



# Grouse Hollow

FALL 2012

News



## Saws, Skidder, Action: It's Harvest Time

BY JIM KADERA

The largest timber thinning ever conducted at Hopkins Demonstration Forest began in August, and was completed by the end of September.

About 170,000 board feet of mostly 60 to 70-year-old Douglas fir, and a few cedar and hemlock was marked for logging by contractor Gene Howell of Corbett and a helper. Mike Bondi, Forests Forever secretary and Oregon State University Extension regional administrator, said the harvest was almost as much as the 200,000 board feet removed from the same stand (area of trees) in two previous thinning combined.

"We've had a hard time keeping up with the shade coming in after we thin," Bondi said. A thinning last year was postponed due to weak log prices. An uneven-aged forest management project begun 18 years ago on 15 acres envisioned thinning about every five years. (More information about the Uneven-age Management Demonstration Project is available at [www.demonstrationforest.org/](http://www.demonstrationforest.org/))



PHOTO: TIM DeLANO

**Gene Howell making his back-cut to fell a large Douglas-fir tree. Timber falling in a thinning unit like the Uneven-age Demonstration Project at Hopkins requires a skilled cutter—Howell has been a logger for over 40 years.**

[demonstrationareas.htm](http://demonstrationareas.htm).)

By waiting until this year, Forests Forever grossed \$500 per thousand board feet for domestic fir, \$620-\$670 for export fir, and \$1000-\$1100 for cedar, according to Ken Everett, Forests Forever executive director. The two daughters of the late Margaret Hopkins, who donated the forest property 22 years ago, receive 40 percent of the gross. Forests Forever gets the remainder after paying logging and related costs, using the income to support Hopkins programs and maintenance.

Bondi said the uneven-aged project was designed after he and Bill Emmingham, then an Extension forestry specialist, toured Germany's Black Forest and saw values of thinning instead of clearcutting. "We had a perfect opportunity at Hopkins," Bondi noted. "Just across the road from what

now is the uneven-age project site, were 15 acres clearcut, piled, burned and reforested in 1990-92." Several woodland owners and foresters helped Bondi and Emmingham plan the long-term uneven-age demonstration to see how well it worked in the Pacific Northwest where clearcutting had been the dominant harvest method.

Trees on the demonstration site are mixed ages, sizes and species. Seedlings are planted in new openings after thinning. Harvesting the larger trees without damaging the remaining stand "is the trick easier said than done," Bondi said. Howell used a rubber-tired skidder and existing roads instead of new skid trails to reduce soil compaction and damage to the smaller trees.

"We've established permanent inventory plots to monitor growth," Bondi said. "The dominant trees continue to grow, and are harvested when approaching 30 inches diameter. We continue to learn how to make the process work, and identify the advantages and disadvantages."

Access in and around the Uneven-age Demonstration will be restricted until strong fall winds clear broken branches that are hung up in the canopy of remaining trees. "They are called 'widow-makers' for a reason," explains Tim DeLano, Hopkins educator. He adds, "A series of exhibits will be installed in coming months around the Uneven-age Management Demonstration to explain even more about this alternative forestry technique."

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# Board Changes

BY JIM KADERA

**F**orests Forever Inc. welcomes three new members for three-year terms to its board of directors. Glenn Ahrens, Oregon State University Extension forester for



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## Forests Forever Board of Directors

Ken Everett, *Executive Director*, Colton  
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Glenn Ahrens, Oregon City  
Keith Baldwin, Silverton  
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Rick Gruen, West Linn  
Dave Hill, Oregon City  
Jim Kadera, Oregon City  
Mike Piazza, West Linn  
John Poppino, Milwaukie

## Staff

Tim DeLano, *Community Forestry Educator*  
Don Chase, *Special Projects*

## Forest Hosts

Margi Wyatt and Marcelino Maceda

## Grouse Hollow News

Writers & Editors: Jim Kadera, Tim DeLano  
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Clackamas and three other counties, became the Clackamas County Extension representative on the board, replacing Mike Bondi, now the Extension regional administrator.

Bondi retains a position on the Forests Forever board as secretary.

Ahrens formerly was Extension forestry agent for Clatsop and Tillamook counties. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from Humboldt State University, and Master's degree in forest science from Oregon State University.

