

GROUSE HOLLOW NOTES

Fall 2025



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OUT IN THE FOREST – MIKE BONDI

Growing Together at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

As we move through another vibrant fall season at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, it's inspiring to reflect on how much we've accomplished together—and how these efforts continue to strengthen Forests Forever, Inc.'s mission to connect people with the forest through education, research, and stewardship.

This year has brought remarkable progress on multiple fronts. Thanks to the leadership of Executive Director Ken Everett, the long-anticipated conditional use permit for the new pole building at the Schink Demonstration Forest is nearing approval. The property now has a fully rocked access road and will soon include a new well and improved facilities—important steps toward expanding our educational reach in southern Clackamas County.

Meanwhile, Hopkins continues to shine as a hub of activity and innovation. The completion of the Travel Oregon-funded trail



paving project and the construction of the Everett Hall patio and event shed have both enhanced accessibility and added valuable new gathering spaces for our visitors and volunteers.

None of these successes happen without people. Our dedicated Monday Crew, led by Joe Wheeler, continues to keep the forest safe, functional, and beautiful—building, repairing, and improving nearly every corner of the property. Their work on the patio, the Molalla Log House, and countless maintenance projects embodies the spirit of volunteerism that defines Hopkins.

Our partnership with Oregon State University Extension Forestry & Natural Resources also continues to thrive under the leadership of Glenn Ahrens and Peter Matzka. This fall, the 4th Annual Tree School Field Day

brought over a hundred learners to Hopkins for hands-on forestry workshops. New initiatives like the Homeschool Day pilot and the Bigleaf Maple Sugaring Youth Program are also inspiring the next generation of forest stewards and strengthening our connection to the broader community.

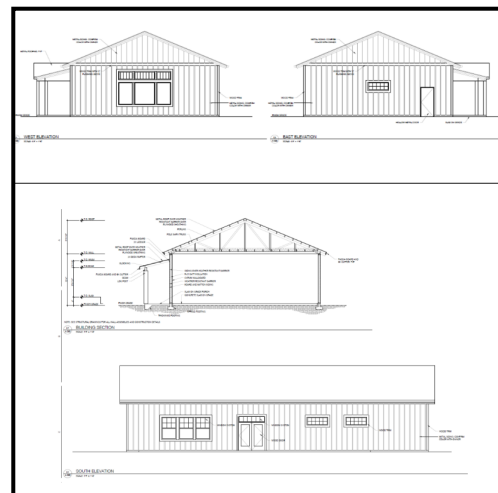
We are especially pleased to welcome **Lindel Evers** as FFI's new Forest Educator. Lindel brings energy, experience, and creativity to his role and will be instrumental in expanding our educational programs in partnership with OSU Extension. His enthusiasm for working with youth and families fits perfectly with Hopkins' mission as a "forest for all."

Together—with our volunteers, partners, and supporters—we continue to grow the vision that makes Hopkins and Schink such special places. On behalf of the FFI Board, thank you for your continued engagement, generosity, and belief in what we do. We look forward to seeing you on the trails, at a workshop, or under the forest canopy soon.

Be sure to follow the latest FFI news on our website at www.demonstrationforest.org and on our Facebook page.

A final note: watch your mail for our annual *Friends of Hopkins* campaign letter coming in mid-November. 2026 will mark the **35th anniversary** of Forests Forever, Inc., and we hope to raise **\$35,000** in this year's donation effort to support our work in the community. We hope you'll join us!

— **Mike Bondi**
Chair, Forests Forever, Inc. Board of Directors



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – KEN EVERETT

Progress and Partnerships at Hopkins and Schink Demonstration Forests

This fall marks an exciting season of progress across both the Hopkins Demonstration Forest and the Schink Demonstration Forest properties. From infrastructure improvements to educational innovations, Forests Forever, Inc. continues to move forward thanks to strong partnerships, volunteer dedication, and community support.

Schink Property Developments

After more than six months of preparation, the **Clackamas County Department of Planning and Zoning** has approved the conditional use permit to construct a **36' x 72' pole building** that will serve as a new classroom and meeting facility. This milestone represents a major step forward in expanding educational capacity at the Schink Demonstration Forest.

A newly built and rocked access road now allows year-round entry to the site, looping in front of the future building location. Plans are also underway to drill a 110-foot well before winter, with Skyles Well Drilling exploring the possibility of donating a second hand-pump well near the lower shelter for visitor use—a generous gesture in support of community access.

