Year Closes on Great Accomplishments

2004 was a huge year for Forests Forever and the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm. Although each year seems to be filled with accomplishments, this past year was certainly unique.

The big story for 2004 was FFI’s occupancy of the Post Property. Long-time landowner and resident, Nita Post, passed away in December of last year. FFI had entered into a life estate five years earlier with the Post family. By June, Nita’s family had relocated and FFI took occupancy of the 20-acre adjoining tract of land.

During the past year, much of FFI’s attention has been devoted to changes on this new property addition.

Major repairs and improvements were made to the mobile home on the Post Property. Fresh paint inside and out, new carpet and linoleum, new appliances, and a new well house were a few of the big upgrades. Renters took occupancy on September 1, providing monthly income to FFI.

Clean up of the grounds and outbuildings on the Post Property, plus removal of tons of accumulated junk was another big task. Old buildings were removed. Clackamas County’s Dump Stoppers Program provided outstanding help to reclaim the site.
As we look back, it’s important to recognize the contributions of the many that have helped make FFI and its unique community forest truly one-of-a-kind. There’s not another community-based forest like this place in the Northwest—maybe anywhere!

Volunteer statistics for the past year document 140 people provided more than 1,000 hours of service during our 11 Community Volunteer Work Days. Also, about 300 individuals provided more than 1,600 hours of community service at the tree farm on projects undertaken outside the regularly scheduled Work Day times.

Much of what gets accomplished each year would be impossible without the dedication, hard work and contributions of many in the community. At the fear of missing significant partners, here are several that deserve special recognition for their help in 2004.

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**

For the past three years, Clackamas County has provided financial support for our educational programs. We have been able to use the County’s Title III funds to hire our Community Outreach Coordinator, Tim Lichen, FFI’s only employee. Tim manages our educational programs, coordinates our volunteers, and oversees on-the-ground activities at the farm.

**Earl Buche, Molalla**

Earl is a logger and road builder from Molalla. Earl contracted with us to rebuild our entry road and cleanup the Post Property site this past summer. He put in more than 75 hours of time and helped change the entire look of the farm and its entrance. Every time you drive into the property, think of Earl!

**Gary Clark, Beavercreek**

Our local handyman, Gary, has helped with many “honey-do” projects on the tree farm this past year. Examples include: construction of two informational kiosks, new cabinets in Hopkins Hall, and much of the building rehabilitation work at the Post Property. We really appreciate Gary’s skills and interest in working with us.

**Thronson Family, Molalla**

Jack Thronson and his family from Molalla have been long-time friends of Forests Forever. Jack and his son, Roger, managed the logging this past summer on the Post Property. This included the clearcut harvest and additional thinning on the tract and around the house site. Jack’s daughters, Jeanna and Jessica, students at Clackamas Community College, became our renters in September. They help keep an eye on the property for FFI.

**Dick Stiles and Randy Wheeler, Estacada**

A long-time goal of FFI board president, Ken Everett, has been to install lighting at the Cedar Grove Picnic Shelter. Dick and Randy finally made this happen! Their fine work has provided lights and an electrical outlet, all powered by a small generator.

**Rock Donors**

During the past 14 years, amazing donations of supplies, services, materials, and funds have helped FFI go further and faster. This past year was no exception. The following businesses provided road rock or funds to purchase rock for our upgrade and maintenance projects during 2004.

We thank you all—

- RSG Forest Products
- Floragon Forest Products
- Weyerhaeuser Company
- Freres Lumber Co.
- Starker Forests
- Frank Lumber Co.
- Northwest Hardwood
- Banks Lumber
- Georgia Pacific

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**Special Thanks to All Who’ve Helped!**

FFI’s membership program is an important part of our overall effort to support the organization and bring together those interested in being a part of our family. Please visit our website for a list of 2004 members.

[www.forestsforever-or.org](http://www.forestsforever-or.org)
New Funding Strategy Supports Education Program

Forests Forever’s education program at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm received its first big boost with grant monies provided by the Clackamas County Commissioners through the Title III program in 2002. These federal dollars have provided funding for forestry education at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm the past three years.

