



Grouse Hollow News

SPRING 2016



A Look Inside Our Education and Outreach Programs for 2015

By Peter Matzka, OSU Forestry Educator-Hopkins Demonstration Forest

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest had a record year in several ways. Not only did we have one of the driest winters, we ended the year with one of the wettest months. While we cannot take credit for the weather, we can reflect on one of the most productive educational program years. We estimated more than 13,000 people visited Hopkins in 2015, and half of those were engaged in designed, educational activities. Educational programs designed and delivered to grade, middle, and high school youth (plus college students, woodland owners, and the public) engaged close to 5,000 youth and 1,600 adults.

These programs were primarily delivered by OSU Extension Forestry Educator (aka Hopkins Forest Educator) Peter Matzka and OSU Extension Forestry Agent (who lead mostly the woodland owner outreach) Glenn Ahrens.

The following are highlights from the 2015 education year. The summaries will



Robert Frost Elementary

hopefully give you some insight to the diverse groups and organizations that interact with the Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Robert Frost Elementary

Robert Forest Elementary in Silverton brought its 5th grade classes out to Hopkins for a day of exploring and learning about outdoor etiquette, the forests of Oregon, and to focus on aquatic habitats, water quality, and forest management.

Each of Frost's five 5th grade classes received an overview of the native plants in the forest and then stepped into a riparian buffer to investigate the macro invertebrates and take water samples to determine temperature, acidity, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. Along the way students stopped to observe and discuss the many management examples at Hopkins—with special attention on timber harvesting and streamside management.

Boring Middle School

Boring Middle School brought nearly 150 students to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest this past fall to study 'science in the forest'. Students were given background information about Hopkins prior to their visit (back in their classrooms) along with training



Boring Middle School

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with basic tools used to collect data in the forest environment and a standardized data collection sheet.

Students developed a science inquiry question and used their data sheets and tools to gather information that would allow them to answer their questions. When returning back to the classroom, students analyzed their data and prepared reports about their findings.

Sabin Schellenberg Center

The Sabin Schellenberg Center in Milwaukie is a high school Career and Technical Education hub for Clackamas County high schools—Clackamas, Milwaukie, Rex Putnam and New Urban. Their Natural Resources Program uses Hopkins as an outdoor learning laboratory to provide hands on learning for three classes. Each month two Introduction to Natural Resources classes, and each week one Advanced Natural Resources class come to Hopkins. Classes average about 24 students and are part of a year-long program for the Sabin Schellenberg Center students. Hopkins provides the working field laboratory for students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real world problems and activities. Students do a variety of projects such as trail building, fuels reduction, firewood gathering, forest inventory, and wildlife surveys.

Clackamas Community College

CCC forestry, wildland fire science, and search and rescue instructors enjoy having a managed forest nearby their campus to use and the many different examples of land management that demonstrate a variety of practices. Also, the college appreciates having a classroom on site that can be used for indoor activities prior to and/or following their field activities. The “rustic feel” of Hopkins enables students to get dirty, but not worry about tracking in a little mud! During 2015, the Clackamas Community College made over 30 class visits to Hopkins

Portland State University Senior Capstone

A Portland State University, Senior Capstone class, Science in the Forest, is a middle and high school forest science curriculum taught at Hopkins. PSU students help deliver science inquiry and service learning-based outdoor education programs. Training was provided as were the mentoring opportunities to 9 PSU students. These students provided a total of 22



Teacher in the Woods

volunteer days during their fall semester working with more than twenty middle and high school classes from the Portland metropolitan area—serving more than 600 students.

Teacher in the Woods

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest has been hosting elementary, middle and high school teachers for summer learning experiences for the past ten years. The purpose of the Hopkins Teacher in the Woods program (HTW) is to engage educators in authentic, real-world forestry work and study so they can better incorporate forest-related contexts in their teaching.

The HTW experience is hands-on and project-centered. In 2015, two one-week sessions were hosted for six teachers. Participants learn by doing the practice of forestry in order to develop curriculum and connections that can be applied in classroom and/or field studies. The focus for teachers is on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and is directly linked to Oregon’s Next Generation Science Standards.

—more Education Program photos on page 5



PSU Senior Capstone




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Learning by Doing: Reforestation Day Well Attended

By Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forestry Agent

Participants in the Reforestation Field Workshop at Hopkins Forest had a good break in the weather on Saturday, February 13. OSU Instructors—Glenn Ahrens (Extension Forester), Jen Gorski (Program Assistant), and Peter Matzka (Hopkins Forest Educator)—had their hands full with 22 people attending.

The day started with a classroom session in Forest Hall covering the basic steps in tree planting: site preparation, seed sources, nursery availability, tree seedling types, seedling care, and maintenance. After a little demonstration of the pros and cons of digging wild seedlings on the road bank, participants hiked to the Cedar Shelter for hot stew (thanks to Peter!) and some show and tell with 15 different types of seedlings and stock types to compare.