Additionally, a grant from the **Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF)**—which administers the Port Blakely HCP Watershed Fund—funded the replacement of a perched culvert on Dickey Creek, improving water flow and fish passage on the Schink property. The project, completed in early September, totaled **\$15,319**, with OWF contributing **\$13,811** toward the work.

Hopkins Projects and Improvements

At Hopkins, progress continues on several fronts. A new **10' x 24' patio building** near Everett Hall is taking shape, built from lumber milled on-site from two trees removed earlier this year. Volunteers from the Monday Crew also completed installation of a cable-rail fence and ADA ramp outside the Outreach Center—saving thousands of dollars through their skilled labor and commitment.

The **Travel Oregon–funded** trail paving project around the Molalla Log House and pond area has been fully completed, enhancing accessibility for all visitors. The **\$63,000** project included widening and resurfacing trails, installing culverts, and finishing with asphalt paving and stone benches—transforming one of the most visited areas of the forest.

Meanwhile, volunteer **Gregg Olson** and the restoration team continue steady progress on the Molalla Log House. This fall's work included construction of a **lean-to shelter** along one side of the structure to protect the historic logs from adverse winter weather—a critical step in preserving this unique piece of history.

Trail App Nears Launch

Another exciting development is the **Hopkins Trail App**, designed by Parthenon Software. After months of testing and refinement, the app is now available for download from major app stores, allowing visitors to navigate trails, learn about points of interest, and access educational content. A QR code posted at the forest entrance makes downloading quick and easy for guests.

Looking Ahead

Finally, the FFI Education Committee has finalized an agreement with **FFI Forest Educator Lindel Evers**, ensuring continued growth of youth and public programs at Hopkins in partnership with OSU Extension. With new facilities, digital tools, and strong leadership in place, Hopkins and Schink are well positioned to expand their roles as living classrooms and community resources in the years ahead.





Explore Hopkins in a Whole New Way!

We're excited to announce the launch of the **Hopkins Demonstration Forest Trail App**



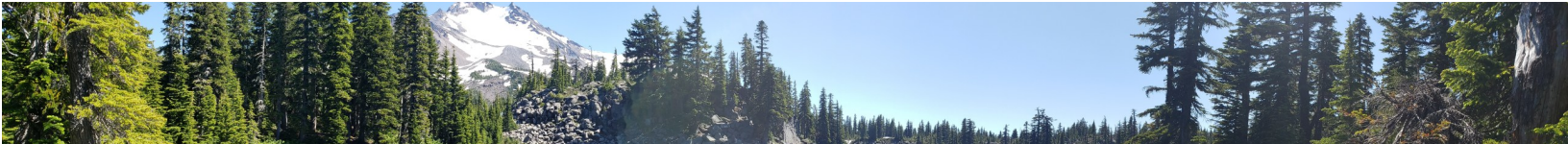
-  Interactive Trail Map
-  Discover Nature
-  Educational Insights
-  Event Updates

The app is **FREE** and available now for both Apple and Android devices. Download it before you visit or when you arrive at Hopkins

Scan below to download:

iOS (Apple)





ANNUAL FRIENDS OF HOPKINS CAMPAIGN

Dear Friends of Hopkins:

Thanks to supporters like you, Forests Forever, Inc. has had a remarkable year. Together, we've continued to make hands-on forestry education accessible to thousands of students, families, and woodland owners. Some highlights:

- Welcomed Forest Educator Lindel Evers to expand Outdoor School Day camps and homeschool programs.
- Secured conditional use approval for a new classroom and storage building at the Schink Demonstration Forest, with construction planned for early 2026.
- Completed a 20-acre harvest and reforestation plan at our Pedee Woodlands plus introduced our first commercial truffle harvest and educational foray fundraiser.
- Launched the Hopkins Forest Trails App, offering real-time navigation, trail maps, and learning features.
- Improved Everett Hall with upgraded audio/visual systems, a new outdoor patio, and began construction of an outdoor serving area.
- Hosted ~5,000 students and 15,000+ public visitors who learned, explored, and connected with the forest throughout the year.

As we look ahead to 2026—our 35th Anniversary—we ask for your renewed support through the **Friends of Hopkins Campaign**. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 to maintain public access and expand educational programming. Your annual contribution truly makes a difference!

Thank you for being part of this community forest and helping us continue to teach, inspire, and steward these lands for all to enjoy.

