



Grouse Hollow News

SPRING 2011



Hopkins Forest Attracts Chinese Business Visitors

BY TIM DeLANO

Referred by the Clackamas County Tourism Office, two separate busloads of Chinese business leaders interested in the American version of forest management and natural resource conservation, visited Hopkins Demonstration Forest last October.

Many “Ni hao” greetings were heard when Tim DeLano, community outreach coordinator for Hopkins Demonstration Forest met each tour group. Ni hao is “hello” in Chinese and pronounced like “knee how.” Thankfully, skilled interpreters were on hand to translate the technical



The tour bus waits for a group from China at the end of their short hike through a native Oregon forest at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

information that followed.

Delegates were interested to learn which tree species are grown in Oregon, what the wood is used for, forest land-use laws and regulations, and sustainability issues. They learned that some of the trees harvested at Hopkins were shipped to the Asian market, maybe even used in China. They were fascinated to know how many American forests are privately owned, not common in China. The most powerful part of the experience was a short walk through a native Oregon forest—seeing, hearing, touching and smelling. Forests are much more than just trees.

www.demonstrationforest.org

For updated images from recent events and activities visit the website.

Helpful Hands

BY JIM KADERA

Don Chase of Estacada is dedicated to getting things done at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

A retired U.S. Forest Service road engineer, Chase usually helps during the monthly Community Forestry Days. He also passes along his skills in the forest at other times.



Don Chase shows local father-son team how to plant red alder seedlings.

“I’ve known Ken (Everett, Forests Forever executive director) for years, and he asked me to help around here,” Chase said during a work break on a chilly February day. “Besides engineering, I’ve been a heavy equipment operator.”

In addition to handyman improvements at Hopkins, Chase strives to educate youths who volunteer to learn a few of the basic forestry skills.

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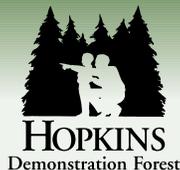
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“I was raised on a ranch where if something broke you had to fix it yourself,” he said. “Our younger urban generation isn’t learning these skills. I enjoy working with them. This morning was another example of sharing skills when we planted trees. If someone doesn’t pick up on these skills, they become lost arts.”



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Forest Hosts

Margi Wyatt and Marcelino Macedo

Grouse Hollow News

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One Student’s Experience

BY ESTHER VERBRUGGEN

Several students each year are fortunate to experience the beauty of Hopkins Demonstration Forest, with its breathtaking silence and peacefulness and the sweet smell of nature drifting through the creaking trees. I am one of the lucky ones; by participating in the Community Forestry Days to fulfill a school requirement, I learned skills that can never be taught in a classroom.

Tim DeLano, the Forestry Educator who oversaw the activities of the day, constantly shared his expertise with a cheerfulness and enthusiasm unmatched by most classroom teachers. He happily informed the group of the importance of pruning trees, maintaining the road, planting new trees, and a number of other tasks. There were also lessons to be learned that are relevant to every part of life, such as the necessity of prioritizing work instead of trying to complete an impossible workload.

There were some challenging experiences during those days at Hopkins. Clearing the ditches on the edges of road to ensure that the roads were not eroding was miserable work; it was both tedious and cold, and best accomplished while it rained. However, being with a group of intelligent and interesting people made it worthwhile.

Most of the time volunteering at the demonstration forest was extremely



David Douglas High School senior Esther Verbruggen uses a hazel hoe to scalp weeds competing with recently planted seedlings.

enjoyable. My favorite day was the day we made Christmas decorations out of supplies found in the forest. Wreath-making was entertaining and satisfying work. Another great day was the one in which we spent the afternoon planting trees. The sun beamed between the tree trunks lighting the forest like a scene from a fairy tale; while planting trees we enjoyed several fascinating conversations.

Perhaps the best part of my experience was seeing that there are still people who care about the environment and there are places where nature thrives. After all, this is the world I will have to live the rest of my life in, and I want it to be beautiful. It is my hope more students will benefit from experiences at Hopkins Demonstration Forest; there is always a lesson or memory to take away with you.

COOKS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers who might like to prepare a special family recipe, or who enjoy cooking a seasonal dish: consider volunteering for the lunch crew at Hopkins. We need cooks to prepare the spread for volunteers and guests who come to Community Forestry Days, on the 2nd Saturday each month. If you are interested, please contact Tim DeLano at 503-632-2150.

Construction Progresses Through Winter

BY JIM KADERA

Forests Forever Inc. hopes to complete the new education/community building at Hopkins Demonstration Forest this year.

"We need to raise about \$60,000 more to complete the building interior," said Ken Everett, Forests Forever executive director. "We'll apply for a couple grants that will be important in reaching our goal. And we'll send letters to people asking for donations." Donations may be in cash or materials.

The building cost is about \$325,000 including permits, materials and labor. Some of the materials and labor have been donated.

Cedar siding donated by Lazy S Lumber was installed in February, completing the building exterior. "We treated the siding with a clear preservative to keep the natural color," Everett explained.

Dan Coleman, the building carpenter, is expected to complete the interior ceiling in March, and then put in the insulation and sheet rock. Coleman also will make kitchen cabinets from big leaf maple trees harvested from the

Hopkins forest.

"I'm happy with the results up to now," Everett said of the building project. "We're getting a good quality job done. We've come a long way, and people are seeing the results.

"We always can use volunteer labor. Anyone who wants to help should call me."

During the February board meeting the members present unanimously agreed on a name for the new building: Forest Hall.