The real work started at the new 7-acre regeneration unit harvested last summer, across Little Buckner Creek, at Hopkins. Participants learned about different kinds of planting tools, proper seedling handling and storage, planting techniques, and protection from animal damage. In keeping with the motto of



Drone's-eye view of Reforestation Field Workshop participants in action at Hopkins Demonstration Forest (above). Tree planter Bryan O'Byrne demonstrates how to install rigid mesh tubes to protect western redcedar from deer browse (right).



“Learning by Doing”, they helped plant about two hundred trees in the process.

Bryan O'Byrne, a professional tree planter from Estacada, demonstrated proper tree planting techniques and answered many questions about how to plant trees in various situations. A variety of tools and seedling species and stock

types were provided, as well. The various seedling types were donated by Weyerhaeuser Aurora Nursery, Brooks Tree Farm, and MAP Foresters, Inc. The remainder of the unit will be planted by Bryan along with additional education groups over the winter.

Know Your Hopkins Plants—Spring Queen

By Meredith Hildebrand, OSU Master Gardner—Clackamas County

Tiny, low-growing and unassuming, Spring Queen is one of the first Northwest natives to notify us that winter is waning. In mild years, it often appears as early as January.

As one of six native figwort species in Oregon, *Synthyris reniformis* may be the most common variety seen in our Douglas-fir forests but its family name points to its reclusiveness. Figwort comes from the Middle English combination of “fig” meaning contemptibly small and “wyrt” for root or plant.

The very small perennial was first catalogued by Lewis and Clark during the Journey of Discovery as they passed through the Celilo Falls area on their way west. That they even noticed the little dicot, gripped by bouts of dysentery as they chronically were, is certainly a testament to their scientific determination.

Delicate blue-lavender bell-shaped blossoms of this Northwest native stand up above the round or heart-shaped toothed and slightly hairy leaves that form its base. Even the largest specimens rarely exceed six inches in height yet its early appearance makes it a magnet for pollinators and a herald of warmer days to come.



Spring Queen

(AKA Snow Queen, Kitten toes, Kitten Tails)
Synthyris reniformis

Sharing Hopkins Demonstration Forest Results

By Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forestry Agent

Hopkins Demonstration Forest has provided a key venue for OSU Extension Forestry education programs in Clackamas County for 25 years. Forestry demonstration areas across the 140-acres at Hopkins provide both hands-on learning and applied research results to share with woodland owners, youth, and general public audiences. Dozens of groups and thousands of participants have been engaged in “learning by doing” each year at Hopkins.

Extension Forester Glenn Ahrens notes that, “We’ve put a lot of effort into managing the demonstration areas, providing hands-on education in the process. But now it’s a good time to take stock of what we’ve learned and share our story more broadly.”

Ahrens along with Peter Matzka, OSU Extension Hopkins Forest Educator, received \$8,000 from the Clackamas County Extension Innovative Fund to hire a full time *Hopkins Project Leader* for the summer of 2016 to focus on two major Demonstration Areas:

- The Uneven Aged Management Area—17 acres managed with periodic



Workshop participants view mixed-age forest in the 17-acre Uneven-Aged Demonstration area at Hopkins

selective harvesting since 1995. The goal is to characterize the outcomes, costs, and benefits of uneven aged management.

- The Riparian Forest Demonstration Area—18 acres along Little Buckner Ck. Here the goal is to update the inventory

and develop new demonstration opportunities in light of the new riparian forest protection rules for Oregon.

Ultimately, results will be shared in publications and online materials, or as an App for mobile devices.

Thank You Education Consortium!

In 2004 Forests Forever, Inc. established our Education Consortium—a group of community partners who’ve joined together over the years to support the learning and teaching programs at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. In those early years, we were trying to provide stable and sustainable funding for our Forest Educator position. As the number of Consortium members and the contributions have grown over the years, we have been able to provide added support for our education programs for program materials, supplies and equipment—and grow opportunities for schools, teachers and adults.

Listed below are the Education Consortium members for 2015. Please

thank them for their support.

Collectively, this group raised \$114,500 in the past year. Help us add

new partners to this list in 2016 and continue to grow these opportunities.

2015 EDUCATION CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

OSU/Extension Clackamas County (\$65,000)

Oregon Forest Resources Institute (\$30,000)

RSG Forest Products (\$5,000)

Key Bank Foundation (\$5,500)

Port Blakely Tree Farms, Ltd. (\$3,000)

Freres Foundation (\$2,500)

A. J. Frank Family Foundation (\$2,000)

Walker Family Foundation (\$1,000)

Beavercreek Lions (\$500)

Lookout Tower Top Priority for 2016

By Jim Kadera, FFI Board Member

The push is on to complete erection of the Clatskanie Mountain Fire Lookout Tower at Hopkins Demonstration Forest this year.



