

GROUSE HOLLOW NOTES

Fall 2024

OUT IN THE FOREST



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HOPKINS
Demonstration Forest
Owned and Operated by
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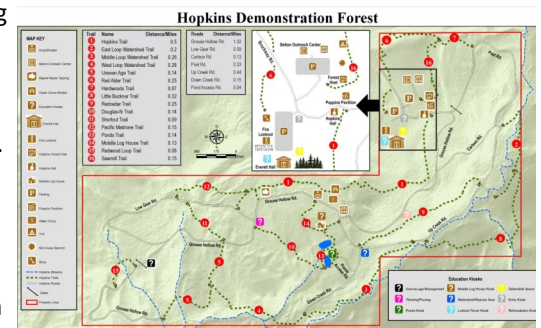
As fall descends on Hopkins, the air grows crisp and cool, filled with the earthy scent of damp soil and falling leaves. Vivid shades of orange, red, and gold transform the landscape, creating stunning sights and perfect photo opportunities throughout the forest. First-time visitors and educational groups alike often marvel at the beauty surrounding them as they explore, learn, and soak in the new sights and sounds. For returning guests looking to embrace the season, there will be several new sights/attractions coming this autumn for you to discover (as of this writing some of these new attractions are not yet in place).

One of the most exciting new sights that emerged in late summer, with potential opportunities this fall, was seen by only a fortunate few. The northern lights, or aurora borealis, were captured by the Forest Caretakers/Hosts as charged particles from the sun interacted with the Earth's magnetic field creating an amazing photo over the Belton Outreach Center. What an amazing moment to experience!

Although visitors cannot experience this natural phenomenon during the evening hours at Hopkins, there are new sights and educational signage to explore during the day starting this fall and early winter. The first addition is a "WELCOME TO HOPKINS" sign that greets educational groups and visitors from the lower parking area. Suspended from the archway that leads thousands of youths and adults across the bridge to the Poppino Pavilion and Hopkins Trail, it has quickly become a favorite spot for classroom photos (see back page).



As visitors head down to the forest from the upper parking area, they'll encounter an updated Entry Kiosk featuring three new panels that detail the history and mission of Hopkins. The two side panels highlight the Hopkins family, forests history, partnership with Oregon State University, and support from the woodland community, while the center panel showcases a new and improved forest map. This georeferenced map will soon be available for visitors to download to their devices, allowing them to use apps like Avenza to navigate the forest and see their current location.



There are other educational kiosks that are currently being manufactured or are in the final stages of review and development, set to replace the aging interpretation panels this fall and early winter. The new panels will cover topics such as Watershed/Riparian Areas, Thinning/Pruning, and Uneven-age Management, all featuring a refreshed design and up-to-date information.

Other sights to explore include the continued reforestation efforts following the 2023 timber harvest along Down and Up Creek Road. Planned slash pile burns will pave the way for replanting in those areas, while the rest of the unit will be interplanted to replace dead seedlings and fill in gaps as needed. Additionally, trail improvements and developments are underway, thanks to volunteers and youth service-learning projects, bringing the total trail and road length to nearly six miles. Finally, the Clackamas Master Gardeners have added numbers next to various plant species in the Native Plant Garden, allowing visitors to test their skills in native plant identification using the key on the newly installed information board adjacent to Hopkins Hall.

Hopkins is just an amazing resource where education, community, & forestry all come together in a working forest!

Peter Matzka
OSU Extension Forestry Educator @ Hopkins Demonstration Forest



Upcoming Events (Fall 2024):

Mondays Forest Management & Facilities Maintenance Crew Weekly (on Mondays)

~9:00am-3:00pm
Forest Management Focused
~9:00am-12:00pm (noon)
Facilities Maintenance Crew
Great Exercise @ Camaraderie
Come for all or part of the day!

Every 1st & 2nd Saturday, Lookout Tower Open*

9:00am-1:00pm
*Depending on volunteer availability

November 9th Community Engagement & Education Day (CEED)

8:30am-2:00pm
Bigleaf Maple Sugaring Set-up

December 14th Community Engagement & Education Day (CEED)

8:30am-2:00pm
Holiday Wreath Making

January 11th Community Engagement & Education Day (CEED)

8:30am-2:00pm
Bigleaf Maple Sugaring

February 8th Community Engagement & Education Day (CEED)

8:30am-2:00pm
Reforestation Activities @
Bigleaf Maple Sugaring

For More information:
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OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

When the summer outdoor school enrichment programs wrap up, there's a brief pause in fall educational activities as teachers and students return to their classrooms or home studies. While many school groups return year after year, each new cohort brings fresh perspectives, discovering new aspects of the forest, making different observations, and asking questions through their unique lenses. This fall, the focus has been on scientific inquiry, encouraging students to observe their surroundings, journal their findings, and cultivate an appreciation for the natural world, along with understanding the environmental, social, and economic benefits of the forest. In addition to these directly engaged programs, homeschool groups, Clackamas Community College forestry students, and high school Natural Resources Programs come to Hopkins for a rich mix of education and engagement. By the end of the fall season, over 50 classes or school groups will have explored and learned at Hopkins.



In addition to youth programs, a series of workshops tailored for woodland owners and adult audiences are being offered this fall. A standout event was the 3rd Annual Tree School Field Day, organized by OSU in partnership with Forests Forever Inc. (FFI) and several other forestry education partners. The event attracted around 120 participants and featured eleven field workshops along with five demonstrations, covering a diverse array of topics for woodland owners. Other workshop themes ranged from traditional subjects like forest roads and wildlife habitat to more specialized topics, including woodcarving (spoons) and writing haiku poetry in nature.

With the diverse range of topics and age groups engaging with OSU's educational programming, along with the interpretive kiosks, signage, and printed materials provided by FFI in partnership with OSU, there has been a growing need for additional educational support. In response, FFI has launched an initiative to raise funds to hire a dedicated forest educator who will work collaboratively with OSU's existing programs. Recently, a portion of the necessary funding has been pledged, bringing this goal closer to reality for 2025. If you're interested in helping FFI achieve this goal, please reach out to them for more information.

Finally, new signage at Hopkins Hall showcases the collaboration between Forests Forever Inc. and Oregon State University's Extension Service in Clackamas County, highlighting their Forestry and Natural Resources program and acknowledging their efforts in educational outreach and community engagement at Hopkins.

Forestry and Natural Resources Education at Hopkins Demonstration Forest Designed, Delivered, and Evaluated by:



In Partnership with Forests Forever, Inc.

Explore upcoming programs and resources at:
<https://beav.es/clackamasforestry>



BIGLEAF MAPLE SUGARING SEASON COMING SOON!

The bigleaf maple sugaring season is quickly approaching, and the OSU demonstration site at Hopkins is gearing up for winter production. In the coming weeks, the network of tree taps, tubing, and equipment that connects thirty-three trees to the closed vacuum pump system will be cleaned, with plans to tap additional trees to increase the total to forty. Once the weather cools, bringing below-freezing temperatures followed by a warming trend, the sap begins to flow. At that point, efforts will shift to sap collection, reverse osmosis dewatering of the sap, concentrate sap storage, and eventually boiling the concentrate down to syrup. This year, FFI has constructed an addition to the current Host Building to support this process. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact peter.matzka@oregonstate.edu to join the email list for upcoming hands-on learning opportunities.



LEARN BY DOING—IT'S THE HOPKINS WAY WE MANAGE OUR FOREST!

www.demonstrationforest.org