



Grouse Hollow News

FALL 2009

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

Several local youth can answer that question like this: "I worked at Hopkins Demonstration Forest." This past summer, two different youth crews spent a majority of their summer in the forest at Hopkins. "In addition to completing some important chores on the property, the youth involved in the summer crews gain great personal value from these experiences," says Tim DeLano, OSU Extension Community Forestry Educator at Hopkins.

One of the crews came from Parrott Creek Ranch, a residential treatment center, which rotated 18 young men through an every-other-day schedule at Hopkins. The other youth crew of five was coed, comprised of teens from Clackamas County. For both crews, the results were much the same. Based on discussions with program staff and youth participants themselves, the most valuable aspects for the youth included a sense of accomplishment and pride, teamwork and improved communication skills.

The results of the youth crews can be measured in a couple different ways: "Both crews completed trail construction and maintenance projects, for

example. But it is the intangible benefits that may be most profound for the young people on the crews," DeLano adds. "We heard directly from the youth participants what they valued, things like: leadership skills, tool use, environmental knowledge, time management and problem solving."



Two of the Community Solutions summer crew use a junior arch to move a large treated pole into place for a stream crossing on Little Buckner Trail.



Parrott Creek Ranch trail crew realigned and surfaced a section of Hopkins Trail to make it an easier walk for more visitors to the forest.

crew leader, Andrew Wright, echoed the Clackamas County crew's reflections on their summer. Wright shared his observations: "Our crew saw daily progress in their work. Crew members remarked on their appreciation for the communication and teamwork skills gained in the process. They all shared a sense of pride and accomplishment, because they contributed something of value to the community—this is a great thing for these young men!"

Both crews resulted from DeLano's outreach in the community over the past several years. He continues, "Our relationships with local businesses and social service agencies keep Hopkins a viable location when opportunities arise through outside funding and partnerships."

Even before the fall rains set in, arrangements are already being made
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Annie Hefflinger, program coordinator with Community Solutions of Clackamas County reviewed evaluations from the Clackamas County crew: "100% of the youth reported their summer experience will help them find and retain a job in the future, and 80% would recommend a similar experience to their friends," Hefflinger reported.

Feedback from the Parrott Creek

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for Parrott Creek Ranch to continue to use Hopkins as a venue for their youth to learn and serve. Canby (high school) Youth Corps is scheduled for two days per week at Hopkins through May 2010. And Community Solutions of Clackamas County is applying for a grant to employ local teens and use Hopkins Demonstration Forest again as a place to work and learn valuable life lessons.



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Vacancy: could this be you?

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A Pause in Construction

Site preparation is completed, but a funds shortage continues to delay construction of a classroom and community building at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Ken Everett, president of Forests Forever Inc., reported at the August board meeting that about \$30,000 still was needed to begin construction of a weather-tight building shell. A month later, new donations of cash and lumber had trimmed the outstanding need only by a few thousand dollars.

Everett said even more donated lumber is likely. "I'm trying to get all our lumber donated," he noted. "We've put rock on the ground around the foundation so it won't turn to mud in case work can begin there this winter." And with plastic covering the stacked donated lumber, "it's all winterized now so that's in good shape."

In addition to the building foundation, other work related to the project has been completed, including a new water well and well house, utilities and a second parking lot. The new parking area will be needed when the main lot is closed during construction and to accommodate more vehicles once the building opens for use.

"We thought we would have the building up by now, but we are not there yet," said Mike Bondi, FFI board member and secretary. "We continue to look for funding opportunities, and are committed to making this project happen as soon as possible."

With the funds goal for the building shell nearly reached, the board in August discussed a motion by board member Jim Kadera to begin construction. With the weak economy festering, the board has been reluctant to start building until donations match the needs. A \$40,000 interest-free loan was offered this summer by one of the donors, but the board was not confident it could be repaid in a timely manner.

Kadera suggested the use of temporary plastic covers for window and door openings if there wasn't money to complete the weather-tight phase by this winter. However, board member



While some construction activities are on hold at this time, recently a crew from Fisher's Supply in Canby, Oregon inserted the pump and waterline into the well that was drilled in May 2008.