However, the Title III funding source is limited and has been shrinking. As a result, in an effort to diversify the organization’s base of financial support for programming at the tree farm, an Education Consortium was created this past summer. The Consortium brings together various organizations, businesses, and individuals all having a common interest—forestry education at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm.

The FFI Board has brought together three entities to form the initial contributors for the Consortium: Clackamas County Title III ($35,000), Oregon Forest Resources Institute ($20,000) and Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation ($10,000).

“Collectively, these organizations are providing about two-thirds of the total funds we would like to have available each year to support a first-class education program and facility at the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm,” said Ken Everett, FFI’s President. “We can’t expect to find one organization who is able to provide the total support we need each year. That’s why finding multiple partners, each providing smaller and more manageable amounts, makes sense to us.”

A fourth leg of the funding support stool is targeted to come from local interests—businesses and individuals who want to share in realizing the full potential of education programs at Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm.

Forests Forever is seeking contributions in the $500 to $5,000 range, to meet a fundraising goal of $30,000. All funds will be used to support the education program expenses aimed at continuing full-time operations at Hopkins through the coming year. FFI is especially interested in securing multi-year commitments, which help sustain and stabilize our financial picture into the future.

Expect to hear from Forests Forever Board members as they reach out to our local woodland owners and business community with letters, phone calls and in-person contacts in the weeks ahead. For more information about FFI’s Education Consortium, contact Ken Everett at 503-655-5524.

FFI Reaches Out to the Local Business Community

FFI board member, John Poppino (microphone in hand), addresses the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce. FFI board members, Clem Hunter and Gilbert Shibley (to John’s left) also visited with the group.

Forests Forever is a member of both the Oregon City and North Clackamas County chambers of commerce. We use many chamber member-business services for a variety of our needs.

Examples include: designing print ads and printing flyers, repairing equipment and maintaining our facilities, and catering for activities at the tree farm. FFI staff, Tim Lichen promotes the tree farm to these businesses as a place to take their families on a walk, to do volunteer service, or attend a workshop.

One of the privileges of membership in the chambers is to host their regular weekly meetings. This past summer FFI, in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service, hosted meetings for both chambers at the Clackamas County Extension office in Oregon City. The two morning meetings were attended by about 60 members each. Board members joined Lichen at these meetings to help tell more of the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm story.

Lichen hopes the additional exposure will result in local businesses becoming more involved in operations and supporting activities at the tree farm, thus strengthening our connections in the community.
COMING EVENTS...

Volunteer Community Work Day  December 11, 8:30am-4:00pm; Projects for the day include: burning slash (pending permission), prepare more ground for planting this winter, and pruning. Other indoor duties and a variety of facility repair and maintenance are always needed, too. Chiyoko Honma has graciously offered to provide a home-style Japanese lunch for our volunteers—limited to the first 20! Please call 503-632-2150 NO LATER THAN Dec. 9 to reserve your place at the lunch table. Do not delay—10 people are already on the list.

Volunteer Community Work Day  January 8, 8:30am-4:00pm; Projects for the day include: burning slash (pending permission), preparing more ground for planting, and miscellaneous jobs around the farm and buildings. Lunch provided—chef’s surprise! Call 503-632-2150 to participate.

OFRI Speakers Bureau  January 11, 10:00am-2:00pm; Contact Jordan Benner, OFRI, at 503-229-6718 to register; Training to prepare individuals for making presentations to local civic groups about forestry topics.

Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association Board of Directors  January 17, 7:00pm-9:00pm

FFI Board of Directors  January 20, 8:30am-Noon

Plant Your Trees RIGHT!  January 29, 8:30am-3:30pm; Learn the whys and how for successful tree planting from site preparation, seedling selection, planting equipment and techniques, animal damage protection and assistance. Instructor is FFI Board Member, Gilbert Shibley. Register in advance by contacting the OSU Extension Office at 503-655-8631.

Volunteer Community Work Day  February 12, 8:30am-4:00pm; Projects for the day tree planting and miscellaneous jobs around the farm and buildings. Lunch provided. Call 503-632-2150 to participate.

Tree School 2005  March 19; Clackamas Community College, Oregon, City. Call OSU Extension Office at 503-655-8631 for more information.

For information about any of these events, contact Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm at 503-632-2150