exercise even though that wasn’t part of the plan,” Allen said. “We encourage other corporations to volunteer like this. You’re doing something good both for the environment and your team.”

While the work took only a few hours, it left the crew with a sense of ownership and understanding of the needs at Hopkins, Allen emphasized. “We might do a monetary donation and more trail work next year.”

“It’s a benefit for us to see business partners like KeyBank step forward and get involved with Forests Forever and Hopkins,” said Mike Bondi, Forests Forever board secretary and
from another cash donation, he said. Capacity for 100 was built in 1997 with seating in the Cedar Grove shelter with seating flexibility.

And example, two vault toilets were developed in 1992 from a donation by a woodland owner, Bondi noted. And the Cedar Grove shelter with seating capacity for 100 was built in 1997 from another cash donation, he said.

“There is a place for everyone to contribute to the community forest,” Bondi emphasized.

Allen said he learned of the volunteer opportunity after meeting Tim Delano, Hopkins public outreach coordinator, at a North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce leadership group. “We put our heads together to figure out what we could do to help, and it proved very positive.”

Some of Allen’s co-workers echoed his response to the effort.

“I’ve gardened before but never done trail work,” said Scott Disher, a business banker. “I’m proud of our commitment to public service. Other work we’ve done was for Campfire Girls, Junior Achievement, and food drives.”

“I enjoy anything outdoors,” said Joe Eustaquis, who has worked five years with KeyBank. “You learn at grandma’s house how to do it right. I’ve volunteered at other community events, removing wild berry bushes and cutting ivy off trees in a park.”

“I started at KeyBank a year ago so this is my first time (with Neighbors Make a Difference),” said Isaac Levine from a Key branch in Southeast Portland. “I used to go backpacking with my dad but this will be my first trail building. There is a lot of value any time you help in the community.”

As for the Mad Hacker, she began to moderate the pulaski strokes and the rest of the job went well.

FFI Board Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes!

Two new board members began serving Forests Forever this June, Maralyn Turner and Dan Green.

Tom Ortman retired earlier this year as Clackamas County Forester, and from the FFI board. Replacing Ortman as both County Forester and serving on the FFI board is Dan Green. Dan has practiced forestry in the Pacific Northwest for over 30 years, including work for federal, state, county and city governments as well as for universities, non-profit groups, industry and individuals. Green holds a BS and MS in forestry. He has served as president of the Oregon State Society of American Foresters and of the Environmental Education Association of Oregon.

Dan is also quite familiar with family forestry in Clackamas County from his tenure as the OSU Extension Service Forestry Agent from 1976-1984. Dan remains co-owner of Woodland Management, a forestry consulting firm serving many family forest owners in Clackamas County and beyond; he also manages a Christmas tree business.

Maralyn Turner is our second addition to the FFI board this season. Turner, though born in Montana, did much of her growing-up in Oregon. Turner’s career followed a braided path—public school teaching and administration, private sector administration and consulting, and teaching in higher education. In addition to her role on the FFI board, Maralyn’s volunteer interests include the Oregon Medical Board, Metropolitan Youth Commission, and Foundation for Medical Excellence, the Board of Mary’s Woods, and other national and local activities and organizations.

Since retiring from Lewis & Clark College in 2004, Turner keeps busy with her two children and five grandchildren, traveling, creating fabric art. Maralyn graduated in 2007 from the Master Woodland Manager program offered through Clackamas County Extension, and is able to assist others with their forestry questions, and is applying this forestry knowledge to manage her own forested acres in Beavercreek, Oregon and Eureka, Montana.
New Trails

Since we swung the gate open for self-directed use of Hopkins in 2003, more people are enjoying the forest by walking our trails and roads. While this increased use was encouraged, it does require some attention. Given our mission to demonstrate sustainable forestry, Tim DeLano explains, “trails that feature our various management demonstrations provide more than a walk in the woods—it’s an opportunity to share parts of our story.”

In addition to the Red Alder Trail featured in our lead story, other recently completed trails are now being used—though not yet on our map:

**Hardwood Trail:** connects Red Alder Trail and Post Road along our northern property line.

**Douglas-fir Trail:** walk from the Ponds Trail, west to Grouse Hollow Road. Find the trailhead just south of the ponds, or at the Thinning and Pruning kiosk.

**Red Cedar Trail:** traces the side slope between Up Creek and Grouse Hollow roads. The trailheads for Red Cedar are on the north side of Up Creek Road at the Watershed kiosk and near the Vented Ford crossing of Little Buckner Creek.

**Shortcut Trail:** this trail follows along the edge of two different site preparation applications, and seedling stock used in our Reforestation Demonstration, and makes a quick connect between Grouse Hollow Road at our bus turnaround, and Low Gear Road to the northwest.

Like most of what happens at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, we rely on volunteers to get things done: Please help blaze trails this summer, join us for Community Forestry Days—the 2nd Saturday each month.

Community Support Grows

Community support for programs and facilities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest is essential to our success. With your help we are able to keep our gate open daily, host thousands of students annually, and maintain and develop new facilities so more people can enjoy and learn from the forest.

Forests Forever, Inc. provides three opportunities for the community to support Hopkins Demonstration Forest:

- Become a Friend of Hopkins Forest (“membership” is what we used to call it), by making a cash contribution. Anyone can be a Friend of Hopkins Forest: donations support basic operations.
- Invest in education programs at Hopkins by joining other Partners who fund our Education Consortium. We ask Consortium Partners to commit to an annual, ongoing contribution of $1,000 or more.
- Help Forests Forever, Inc. expand our facilities by donating to our Forestry Classroom Capital Campaign. We need to raise at least $300,000 for construction. Attend our Raise the Building event on October 10, see calendar for more details.

Thank you to all our partners and friends in the community: with your generous support we are able to offer quality programs and facilities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Yes! I want to support Forests Forever and Hopkins Demonstration Forest

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Please complete form and enclose check payable to Forests Forever, Inc.

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

Thank You! Your gift is tax deductible.

Please mail form with check to: Forests Forever, Inc., P.O. Box 1320, Oregon City, Oregon 97045.

Forests Forever, Inc. is a publicly supported tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Federal tax identification number is 91-1846241.
Facilities Update

☑️ We found plenty of good water in a new well, at 160 feet to serve our new facilities. This summer, a youth crew will construct a well house.

☑️ The Clatskanie Fire Tower arrived—in pieces on June 28. The process for construction of a historically accurate replica of the lookout cabin will begin next year. Many local volunteers and fire tower enthusiasts plan to help.

☑️ The public hearing for our conditional use permit relating to the fire tower and classroom building occurred July 2. A decision on approval is pending consideration, we expect a response later this summer.

Retiring from the Forest, not Forests Forever

The final public tour of Fir Vista Tree Farm south of Beavercreek served as a farewell to Clem and Phyllis Hunter on June 12.

Clem showed a group of long-time friends how he and Phyllis improved 144 acres they bought in 1959. As they aged, the couple began gifting portions of their forest to Pacific Lutheran University through a trust and life annuities that will pay for their retirement. The gifting was completed July 1, and the Hunters have now moved to Oregon City.

During the tour, Clem pointed to a 2001 plantation of Douglas fir standing 18 to 20 feet tall. “It’s great tree growing land. Stick them in the ground and they grow,” he said of the super trees. He also showed how a red cedar plantation had reclaimed a wet bog.

Clem, who was one of the first Master Woodland Manager trainees in Clackamas County, remains an active board member of Forests Forever Inc.