Rick Gruen replaces Dan Green, Clackamas County Forester, who resigned from the board at the end of July. And Fran Cafferata Coe is the

Resources Council, and OSU Extension Advisory Council. "I believe my diverse forestry and natural resource background along with my community involvement will comple-



**New Clackamas County Extension forester Glenn Ahrens relates details of red alder ecology and management to an audience of teachers.**

PHOTO: TIM DELANO



**Fran Cafferata Coe planting trees on her family's forest property.**

board's first member in several years with expertise in wildlife management.

Gruen is the agriculture, forestry and natural resource program manager for Clackamas County. Previously he was an executive administrator for soil and water conservation districts in Clackamas County Oregon, and Placer County California. His leadership experience includes serving on the Clackamas County Economic Development Commission, Clackamas Stewardship Partners, Urban-Rural

ment the mission and goals of Forests Forever, and I look forward to contributing to the board and Hopkins Demonstration Forest," he said.

Cafferata Coe received a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife and fisheries science from Oregon State University in 2000. She is a certified wildlife biologist based in Hillsboro, doing business as Cafferata Consulting LLC. "Most recently I have worked on projects for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, PacifiCorp, and Oregon Forest Resources Institute," she said. Her family owns small woodlands in Lane and Benton counties, certified through the American Tree Farm System.

"I love that I am able to work with forestry and wildlife in my personal and professional life," she said. "I am excited about joining the Forests Forever board. It will be fun to learn how I can contribute my wildlife experience, and learn from others."

Thanks to former board members Dan Green and Maralyn Turner for their years of service to Forests Forever, and help with projects and programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Dan plans to enjoy family and some traveling, while Maralyn wants to focus more attention on her two forest properties and her family.

# Trail Tales

BY JIM KADERA

When I first came here, I thought it would be dumb. Now I feel I'm helping the community, and I would come back to do it again." So said 15-year-old Dillan as he and two dozen other boys from Parrott Creek Ranch concluded their summer work at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

An arm of non-profit Parrott Creek Child and Family Services of Oregon City, the ranch is a residential program for boys 14-18 who have been through the juvenile justice system. The young men receive counseling, alcohol and drug abuse treatment when needed, and skill building besides attending an alternative high school to graduate or earn a GED.

The ranch is located several miles from Hopkins. Working separate days in groups of 10 to 14, the boys cleared brush from along the almost two-mile forest trails system at Hopkins. They also widened and smoothed trails where needed, using loppers, hoes and other non-power tools. "And they helped with other odds and ends like filling ditches," said Tim DeLano, Hopkins educator and community outreach coordinator.

"We've had good success with them," DeLano noted. "The work is valuable for us, for them individually, and for the community. At first, some are skeptical about the work, but I think most wind up attached to it."

Dylan Martell was one of the five Parrott Creek staffers who accompanied the boys on their final day this summer that ended with a hot dog and melon lunch outside Hopkins Hall to celebrate their efforts. "I grew up near Mulino, and never knew this place existed," Martell said. "It's beautiful out here. I got to see different parts of the forest each of the past three summers coming here."

Martell sees changes in the youths after they begin helping at Hopkins. "At first, they aren't focused on being here. In a couple weeks, they start asking to go and liking the work," he

explained. "The guys develop an interest in the ability to work in nature, and they get calmed down.

"Tim shows them how to accomplish a task. That's a first for most of the kids, and they gain skills," he continued. "It's cool to see a kid ask what he can do next after finishing work on a trail."

"After they work here, some of the boys return to show their friends what they did, or they ask for job references," DeLano said. During the celebratory lunch, he told the group they had provided more than 260 hours of volunteer labor this summer that would have cost Hopkins about \$5,000 if the work had been done by a contracted crew.

Devlin, 15, was among those looking for a job reference from DeLano. "I've done this kind of work before. I liked learning how to sharpen tools, and seeing things like deer droppings when we were out there," the boy said after munching his hot dog. Comments from other boys included "I learned that teamwork is impor-



PHOTO: TIM DELANO

**Young men from Parrott Creek Ranch provided the muscle to complete 2-miles of general trail maintenance over the summer. They also completed a few trail projects requiring special-attention to solve drainage problems and prevent erosion. This is the fifth summer that Parrott Creek youth have worked at Hopkins.**

tant" and "we learned about wild blackberries and not to touch three-leaf plants like poison oak."

