



Grouse Hollow News

SUMMER 2009



Five Eagle Scouts Fledged

“This year has been the most productive for Eagle Scout projects completed at Hopkins Demonstration Forest,” according to Tim DeLano, Community Forestry Educator. “Five projects will be completed by mid June.” This year’s Eagle Scout projects include:



- Adam Decknadel, Troop 139. Riparian Demonstration Area trail enhancements, gravel surfacing, viewpoints with rustic benches and rail fences. Completed, January.



- Zack Packham, Troop 559. Bough Orchard Demonstration expansion and maintenance, added 200 Western White pine and weeded

and interplanted existing orchard. Completed, February.



- Sebastian Webber, Troop 139. Trail development connecting the main parking lot to Red Alder Trail, cut new trail tread, pile slash, spread wood chips. Completed, March.



- Brogan Roberts, Troop 322. Foot bridge for Little Buckner Trail (west end), at Up Creek Road; set footings, install bridge and repair adjacent trail sections. Completed, May.
- Jacob Wittren, Troop 108. Picnic table and site development, construct 2 ADA accessible picnic tables, and level 2 pads to allow wheelchair access. Completed, June.



A sixth Eagle Scout project is planned for September, to provide several improvements around the Cedar Grove Shelter. Eagle Scout projects develop leadership skills. Dozens of family members and fellow Scouts provide support for Eagle projects. “What Eagle Scout projects contribute to Hopkins goes beyond the infrastructure improvements and resource enhancements—the projects are an important way to engage the community in our mission,” DeLano reported.

Whether a Scout project or internship, job shadow or community service, many teens are taking advantage of opportunities to learn and be involved at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. If you want to know more about volunteer opportunities at Hopkins, please call 503-632-2150.

Inside

When a Community Comes Together

Trail and User Updates

Trackers Practice Survival Skills

Making a Difference is Key

Calendar of Events

When a Community Comes Together

On March 14, more than 100 volunteers came to Hopkins Demonstration Forest to share in tree planting and community building. "This was the largest volunteer day at Hopkins since I began working here six years ago," claimed Tim DeLano, OSU Extension, Community Forestry Educator.

Members from four local service clubs and three Scout troops helped



Blaine Meier, of Oregon City Lion's Club and Rotarian, Vicki Yates share in planting a Douglas-fir seedling in a recently harvested unit at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

plant hundreds of seedlings. Other tree planting volunteers included students from David Douglas High School; and a group of students from Oregon City High School's Green Team helped greet volunteers as they arrived. A fourth Scout Troop constructed a new section of trail as part

of one member's Eagle Scout project. "I ran from one place to another all day and never caught up," Delano declared. "I was exhausted, though I planted only a few trees myself during the day. I am usually able to greet and visit with all volunteers, but today—it wasn't possible."

Members of local Rotary, Lions, and Soroptimist clubs shared stories around the lunch fire about other service projects they are involved with around the world. Scouts were able to hear how service is a lifelong endeavor for these adults; it's not just for Scouts. "It was chance to share our stories with each other and the boys," said Blaine Meier, Oregon City Lion's Club president.

When the community comes together, good things happen. The second Saturday each month is Community Forestry Day at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Plan to join the community this summer on one of these dates: July 11, August 8, or September 12. Refer to the Calendar for details.



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Trail and User Updates

Regular hikers have noticed many additions and changes to trails at Hopkins Demonstration Forest over the past year. Several new trails and trail segments were recently constructed, and existing trails realigned. A boundary survey during 2008 revealed that part of our Middle Loop Watershed Trail crossed onto a neighboring property. The Middle Loop has been rerouted, and moved farther away from Little Buckner Creek in one location to prevent flood damage in future years. A revised map showing new trails will be available this summer. New sign posts and signs are being installed this spring, including user designation signs.



Trails are for pedestrian traffic only!

Hopkins is a popular place for walking dogs, please note that Clackamas County



Leash laws apply, and we request owners clean-up and remove their pet's waste from Hopkins property—do not deposit pet waste bags in the vault toilet or any trash can.



Equestrian use is no longer permitted without specific permission for each occurrence. Access for organized trail rides will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



Off road vehicles are never allowed at Hopkins Demonstration Forest—our facilities are not appropriate and liability too great to permit this kind of use.

Trackers Practice Survival Skills

Every year Hopkins Demonstration Forest is discovered by one or more groups. This spring the new visitors were from Trackers NW. Trackers founder Tony Deis of Portland and seven other young adults spent a couple days honing wilderness survival skills, such as starting a fire without matches and harvesting edible plants. While Hopkins is not a wilderness, the environment is sufficient for practicing many of the skills needed to survive far from all of the modern conveniences, Deis said.

"We need a forest property to practice these skills. At Hopkins we can cut brush to make a crude shelter. We couldn't do that in a state park. This is an incredible location, and it's only 45 minutes from Portland." The skills are practiced in ways that don't disturb the forest environment, he pointed out. Although the skilled eye might discern that Trackers took down some brush at Hopkins to make a shelter, the brush removal is helpful to the property, according to Deis.

