

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Executive Director Message

All of us experienced changes in our lives due to COVID-19 this year, including the way we do our work at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Peter Matzka, our Forest Educator, did a great job continuing our education programs by filming videos on different subjects and posting on YouTube for students and others to watch and learn. Please check out our movie star!



Even though Hopkins couldn't generate much income this year from rentals of Everett Hall and our other programs, we were able to keep our gates open for visitors to hike our trails and enjoy the outdoors—at least, for much of the past year.

As a woodland owner, we are fortunate to have a timber resource to help supplement our income needs and shortfalls. We harvested 11 acres of timber that provided the critical income to get us through the year. A timber harvest is a great way to educate students and the community about how important it is to replant and grow a new forest after cutting trees. Timber is a **renewable** resource. And, we do like to practice what we preach!

Our dedicated volunteers, led by Pete Willie, continued to work on projects and maintain our facilities. Our newest donation of property, from the Schink family, is located outside Molalla on the Molalla River, and called the Schink Demonstration Forest. Work was completed on a new pavilion and a vault toilet. We are now ready and excited to start education programs at this location once the risk of COVID-19 has passed. Along with the work at the Schink property, new stair treads, railings and finish work in the cabin of the look-out tower were completed at Hopkins. And, a new lean-to at our sawmill was added for more equipment storage.

The restoration of the Molalla Log House continued this year, too, with the addition of the second floor and roof. We are looking forward to the restoration work on the log house being completed in 2021 and opening to the community to learn the Log House's rich history.

We are thankful for the many volunteers, board members, and educators who have spent so much time making the Hopkins Demonstration Forest a great asset to the community and our schools.

Best wishes for the coming year and what will be the 30th anniversary of our Hopkins Demonstration Forest and its opening. We hope to celebrate, with you in the forest, to mark this event!

Ken Everett
Forests Forever, Inc.
Executive Director





Schink Demonstration Forest



Hannah Schink and her children, Andrew and Janice, donated their 21-acre family forest property in Dickey Prairie to Forests Forever, Inc. in 2018 and provided additional financial resources the following year for infrastructure improvements to the tract for educational use. This past year focused on these developments—road access, new entry gate and sign, vault-style toilet, gathering shelter, and



riparian enhancements for fish habitat. The Schink Demonstration Forest include 600' of Molalla River frontage—a prime fishery.

FFI Executive Director, Ken Everett, managed all of these improvement projects, and as always, did a wonderful job coordinating contractors and ensuring a first-class job! We are now ready for school groups and special tours.



Molalla Log House Nearing Completion

Great progress was made on the restoration of the Molalla Log House during 2020. An intrepid group of volunteers led by Board Member Pam Hayden, Gregg Olson and Rich Isberg continued work through the summer and fall when access to Hopkins was possible due to COVID-19. The fall wildfires had a big impact on completing the restoration. As a result, the hope is to finish up the project by next May. The walls, second floor and roof were all completed before the fall rains.

The Molalla Log House will be a great addition to Hopkins and in a beautiful forest setting. We look forward to sharing with you at the 2021 dedication.



Fire Lookout Ready for Public, too!

The Clatskanie Mountain Lookout came to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in 2007. Since then, the reconstruction of the tower has been a slow process requiring special permitting and engineering, technical assistance, a lot of patience and perseverance—and significant financial support. It's now done and ready for the public and will be a great addition to our education program focusing on fire protection and prevention—certainly a timely topic today.

A special thanks to all who have been involved in this project over the years. In particular, we thank super volunteer, Pete Wille who lead the effort to rebuild the stairs up the tower and all the restoration work inside the cabin. Board member Mike Haasken was instrumental in securing an authentic Osborne Fire Finder typically used in these historic towers.



Timber Harvest Provides Critical Funding—starts new cycle of life

Forests Forever, Inc. conducted a very timely timber harvest at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest this past summer. Since the COVID pandemic shut down all operations at Hopkins in March, revenue for the non-profit plummeted. Reductions in funding normally provided through our education programs, our supporters, and rental income from Everett Hall all created a budget shortfall approaching \$70,000. We did cut expenses, but FFI's Board of Directors decided a timber harvest was needed, too.

Luckily, sustainably managed forests represent one of the best examples of how to provide for important monetary needs at times like these. And, that's a message we always share with the community, why forest management planning is critical, and the reason we plant trees every year and continually upgrade our forests.

This year's harvest was an 11-acre clearcut along the Grouse Hollow Mainline Road, removed an older stand of timber that had been commercially thinned twice, and was ready for the final harvest and forest renewal. More than \$100,000 of income was generated, after expenses, and due to outstanding late summer log markets.

Look for an information kiosk planned in the coming year and along the Mainline that will share details about the project to our visitors.