Martell said all of the boys this year are from northwest Oregon, but a few have been from eastern Oregon in the past. "We do a risk assessment with Oregon Youth Authority to get approval for safety before we bring them here," he pointed out. Other field trips for the Parrot Creek boys include occasional hikes in state and other public parks, he said, and the boys have helped maintain trails at Mary Young Park in West Linn. They also do grounds work at Parrot Creek Ranch, using many of the same tools and skills learned during their time at Hopkins.

## Fall Mushroom Hunting & Wild Harvest Tour

Date to be determined after rains begin

Join us as we travel through the forest in search of wild edibles of the Pacific Northwest! This tour will start out bright and early with a coffee bar provided by award winning Happy Rock Roastery and delicious farmers breakfast foods.

With expert guides, we will forage, identify and harvest wild edibles. We will teach the keys for safe harvesting and conservation methods for wild edibles.

During the cooking demonstrations we will show you some of our favorite ways to prepare wild edibles. At this time kids will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of nature crafts.

At the conclusion of our tour you will have the opportunity to continue foraging, roast marshmallows, or shop for some yummy edibles or literature to take home.

**For more information about this event, email: [info@tempresstruffles.com](mailto:info@tempresstruffles.com)**

# Calendar

## 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 a brief topical program. A tour or demonstration activity is offered in the afternoon for the community to see what we're up to.

CFD begin at 8:30 am; lunch at noon; tour begins at 2:00 pm; clean-up and depart by 4:30pm. Please RSVP to 503-632-2150 by the Thursday prior to each CFD if you plan to join us for lunch or the tour. Thank You.

### October 13

This month we focus on weed control and fuels management and site preparation in our Uneven-age Forestry Demo. Our project area was harvested during September, and needs to be prepared for planting in late winter. There will be tasks for every skill level, and great opportunities to learn by doing.

### November 10

This fall we hope to plant part of a new landscape around Forest Hall. If you like gardening and landscaping tasks, this could be a good opportunity. Other typical fall chores may include pruning, preparing drainage structures and ditches for coming wet months. We may still be involved with the Uneven-age Demo project left-over from October.

### December 8

'Tis the season to prune young conifers, cut and stack firewood, and burn some slash piles recently stacked. In the afternoon we will turn attention to our Bough Orchard: to cut greenery for the 2pm workshop (see below) and prepare the orchard for winter.

**2:00pm: Please join us in the afternoon of December 8 for a holiday decoration workshop (in lieu of the tour).**

### Upcoming Community Forestry Days in 2013

**January**, winter weed control, slash burning, & site prep for tree planting

**February**, site prep and tree planting, animal damage control

**March**, site prep, tree planting, spring weed control

# Teacher~Foresters: TIW Review

BY TIM DeLANO

I don't know when I have ever allowed myself the opportunity to get on the ground and watch a slug eat a cherry, or to notice a fungi and appreciate its complexity and beauty. It has spurred my curiosity in ways I did not anticipate when I began this program," wrote Katie Carpenter in her program evaluation.

This past summer our Teachers in the Woods crew re-measured inventory plots in one of the management units at Hopkins; then installed new inventory plots and recorded baseline measurements in another stand. In process of completing these projects, TIW participants learned about edibles in the forest, red alder ecology and management, and Oregon's forestry laws. Wildlife was spied, photographed and identified; and the names and ecology of plants in the forest noted. The teachers used tools new to them, and had a chance to see a forest differently.

In addition to project work, teachers were given opportunities for solitude, and time to reflect and discuss teaching ideas with peers and ask questions of expert guests. Integral to the experience are developing connections with people and resources to help implement ambitious curriculum integration of forestry into required subjects such as math, language arts, social studies and of course, science.

"This program has helped us restructure our entire school schedule into what we anticipate being a more successful learning environment," said high school instructor Angela Fojtik. "I have acquired more confidence in the woods and in facilitating a project out here and am excited to see how this project-based learning model will change our students and shape them into confident, questioning life-long learners."

The TIW 2012 teachers have returned to their classrooms, already preparing students for field days at Hopkins during the first month of school, with plans to make multiple visits to Hopkins for extended studies and student-directed projects.

Joyce Brown anticipates her elementary-age English language learners will "be very inquisitive and wonder about many things that they see within their field of vision."

Look for follow-up stories in future issues and on our Facebook page as students from Oregon Outreach, Inc. and Carus School share with us what they are doing and learning in the forest at Hopkins.



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