Meanwhile, the fire lookout tower retired from State Forest use has been erected near the new building and may be open by fire season this year, Everett reported. R.F. Specialties of Portland erected the 60-foot tall lookout tower in January along with large wooden beams that will hold a seven foot square cabin and surrounding catwalk on top of the tower. "It was like assembling a puzzle. They did a good job," Everett said of putting together the tower's steel components.

A steel door at the base of the tower steps will be part of the security to keep unwanted visitors from accessing the tower. Coleman will build the tower cabin from a design used to make lookouts in the 1940s, Everett said. The lookout will eventually be outfitted with original fire locating equipment as it would have been while in use decades ago.

"I hope we can have the tower ready for use by this summer. From the top, you can see far out into the valley on a clear day."



Piece by piece, the once scattered metal parts were quickly assembled.

Welcome Forest Hosts

BY JIM KADERA

Margi Wyatt and Marcelino Maceda believe they made a good decision in becoming the first live-in hosts at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

The couple wanted a better environment than the recreational vehicle park near Sandy where they lived before moving to Hopkins last October. "The air is so clear and fresh here, not moldy," Wyatt said. "I also enjoy having plenty of water to irrigate my flowers.

"This is our first time hosting for a property like this. It's been better than we expected, helping us grow in a spiritual way," she said of living in a beautiful and mostly peaceful natural setting. Electricity, water and septic are provided for their fifth-wheel trailer parked on the RV pad developed by Forests Forever, near Hopkins Hall.

The hosts are not on-site all the time. Wyatt works throughout the Portland area providing in-home care. Maceda

works in construction with skills that also come in handy at Hopkins.

Their host responsibilities include picking up trash, maintaining restrooms, giving trail maps and forest use advice to visitors, and locking/unlocking the entry gates. Wyatt said they also enjoy taking on unassigned tasks.

"We noticed the amphitheater area needed a cleanup so we spent 16 to 20 hours getting it done." They look forward to pruning fruit trees near the hosts' RV pad, she said.

They are the after-hours eyes and ears of Hopkins, and occasionally the peaceful setting is interrupted by people with bad intentions. Sometimes the night-time interruptions are from gunfire on nearby property.

"The first trouble was when someone in a pickup truck drove down the hill at night and took firewood," Wyatt said. The wood theft led Forests Forever to begin locking the entry gate every night.

In another incident, two youths are believed to be the culprits who damaged storm-softened trails as they raced through on BMX bicycles, she said.

Depending on the type of trouble, the hosts telephone either the Clackamas County sheriff office for assistance or alert Ken Everett, Forests Forever executive director.

One of the treats of living in the woods is hearing coyotes, owls and other critters at night, she noted. "I'm keeping a journal of our life at Hopkins. It has opened my creative writing again." Wyatt also keeps out-of-state friends and family up to date through Facebook entries, "and they've been inspired, too, about Hopkins."

Wyatt takes photos of sunsets and other scenes at Hopkins. "Sometimes at sunset an ocean of purple covers the tree tops," she said. "I'm also an oil painter, and getting inspired to do it again."

So how long does the couple want to continue as hosts? "We love it here," she said. "We'd like to stay as long as Hopkins will have us."

Calendar

Celebrate Arbor Week - Ten Trees Tours

April 4-8, 10am-2pm. Celebrate trees with a 90-minute tour featuring native Oregon trees growing at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. During this tour you will learn how to identify trees using a dichotomous key in *Trees to Know in Oregon* field guide. Register your class or group through Oregon City Community Schools at 503-785-8520.

Community Forestry Days (CFD)

2nd Saturday Each Month, 8:30am-4:30pm.

These family-friendly community events include volunteer projects that vary depending on the season. Lunch is provided for volunteers, often including by a brief topical program. A tour is offered in the afternoon for anyone who wants to see what we've been up to. Community Forestry Days begin at 8:30 am; lunch at noon; tour at 2:00 pm.

April 9 CFD

Celebrate service with members of several local service clubs, Scouts, families and friends of Hopkins Demonstration Forest for a day of trail repair. The usual CFD will be bigger than ever! Many hands make light work—do not miss out on this great day of service and community. To register your family or group, call Michelle Don at 503-518-8808.

Later this spring CFD projects include

May 14, trail maintenance, weed control, construction projects

June 11, facility repairs, construction projects, weed control

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

Middle-schoolers Key on Trees

BY TIM DeLANO

Properly planting tree seedlings, using a dichotomous key to identify tree species, and learning the life cycle of a tree—these are just a few of the topics hundreds of middle school students from the metro area learn when they visit Hopkins Demonstration Forest near Beavercreek. For the past several years, students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades visit Hopkins to study nature, and to nurture the forest.

Each year's educational focus builds on something done or experienced the year before at the tree farm.

Community Forestry Educator for Hopkins, Tim DeLano explains, "This fall eighth-graders came to the same area where they planted seedlings the year before to survey how many survived—95 percent! That is considered a professional quality outcome!"

DeLano also leads a tree identification tour at Hopkins where students walk a 1½ mile route through the woods, stopping a few times to learn about Oregon native trees. He shows students



In October, 8th grade students surveyed seedling survival as a follow-up to their tree planting experience as 7th graders the previous February.

how to use the dichotomous keys found in the *Trees to Know in Oregon* field guide. Sprinkled in among the keying, reading and journaling, DeLano shares a few fanciful stories and students often begin to see how the trees growing around them relate to their daily lives.

Ecology, physiology, dichotomous—all BIG forest words, but fitting for BIG forest trees.



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