Our Board of Directors has the overall management responsibility of the Hopkins Demonstration Forest plus the legal and fiduciary oversight of Forests Forever, Inc. The Board meets monthly to conduct business.

FORESTS FOREVER, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBER	BOARD SINCE	REPRESENTING
Ken Everett <i>Executive Director</i> Colton	1991	Forest Consultant
Frank Wille <i>Board Chair</i> Oregon City	2012	Woodland Owner
Mike Piazza <i>Board Treasurer</i> West Linn	2007	Business Community
Maralyn Turner <i>Board Secretary</i> Lake Oswego	2019	Education
Glenn Ahrens <i>Extension Forester</i> Oregon City	2012	OSU Extension Service
Mike Bondi Lake Oswego	1991	General Public
Mary Castle Molalla	2008	Forest Products Industry
Michael Daly Beavercreek	2010	General Public
Mike Haasken <i>Stewardship Forester, retired</i> Molalla	2013	Oregon Department of Forestry
Pam Hayden Lake Oswego	2018	General Public
Kimberly Johnson Milwaukie	2017	Business Community
Jim Kadera Hillsboro	2006	General Public
Bob Kahl Oregon City	2014	CCFFA Representative

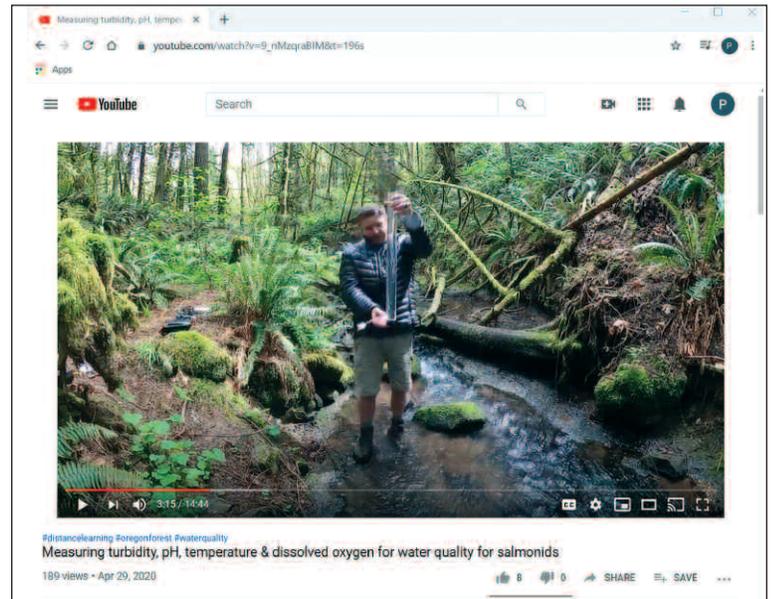
STAFF

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Don Chase, Special Projects
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2020 Educational Summary

Our traditional, in-the-forest, hands-on learning that Hopkins so uniquely provides, was certainly challenged in 2020. The ‘new normal’ required that those educational groups who come to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest adopt new methods of engagement. To assist and support these efforts, Hopkins’ education programming shifted to a remote delivery of learning by providing an electronic resource center for classroom teachers. Some limited in-person events were able to be offered, too.

As schools began the process of remote learning back in late March, Hopkins initiated remote outreach efforts. The first was a series of online videos educators and the public could access for their needs. School programs that had to be cancelled were contacted and directed to the Hopkins Facebook Page and a newly created YouTube Channel (simply search ‘Hopkins Demonstration Forest’ in YouTube). This effort, by this year’s end, produced twenty-two (5-15 minute) videos with Facebook views exceeding 8,000 and the YouTube Channel with close to 1,000 views. Many of the YouTube views were video captured for online sharing or used in virtual classroom presentations to multiple student learners—so, the actual number is far higher than reported.



The Oregon Future Natural Resources Leaders State Convention and Career Development Event for high schools would have been at Hopkins in late April. That event had to be converted to a virtual format. Hopkins took the lead and rallied a team of high school natural resource educators from around Oregon to pull off what seemed impossible in just over a month.

In the end, this entirely teacher-developed and student-led event was a success and gathered high school educators to work together, virtually, not only last spring and in preparation for the convention, but through the summer, fall, and now winter.

Hopkins did manage in-person educational events when possible and COVID safety measures could be carefully followed. The summer Teacher in the Woods program was one example. A 5-day, 40-mile overnight backpacking expedition through the Jefferson Wilderness was this year’s focus—perfect for social distancing! This experience included six teachers on an intense learning opportunity and traveled



through areas that would be significantly altered, just a few weeks later, by the catastrophic Lionshead Fire in September.

In response to the wildfires this fall, Hopkins held a live wildland fire fighting Red Card training day to certify fourteen OSU College of Forestry faculty and researchers so they could access many of the burned-over areas to conduct or continue their research.