Hopkins' Community Forestry Educator, Tim DeLano asked Deis last winter if he would like to bring his group to Hopkins to trap mountain beaver—"something we need to do many winters to protect seedlings." DeLano sees value in allowing groups like Trackers NW to use Hopkins Demonstration Forest as "they bring new audiences to us; potential new volunteers and donors. If nothing else, more people observe the variety of forest management we practice and see it as a good thing."

Now five years old, Trackers NW evolved from an animal tracking club for teenagers, Deis explained. Operating as a co-operative, the organization serves a mix of adults and youths through summer camps and year round classes. About 1,200 youths will attend Trackers camps this summer in Oregon and Northern California, he said.

Trackers NW also has summer camps for families. Adult classes

include how to make shoes, stone knives and a kayak. Some outdoor trips are close to home. Trackers NW groups have trapped nutria at Oaks Bottom in Southeast Portland and butchered a farm-raised buffalo near Forest Grove using mostly stone tools, Deis said. "We want people to look at traditional skills as a connection to the land," Deis noted. "We build shelters from woody debris, and eat things like trapped nutria, which to me tastes like

fishy pork. We're using knives here, but usually we build shelters without them."

Nathan Temple of Portland said he became involved with Trackers after his daughter attended one of the summer camps. "I want to feel more integrated into our natural environment," Temple said.

"Each experience carries its own message," said Matt Benett of Portland, another Tracker visitor.

To learn more about Trackers visit their website trackersnw.com.

Making a Difference is Key

Key Bank's "Neighbors Make a Difference" program brought a five women and one man crew for volunteer work at Hopkins Demonstration Forest in May. Mostly from the bank's Oregon City branch, the crew cleared weeds and brush, and pruned lower limbs from firs in the Fire-safe Demonstration near the main parking lot and site of the proposed classroom building.

"We built a trail here last year so we thought we'd come back and help some more," said Amanda Vetter, a teller at the branch office. "This is my first time at doing this kind of work. We're pulling blackberry and thistles. We had to learn to pull the right ones."

"If I put my weight on it, I can cut through anything," Tawni Contreras, the office operations supervisor, said of using cutting loppers. "I love it here. I might come back to walk with my dog, but I'll bring a GPS because I get lost easily without it."

Karen Lotz, assistant branch manager, was familiar with the pruning tools from work on her five acre orchard and garden. "It's wonderful," she said of Hopkins, "in what it does for the community." Virginia Flohr, a teller, was visiting Hopkins for the first time. She said it was easy to learn how to use the loppers.

Taking a break from limb pruning, branch manager Rachel Gunderson said, "It was easy to decide to come



Mike Piazza used pole saw to prune dead branches from Douglas-fir trees. Removing branches reduces the likelihood that fire can spread from the ground, into the tree canopy.

back to work at Hopkins today. We had a great time last year, and it's a real service to the community. I love it at Hopkins."

Mike Piazza, east metro retail leader for the bank, said this is the 19th year of the Neighbors Make a Difference program. Besides helping at Hopkins, Piazza said he and other bank employees have worked on environmental improvements at eastside public parks and a women's shelter.

Calendar

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.

July 11, 9:00am-4:00pm: facility repair and maintenance, and trail maintenance

Learn and share construction and building maintenance skills, while helping take care of key facilities in our forest: staining, painting, cleaning and repairing buildings, bridges and kiosks.

Lunch: BBQ

August 8, 9:00am-4:00pm: facility repair and maintenance, and trail maintenance

Learn and share construction and building maintenance skills, while helping take care of key facilities in our forest: staining, painting, cleaning and repairing buildings, bridges and kiosks.

Lunch: BBQ

September 12, 9:00am-4:00pm: last of summer chores

This is the last chance of the season to take care of building chores, and trail adjustments, before wetter days arrive. There's a list of things longer than all of our arms! And it's good fellowship—if you have not joined us for Community Forestry Day yet this year, well, after September, bring your rain gear!

Lunch: Cook's choice

October 10, 9:00am-4:00pm: weed & erosion control

Join woodland owners from across the County for a day of weed control, drainage maintenance, and an assortment of odds-and-ends "farm chores." Help is always needed with greeting volunteers as they arrive, as well with preparing and serving lunch.

Lunch: Chiyoko Honma, home cooked Japanese lunch

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.

All the World's a Stage



"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players...."

—W. Shakespeare

Local students participating in the Oregon Youth Leadership program performed *As You Like It* for nearly 100 people during two performances of that William Shakespeare play. The play was performed on a temporary stage erected in the amphitheater at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, May 29 and 30.

"I often conclude my time with visitors to Hopkins by challenging them to consider how they can use 140-acres of forest," said Community Forestry Educator Tim DeLano. "A few months ago I received a phone call from a parent who had previously been on a field trip to Hopkins with her children's school, and she took that challenge to heart."

Kari Ririe is that parent, and she coordinated the *As You Like It* production for students she works with through her home school association. Ririe exclaims that "Hopkins is the perfect setting for this play and we are so grateful to be allowed to perform here."

Students and parents moved their stages into the amphitheater on Memorial Day, held rehearsals each afternoon during the week, leading up to the Friday evening and Saturday matinee performances. DeLano invited the group to return in future to perform. Ririe responded that they will consider the opportunity again.



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