John Poppino said cost of the doors and windows is only a small part of the \$30,000 needed. The board voted 5-4 to delay construction at this time.

The 40 by 60 foot wood frame building will have capacity for up to 120 in theater-style seating. Features will include a catering kitchen, fireplace, and indoor plumbing.

Besides serving as a classroom for various educational activities, the building will also be available for business meetings and community events. Total cost of the completed project will exceed \$300,000.

Meanwhile, building permit complications delayed a historic fire lookout tower from being erected at Hopkins.

Everett said at the September board meeting that his efforts to secure a Clackamas County building permit to put up the Clatskanie Mountain fire lookout "is like a chess game. You make your move and wait for your opponent to make one." The tower doesn't meet county code, he said. One issue is load testing to determine a weight limit on public visits to the tower cabin.

When permitted, the tower first will need a foundation. Then the lower steel framing will be raised. The original dilapidated cabin was removed and will need to be rebuilt into the upper steel section of the tower. The completed tower will stand about 60 feet tall.

Teachers Take to the Woods

Four local teachers spent the month of July at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest learning as much as they could in four weeks from Forests Forever board members Mike Bondi and John Poppino. The project, now in its sixth year, provides a unique chance for teachers to experience the real life, practical side of growing and managing a forest.

Up until this year, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute has sponsored the Teachers on Summer Assignment (TOSA). Budget cuts curtailed OFRI's program for this year. None-the-less, Bondi decided to continue the program as part of the partnership with the Clackamas County Extension Service District. "I see this project as a very important education opportunity for teachers in our area. It's a great chance for the teachers to get an in-depth forestry orientation and connect as many educators to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest as possible". Also,

Bondi admits that the teachers provide a valuable labor source for Hopkins and helps him get things done he wouldn't get to by himself.

This year's teachers all came from Pleasant Valley Elementary School on SE Foster Road. David Scharfenberg, a two-time veteran of OFRI's TOSA program, recruited three teaching partners from his school so he could begin to develop a core of educators who were all interested in natural resources and forest management. The teachers included: David Scharfenberg—sixth grade; Dwayne Odoms—sixth grade; Scott Martin—fourth grade; and John Naimo—physical education.

Bondi provided daily instruction and practical instruction on forest inventory, silviculture, surveying and mapping, and streamside manage-



(left to right) Scott Martin, Dwayne Odoms, David Scharfenberg, John Poppino and John Naimo.

ment. John Poppino worked with the team on silviculture and stand marking activities that will lead to a future harvesting operation on the Hopkins property.

Teachers interested in similar opportunities to *learn by doing* at Hopkins Demonstration Forest in summer 2010 may want to contact Mike Bondi to discuss your interest. Bondi can be reached at the OSU Extension Office in Clackamas County, 503-655-8631.

A Wish to Walk... A Rock to Remember

Hopkins Demonstration Forest has its first trail memorial stone.

The family of Olaf Erven "Erv" Lodeen Jr. donated \$5,000 to Forests Forever Inc. in honor of their father, who died in April at age 73. At the family's request, Forests Forever purchased a stone, had it inscribed and this summer placed the stone along Hopkins Trail near the Cedar Grove Shelter.



Lodeen worked a half century in the Northwest plywood industry before retiring to a home in Port Angeles, WA. He long had enjoyed walking in the woods, and wanted to take one more trek before dying. But poor health kept him from taking that walk.

Lodeen's children decided to recognize his interest by donating for a memorial stone and Hopkins upkeep. The siblings are Kevin Lodeen of Coto de Caza, CA, and his sisters, Darcy Lodeen Bain of Tualatin, and Karin Lodeen Nealon of Dublin, CA.

The stone is inscribed "This trail is maintained in loving memory of Erv Lodeen." Kevin Lodeen said the stone "looks very nice. We are all pleased with the look and design. It captures the characteristics my sisters and I remember in our father—the solid commitment to family and friends, his love

of the natural beauty found in the Pacific Northwest, and most importantly, it provides the perfect tribute to his final wish 'to have just one last walk in the woods.'"