Warm Regards,

Mike Bondi, Board Member—
Chair & Friends of Hopkins Cam-
paign Co-Chair

Mike Piazza, Board Member—
Treasurer & Friends of Hopkins
Campaign Co-Chair

Please note 'Friends of Hopkins'
in the memo field if using Venmo



venmo

Yes, I am a *Friend of Hopkins* and want to help support Forests Forever, Inc. in 2026. Enclosed is my contribution. Thank you for this opportunity to support this great organization!

Contribution Levels:

- ____ Friend \$25
- ____ Supporter \$50
- ____ Contributor \$100
- ____ Steward \$250
- ____ Sponsor \$500
- ____ Other _____

Please complete this form and enclose a check payable to Forests Forever, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Your email _____

____ Please list my contribution as "anonymous."

New for 2026! We are offering four naming rights opportunities to include your name, family name, or recognize a loved one at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. These opportunities include: 1) New log bench to be placed at the Rocky Point Trail overlook; 2) A foot bridge on the Redwood Trail; 3) Stone bench at Molalla Log House; and 4) Stone bench at wetland pond. See FFI website for photos of each opportunity. Donors at the \$500 level or higher eligible for naming —first come, first served. Prominent signage signifying your naming will be located at these sites for all to see. Contact the FFI office at 503-655-5524 for more information and to discuss your interest.

Wish to donate on-line? Go to our website at www.demonstrationforest.org and click the donate button on the homepage. Or, use the QR code on your Friends invitation letterhead.

Thank you! Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Please mail form with check to: Forests Forever, Inc., P.O. Box 1320, Oregon City, Oregon 97045
Forests Forever, Incorporated is a tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.



FFI FOREST EDUCATION UPDATE – EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Building Capacity for a Growing Future at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

As interest in outdoor learning continues to grow, so too does the demand for educational programs at **Hopkins and Schink Demonstration Forests**. Over the past few years, school field trips, Outdoor School sessions, community workshops, and family events have expanded beyond what one educator could manage alone. To meet this growing need, **Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI)** is proud to welcome **Lindel Evers** as its brand new **Forest Educator**, working in close partnership with **Oregon State University Extension** to expand and enrich forest education across Clackamas County and the greater Portland region.

Lindel brings more than **15 years of leadership in outdoor education, environmental STEM programming, and volunteer engagement**. His background includes long-term service with **Scouting America** and the **Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma**, where he developed and led hands-on, high-adventure learning experiences for youth of all ages. A **graduate of the University of Oregon** with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Business Administration, Lindel also brings professional experience in customer service, technical support, and event management—skills that strengthen his ability to design engaging programs, collaborate with families, and build strong community partnerships.

In his new role with FFI, Lindel will focus on developing **Homeschool and Outdoor “Day School” programs** that align with Oregon’s **Environmental Literacy Plan** and **Next Generation Science Standards**. These programs will create new pathways for youth to experience forest-based learning—particularly for students who may not participate in traditional Outdoor School settings. His teaching approach emphasizes **curiosity, inclusion, and stewardship**, helping learners of all ages see forests as dynamic systems that connect science, community, and sustainability.

“I’m thrilled to be part of a place where people can experience the forest as both classroom and community,” Lindel shared. “Hopkins is unique—visitors can see real forest management in action while learning how forests sustain water, wildlife, and people. My goal is to help more students and families discover that connection and carry it forward.”

Lindel will collaborate closely with **OSU Extension Forestry & Natural Resources Educator Peter Matzka**, the **FFI Education Committee**, and Hopkins’ dedicated volunteers to coordinate youth and public programs. Together, this partnership expands FFI’s capacity to serve schools, homeschool groups, and lifelong learners through meaningful, hands-on forestry education.



Please join us in welcoming **Lindel Evers** to the Hopkins community and celebrating this exciting new chapter in forest education. Be sure to say hello the next time you’re out on the trails—you’ll likely find him guiding a group of curious students beneath the tall Douglas-firs.

SEASONS OF CHANGE & NEW BEGINNINGS – SARAH CAMERON

Just as the forest changes in fall, I’m in a season of transition. For the past 3½ years, I’ve served as an Education Program Assistant, teaming with Peter and Glenn on programs like **Tree School** and field days at Hopkins—*Forestry for the Birds*, spoon carving, native seed propagation, and more.