Forests Forever Inc. obtained the retired 60-foot tall steel tower on loan from the Oregon Department of Forestry via a 2008 agreement and spent \$30,516 to move it to Hopkins and make improvements. However, the tower still stands unused with an additional \$15,000 needed to make it ready for public use.

FFI expected to finish the work, including building a small wooden cabin on top, by 2012, but costs exceeded estimates. “The \$15,000 needed will go for a cabin and catwalk meeting historic lookout tower standards, for grounding to protect against lightning strikes, and for additional safety protection around the stairway”, said Ken Everett, FFI Executive Director.

Everett said he may ask the FFI Board of Directors to approve a small timber harvest at the non-profit’s Pedee Woodlands to pay for that work.

The tower, with its original 7x7 foot cabin, was constructed in 1954 by a State Forestry Department employee at a cost of \$2,325 and placed four miles

southwest of Clatskanie in Columbia County, according to Jeri Chase, a forestry information specialist in Salem. As newer fire spotting technology evolved, the tower was retired.

In 1984 the tower was dismantled and loaned to the World Forestry Center and located at their Magness Memorial Tree Farm in Washington County for public education about wildfire. But, the location for the tower at Magness was isolated and off-the-beaten paths, was under-visited, and sometimes vandalized, so it was given back to the Forestry Department.

Forests Forever, Inc. expressed interest in the tower when it became avail-

able. The tower will remain at Hopkins as long as FFI maintains and has use for it.

Everett sees the tower a better fit for Hopkins. It stands between the Shop and Forest Hall in the parking lot for easy public access and less vulnerability to vandalism.

And the time is right to add the tower to the education program at Hopkins, Everett said. “It will provide new opportunities to discuss fire in forests, including creating defensible space around homes and other structures.” With more wildfires striking forests throughout the West, the need has increased “to inform the community how to protect homes built in the urban interface,” he said.

Education & Outreach Programs

(continued from pages 1-2)



Clackamas Community College students



Sabin Schellenberg Center students

Calendar

March 12 (8:30am-3:00pm): Community Forestry Day—spring cleaning and dewinterization. We need to get things ready for the warmer months ahead and scrub off the winter slim and clean up from the wind and water. Call ahead to reserve your spot for lunch and what tools to bring.

March 19 (1:30-5:15pm): Clackamas Tree School. The Hopkins Demonstration Forest is hosting three afternoon classes at this year's Tree School. Small Scale Logging with Farm Tractors; Taking Stock of your Forest: Considering Biodiversity; Woodland Roads. Registration is now CLOSED for Tree School.

April 9: Community Forestry Day—bridge repair and trail surfacing. We are going to remove and repair boards on our foot bridges and get our trails looking awesome. Call ahead to reserve your spot for lunch and what tools to bring.

May 7 (9:00am-3:00pm): Timber Harvesting—Start to Finish. Instructors—Steve Bowers and Tammy Cushing, OSU Extension Forestry Specialists. Everett Forest Hall and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Contact OSU Extension (503-655-8631) to register.

May 14: Community Forestry Day—mow what grows. May is usually the best time to capture the spring growth and stop it in its tracks before it over takes our trails and our roads. Call ahead to reserve your spot for lunch and what tools to bring.

For more information, call: 503-632-2150 or visit: www.demonstrationforest.org

Forest Hall Re-named to Honor the Everetts

By Mike Bondi, FFI Board Member

As 2015 came to a close this past December, the Forests Forever, Inc. Board of Directors approved the re-naming of our Forest Hall classroom and meeting space—to Everett Forest Hall—in honor of the family instrumental in making this outstanding venue a reality at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. FFI Executive Director, Ken Everett, and his wife, Glenda, received the surprise announcement at the FFI Christmas party held in the meeting room now bearing their name.

“We (the Board) felt this special recognition for Ken and Glenda was long overdue. If it wasn't for Ken's vision and determination, we wouldn't be here tonight,” FFI Board Member Mike Bondi said, addressing the gathering of more than 50 attendees, including Board Members, staff, volunteers, and spouses.

Ken worked with over 200 community donors to raise the nearly \$300,000 to make the 2,100 square foot, all wood structure possible. But, more than this, Ken personally worked closely with the designer of the building on all the details leading up to construction—including the permitting process, with the contractors on all phases of construction, plus solicited significant donations of supplies, services and materials from the forest industry and local businesses.



Ken Everett stands in front of Forest Hall re-named in his and wife Glenda's honor.

Glenda was closely involved, too, taking the lead on the interior design, painting and color schemes, and touches that make Everett Forest Hall a wonderful space for teaching, business events and meetings, weddings and other social activities.

Bondi continued, “Ken is one of the original creators of Forests Forever, Inc. and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. For the past 25 years, he has poured his heart and soul into this tree farm and the work we do in this community in forestry and natural resource education. Having the Everett name attached to such an important part of our identity is a very fitting honor. We are all thankful, beyond words, for what Ken and Glenda have accomplished here.”

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