Finally, in-person events were continued with Portland State University and Clackamas Community College. Participating students had to provide their own transportation to Hopkins this fall due to COVID restrictions, but at least, they were able to continue their field-based natural resource learning and preparing to be educators. Look for more information about a virtual tour of Hopkins that was created by the PSU Senior Capstone students and their faculty advisor.

Many activities were significantly different at Hopkins this year. But, there were new opportunities for growth and learning, too. And, that has been one of the positive outcomes of the pandemic. As educational activities return to normal, many of these new methods of engagement and learning will be used or further adapted.

Poppino Pavilion Nearing Completion

A beautiful new pavilion is close to completion at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The Poppino Pavilion will be a wonderful tribute to one of our most dedicated volunteers and a charter board member of Forests Forever, Inc.

John Poppino was a professional forester spending his career with the U.S. Forest Service. He and his wife, Mary, lived for many years in Milwaukie. Upon retirement, John was able to spend much more time at his family's woodland property east of Estacada. With a great community spirit, John signed up for the inaugural class of the OSU Master Woodland Manager program in 1987—even though he could have taught the class!

John was also the president of the Clackamas Farm Forestry Association at the time Forests Forever was formed in 1990 and a driving force to create the new non-profit organization. John was on the Board of Directors at FFI from its beginning until his death in 2016.

Before Mary's passing, she and the family pledged \$10,000 to build a pavilion honoring John and the family, their involvement at Hopkins, and in the forestry and woodland community. Additional donations from the Everett family, in honor of Ken's brother Marvin, plus other contributions have fully funded the project.

Bartel Contracting, Inc. in Gladstone donated the construction expertise to erect the structure. Cedar trees were harvested at Hopkins and prepared for corner posts. Lumber was cut at our sawmill and large roof beams were custom-milled at Hull Oakes Lumber in Monroe. John would have been very proud.

A beautiful fireplace was built by local stone mason, Stan Raney, the same gentleman who built the fireplace in Everett Hall.

A dedication for the Poppino Pavilion is planned in the coming year.



Special Thank Yous!

Each year Forests Forever, Inc. is blessed by a number of individuals, organizations, or businesses who make special contributions to our programs. During 2020, we especially recognize the following:

- Schink Family for their generous contribution allowing us to develop the infrastructure needed for education outreach at the new Schink Demonstration Forest.

- Poppino Family for their continued contributions to fund the fireplace in the new Poppino Pavilion and complete this project.

- Bartel Contracting, Inc. (Kevin Bartel, owner) for donating the labor, with their skilled crew of employees, to construct the Poppino Pavilion.

- Pete Wille, our outstanding volunteer, who has led the efforts to complete work this past year on the Lookout Tower, build the lean-to on the Mill House, plus numerous other projects to improve the facilities at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



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Education Consortium

These businesses, organizations, and agencies have provided financial support during the past year to specifically fund our Hopkins Forestry Education program. These funds support our full-time forestry educator plus resources needed to deliver programming—including field equipment, teaching supplies, marketing items, and infrastructure items. In normal years, our education program serves about 5,000 students and adults who participate in our hands-on, in-the-woods learning events and activities—all at low or no cost.

We, sincerely, thank all of these contributors. These investments are critical to our success.

In addition, the Clackamas Extension and 4-H Service District provides the OSU faculty member responsible for designing, delivering and evaluating education programs at properties owned and managed by Forests Forever, Inc. Extension's support includes salary, benefits, supplies and services, plus special program needs. During the past year, Extension in-kind support to this education outreach program was \$95,000.



2020 Education Consortium Members:

Oregon Forest Resources Institute	\$12,500
Weyerhaeuser Company	\$10,000
RSG Forest Products	\$5,000
Port Blakely Tree Farms	\$3,000
Freres Foundation	\$2,500
A.J. Frank Family Foundation	\$2,000
Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association	\$1,608
Walker Family Foundation	\$1,000
Total	\$37,608

Looking Ahead to 2021

Although it is difficult to predict what 2021 may look like at this time, we do have priority plans for the coming year.

- Our “final” major project at Hopkins, and to address facility needs, is to complete the design of our Natural Resource Outreach Center to replace the existing mobile home near the entrance to the forest. This project will include re-starting efforts to raise the funds needed to build the Outreach Center.
- We hope to re-start our school education programs back in the forest. In the meantime, we will continue developing remote and electronic outreach and providing distance natural resource education support for area teachers and their students.
- A dedication of the new Schink Demonstration Forest in Dickie Prairie. We have new facilities, new partners in the community, and exciting plans to share.
- Let's plan to gather for a 30th Birthday Party for Forests Forever, Inc. and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest! Watch for an event in September, if possible, to dedicate our new facilities, tour the forest and all of the improvements, and enjoy each other's company—in person. We hope to see you there!