During this time, I completed my **Master of Natural Resources** degree, which opened the door to a new opportunity with OSU Extension. I’m now transitioning into a statewide role coordinating the **Master Woodland Manager** and **Women Owning Woodland Network** programs—an exciting new chapter.

Before that, there’s still one more **Tree School Clackamas** ahead! I’ll be working with Glenn to coordinate this year’s event on **Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Clackamas Community College**.



Tree School is a festival of learning celebrating all things forestry, featuring **70+ workshops** across four sessions and field classes at Hopkins on topics like stand density management, bigleaf maple sugaring, and stream regulations under the Forest Practices Rules. The Exhibit Hall hosts **50+ organizations**, including Forests Forever, Inc.—and, of course, the popular raffle.

The **class catalog** will be released **mid-January**, with **registration in early February**. For updates, visit <https://beav.es/tree-school-clackamas>.

While my new role looks a little different, I’m eager for the challenges ahead—and I know I’ll continue crossing paths with the Hopkins community, just from a new perspective.

To learn more about the **Master Woodland Manager** or **Women Owning Woodland Network**, contact: sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu.



OSU EXTENSION FORESTRY – GLENN AHRENS

Education, Research, and Outreach Strengthen Woodland Connections

The Oregon State University Extension Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) Program continues to bring education, research, and community engagement to life—both at Hopkins Demonstration Forest and across Clackamas, Marion, and Hood River Counties.

This summer, the Clackamas FNR team hosted the statewide OSU Extension Forestry & Natural Resources planning meeting at Hopkins, where foresters and educators from across Oregon gathered to set priorities for the year ahead. The team also completed a regional survey of woodland owners, resource professionals, and wood products businesses to identify key needs that will guide future Extension programming.

September was a busy month for community outreach. OSU Extension joined the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association and Oregon Small Woodlands Association to celebrate the Woodland Farmer of the Year Tour at the Craven Family Tree Farm near Molalla. Sixty-five participants learned firsthand about forest stewardship, fuels reduction, and wood product innovation from the Craven family's two decades of experience managing their working forest. A few weeks later, Hopkins hosted the **4th Annual Tree School Field Day**, drawing over one hundred woodland owners, students, and professionals for fifteen hands-on workshops on topics from riparian restoration and seedling survival to small-scale logging and bigleaf maple sugaring.



The **Hopkins Forest Management Committee**, led by Glenn Ahrens, also completed an update of the **Forest Stewardship Plan and five-year action plan**. Tree Farm inspector **Margaret Miller** reviewed the plan and toured the property in October. As a result, **Hopkins Demonstration Forest certification as an American Tree Farm will be renewed**—a recognition of responsible management and sustainable forestry practices.

Extension Forester Glenn Ahrens continues to provide one-on-one assistance to woodland owners on reforestation, forest health, and timber marketing issues, and represented OSU and the Committee for Family Forestlands before the Oregon Board of Forestry in September. Looking ahead, OSU Extension will offer **Ties to the Land** succession planning workshops at Hopkins this fall, while preparations are underway for **Tree School Clackamas 2026**, the region's signature forestry education event.

Extension specialists remain active on many fronts, including the search for Emerald Ash Borer-resistant Oregon ash and wildfire preparedness efforts through the **Mt. Hood Corridor Wildfire Partnership**. Each of these projects supports OSU's mission of sustaining healthy forests and resilient rural communities.

For more information and upcoming programs, visit the OSU Extension *Woodland Notes* newsletter at:
<https://beav.es/woodlandnotes>

FACILITIES AND VOLUNTEER UPDATE – JOE WHEELER

Monday Crew Keeps Hopkins Projects Moving Forward

The Monday volunteer crew at Hopkins Demonstration Forest has been busy through late summer and fall, making steady progress on projects that keep the forest safe, functional, and welcoming for visitors and events.

Much of the recent effort has focused on the new patio area at Everett Hall. Volunteers installed electrical conduit under the slab for the dry bar and storage shed, providing direct power from Everett Hall, and added an outdoor outlet at the east end of the fence for lighting and events. Construction of the new shed is well underway, with walls framed using lumber and cedar siding milled on-site by Pete Wille from trees selectively removed near the Molalla Log House. The crew helped buck and haul the logs to the Mill House—continuing Hopkins' commitment to sustainable, local materials.

Two or three volunteers each week have also assisted **Gregg Olson** and the restoration team at the Molalla Log House, setting the frame to support roof rafters on one side and building a **lean-to** to protect the logs from winter weather. The crew also raised the nearby pond sign for better visibility following the trail paving project.