When his children were young, Erv Lodeen frequently took them camping, fishing and picnicking in the woods, and later shared his love for green places and wildlife with five grandchildren. He kept a bird book on his kitchen table to identify any new bird that stopped in his yard.

Kevin Lodeen explained why they selected Hopkins Forest as the place for the memorial: "My father lived in Oregon most of his life. My sisters and I grew up just outside of Portland. One of my sisters, Darcy Bain, still lives in Tualatin. We chose Hopkins because it is close to her and most of my father's close friends.

"My other sister, Karin Nealon, is a graduate of Oregon State University, and we were aware of the partnership between Hopkins and OSU. Hopkins Demonstration Forest represents the kind of place my father would have loved - beautiful land, great hiking trails with picnic facilities, and most of all the educational facilities to support the mission of promoting responsible use of the land."

Editor's note: Thanks to the family of Erv Lodeen for their generous memorial to their father: A section of the Hopkins Trail was improved, and is in process of being resurfaced—to make this a safer, easier section of trail that more people can enjoy.

Calendar

Focus Group

October 22, 6:16-8:45pm:

Share your ideas about the future of community programming at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. There still may be an opening to participate.

Dinner will be provided. RSVP to Tim DeLano immediately (503-705-1054) if you can join this important discussion about the future at Hopkins.

Community Forestry Days

These family-friendly community events include volunteer projects that vary depending on the season. Lunch is provided for volunteers, followed by a brief topical program and optional tour. Community Forestry Days begin at 9:00 am; lunch at noon; tour at 2:00 pm. RSVP to 503-632-2150 by the Thursday prior to each CFD if you would like to join our community in the forest.

November 14, 9:00am-4:00pm: We begin fall chores with pruning, slash piling and burning if permitted, firewood processing, and maintenance on our drainage system to protect roads, resources and prevent erosion. Lunch: Soup and more

December 12, 9:00am-4:00pm: Our list of things to do in fall continues with preparation for tree planting season in the New Year, and pruning and slash burning if permitted. Lunch: Stew and more

Tree Planting is a favorite for many volunteers.

January 9, 9:00am-12:00noon

Tree planting team leaders are needed! This year we will host a special training and planting site prep day in January—no community tree planting.

February 13, 9:00am-12noon or 1-4:00pm

March 13, 9:00am-12noon or 1-4:00pm

CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE A TREE PLANTING SHIFT FOR YOUR FAMILY OR GROUP.

We will provide plenty of seedlings, planting shovels and other materials. Trained volunteers will provide instruction and coaching for proper tree planting techniques. Bring your gloves and rain gear!

Lunch: Hot dogs on a stick over a campfire—just the way you like it—and other goodies, too!

Please remember to call 503-632-2150 by the Thursday prior to each CFD if you plan to join us for Community Lunch, or the Tour. Thank You.

Volunteers Needed

COOKS

We need a team of cooks to prepare the spread for volunteers and guests who come to Community Forestry Day, on the 2nd Saturday each month. We're looking for volunteers who might like to share a special family recipe, or who enjoy preparing a seasonal dish: consider volunteering for the lunch crew at Hopkins. Interested cooks contact Tim DeLano at 503-632-2150.

BOARD MEMBER

We currently have three vacancies on the Forests Forever Board of Directors. If you would like to help shape the future at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, consider serving on our Board. Terms run for three years, including bi-monthly meetings and participation in some of our community events and outreach activities. If interested, contact Ken Everett at 503-655-5524.

FOREST HOSTS

Live in your RV at Hopkins Demonstration Forest—our RV pad has full hook-ups. As Host, you will greet many people from the community who visit Hopkins. Hosts perform light duty maintenance and cleaning, and assist guests with current information about the forest and facilities. Hosts are usually "on duty" 20-25 hours per week, for periods of 2 to 4 months at a time. Interested Hosts contact Ken Everett at 503-655-5524.

WISH LIST—Pop-up Canopies

We can use a few canopies that set-up quickly to create cover for events and activities in the forest. The most useful canopy is 10' x 10' and free-standing. Thank You!



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