Beyond construction, the team continues ongoing maintenance—sanding and re-staining the lookout tower rails and vault toilets in preparation for the wet season. They also plan to remove aging stringers from the old Little Buckner Creek footbridge before fall rains raise creek levels.

Thanks to the steady hands and dedication of this crew, Hopkins remains a vibrant, well-maintained demonstration forest—showcasing both good forestry and strong community spirit.



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

www.demonstrationforest.org



OSU YOUTH & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT – PETER MATZKA

Expanding Education and Community Connections at Hopkins

Fall 2025 has been a season of new beginnings for education and outreach at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. OSU Extension's Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) Program, in partnership with Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI), continues to expand opportunities for youth, families, and community members to connect with Oregon's forests through hands-on learning and outdoor discovery.

Pilot Programs Take Root

Two new pilot programs launched this fall are setting the stage for long-term educational growth. The first, **Homeschool Day Hopkins**, held October 11, invited families to explore the forest through self-guided trails, educational kiosks, and nature journaling. Designed as a flexible, family-friendly format, the pilot served as a model for a **monthly homeschool program starting 2026**, offering regular forest education opportunities to local families.

The second pilot, the **Bigleaf Maple Sugaring Youth Program**, introduces students in grades 5–8 to the science and practice of maple syrup production. Through a new partnership between OSU Extension FNR and **4-H**, youth are learning how to tap trees, collect sap, and transform it into syrup while exploring forest ecology, climate, and STEM concepts. Early interest has been strong, and the **first official 4-H Maple Club meetings** begin this December at the Hopkins "Sugar Shack," supported by OSU, volunteers, and families from across Clackamas County.

School and Youth Programs

This fall's education calendar was full, with **25 on-site school programs** scheduled. Participating groups include the Oregon City STREAM Team, Knight Elementary, Springwater Environmental, Sherwood Middle School, Mark Twain Elementary, and others from across the region. Lessons range from forest ecology and wildlife tracking to water quality testing, macroinvertebrate studies, and forest management tours—all designed to foster curiosity, stewardship, and hands-on problem solving. Peter also coordinated programs for **Molalla River Academy** and area **Home School and Online Youth Programs**, expanding OSU's reach to new audiences.

Workshops and Public Engagement

Two popular community workshops return this season—**Bigleaf Maple Sugaring Basics** in November and the festive **Forest Swags & Wreaths Workshop** in December. Both events attract woodland owners, volunteers, and local families, blending technical forestry with creative engagement. Peter also represented OSU Extension Forestry at the **2025 OSU Extension Annual Conference in Corvallis**, sharing the maple sugaring program as a statewide model for youth engagement and small woodland innovation.

Collaboration and Growth

Collaboration remains central to success. Peter continues to work with **FFI Forest Educator Lindel Evers** to align youth, homeschool, and public programming across both Hopkins and Schink Demonstration Forests. Together they are developing new curriculum resources, educator training, and seasonal learning events that build on OSU's Outdoor School and Project WILD frameworks. This growing partnership strengthens Hopkins' role as a **hub for forestry education**, connecting students, families, and community members to Oregon's forest landscapes.

From classroom to canopy, OSU and Hopkins Demonstration Forest continues to show how education, stewardship, and community come together to inspire the next generation of forest leaders.



Upcoming Events:

Forest Management & Facilities Maintenance Crew Weekly on Mondays (year-round)

Forest Management Focused
~9:00am-3:00pm

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

Every 1st Saturday, Lookout Tower Open*

9:00am-1:00pm

*Depending on volunteer host

December 13th
Winter Craft Workshop
Holiday Wreath and Swag Making
1:00-4:00pm
<https://beav.es/4yk>

Jan. 10th, Feb. 14th, & March 14th
Community Engagement and Education Day (Bigleaf Maple Sugaring Demo)
10:00am-2:00pm (email in advance)

January 16th & 17th
Youth Bigleaf Maple Sugaring Demo and Forest Craft Days
10:00am-2:00pm (email in advance)

February 14th
Youth Tree Planting Day
10:00am-2:00pm (email in advance)

March 14th
Youth Day (TBD)
10:00am-2:00pm (email in advance)

March 21st
Tree School Clackamas
8:00am-5:00pm
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/events/>

For more info or to email in advance:

OSU (Extension) Forest Educator:
503-655-8631

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or

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