

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



FORESTS FOREVER, INC.

## Executive Director's Report

As we reflect on 2025, it is clear that this past year marked a period of significant growth, momentum, and long-term investment for Forests Forever, Inc. Our work continues to build upon more than three decades of commitment to forestry education, sustainable forest management, and community engagement across our demonstration forest properties.



One of the most important accomplishments of 2025 was the expansion of our education capacity. With strong board leadership and donor support, Forests Forever hired a second full-time Forest Educator, allowing us to reach more students and educators than ever before. This added capacity will allow us to strengthen partnerships with schools throughout the Portland Metro area and begin developing targeted programming for the rapidly growing homeschool community. These efforts reinforce our mission of providing hands-on learning experiences that foster understanding of forest stewardship and natural resource management.

At the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, visitor engagement continued to grow throughout the year. Educational field trips, service-learning projects, and community use of the property all increased, while new digital tools—such as the Hopkins Forest Trails app—enhanced the visitor experience. Investments in facilities, interpretive signage, and meeting spaces further strengthened Hopkins as a regional hub for outdoor education and community learning.

2025 was also a pivotal year for infrastructure planning and land stewardship. After months of coordination with Clackamas County, Forests Forever received approval to move forward with a new pole-building classroom at the Schink Demonstration Forest near Molalla. This facility will provide much-needed indoor learning space and storage, supporting education programs, woodland owner workshops, and community meetings along the Molalla River corridor.

None of this work would be possible without the continued dedication of our board members, volunteers, donors, and partners. Volunteers remain essential to maintaining trails, facilities, and infrastructure, while our supporters in the forestry community, foundations, and local businesses provide



critical financial and in-kind support. Their commitment allows Forests Forever to remain a trusted voice for forestry education and a steward of these special forest places.

As we look ahead to 2026, Forests Forever is well-positioned for continued growth and impact. With expanded education staff, new facilities on the horizon, and increasing public engagement, we remain focused on our core mission: educating students, woodland owners, and the public about the important values of a sustainably managed forest. I am grateful for the collective effort that made 2025 such a successful year and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

**Ken Everett**, Executive Director, Forests Forever, Inc.



## FFI Board of Directors, Officers & Staff

*We have a dedicated team of volunteer Board members and officers at Forests Forever, Inc. In addition, our staff who handle the day-to-day needs of the corporation, are the BEST. When you see these folks, thank them for all they do on behalf of forestry and natural resource education in our community!*

*Detailed information about everyone can be found on the Forests Forever website at [www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org). Go to the "Who We Are" tab on the home page.*

### – BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS – (Member, Board Since)

**Mike Bondi** (1991)—Board Chair, Lake Oswego  
**Pam Hayden** (2018)—Board Secretary, Lake Oswego  
**Mike Piazza** (2007)—Board Treasurer, West Linn  
**Glenn Ahrens** (2012)—OSU Forestry Extension Representative, Oregon City  
**Linda Butts** (2025)—Woodland Owner, Oregon City  
**Michael Daly** (2010)—Community, Lake Oswego  
**Mike Haasken** (2013)—Community, Silverton  
**Kevin Kaster** (2025)—Clackamas County Farm Forestry Assoc. Representative, Molalla  
**Tyson Losli** (2022)—Forest Products Industry Representative, Colton  
**Bob Oblack** (2025)—Community, Salem  
**Jessica Westcott** (2023)—Oregon Dept. of Forestry Representative, Molalla  
**Frank Wille** (2012)—Past Chair, Oregon City

### – STAFF –

**Ken Everett** (1991)—Executive Director, Colton  
**Julie Handy** (1991)—Administrative Assistant, Oregon City  
**Peter Matzka** (2014)—OSU Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator, Oregon City  
**Lindel Evers** (2025)—Forests Forever, Inc. Educator, Oregon City  
**Jim and Lisa Wentworth-Plato** (2024)—On-site Forest Caretakers & Hosts, Hopkins Demonstration Forest  
**Pete Wille, Don Chase and Mike Haasken**, Special Projects

### – BUSINESS INFORMATION –

**Mailing Address:** Forests Forever, Inc., P.O. Box 1320, Oregon City, OR 97045  
**Business Office Phone:** 503-655-5524  
**Hopkins Demonstration Forest:** 16750 S. Brockway Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045  
**Tree Farm Phone:** 503-632-2150  
**Website:** [www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/HopkinsDemonstrationForest/about/>  
**2025 Annual Report Editor:** Mike Bondi  
**Contributors:** see bylines on articles  
**Layout and design:** Minten Graphics, Sublimity

**COVER PHOTO CREDITS:** Bridge—Joe Wheeler • Truffle Hunters—Sarah Cameron

## VOLUNTEERS & LEADERS

### Lindel Evers New FFI Educator!

**T**his past September Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI) hired an additional forest educator to expand their outreach to youth throughout the Portland metro area. The new educator is a part-time contract employee with the nonprofit and works alongside Peter Matzka—Oregon State University's Forestry Outreach Coordinator assigned to FFI and housed at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Beavercreek. Matzka reaches about 5,000 students each year with his Science in the Forest classes.

"This is a huge step forward for FFI," said Mike Bondi, FFI's Board of Directors Chair. "Peter has done a wonderful job growing education programs over the past 10 years. But, we've been unable to keep up with demand from schools nor expand to important underserved audiences. Our new FFI Forest Educator will help address these needs."

Evers' primary responsibilities include establishing an Outdoor School Day Camp. Most Outdoor School programs are overnight camps in Oregon. FFI wants to offer a Day Camp alternative for schools and parents looking for another option.

Evers will also develop youth forestry and natural resource programming for homeschoolers—another underserved audience. It is estimated that more than 4,000 students are homeschooled just in Clackamas County. Few forestry and natural resource field days and more extensive programs are offered for this audience.

Evers and Matzka worked together last November to pilot test a home-



school teaching model while developing contacts in the homeschool community. Interestingly, participants attending the one-day in the forest event came from five area counties. "We really didn't know what to expect," Evers said. "But the pilot demonstrated some real interest. The field day included several learning stations and a treasure hunt in the forest."

In January, Evers and Matzka are co-teaching a homeschool program featuring maple sap production and syrup processing. Evers organized the marketing and registration for the two-day program. More than 80 participants registered for the program within four days. "The interest we are seeing in the homeschool community has been very encouraging," Evers said.

During February and March a series of tree planting days will introduce reforestation practices concepts and proper planting and animal damage protection methods to homeschool learners.

Funding for the new FFI Forest Educator is provided for three years from two principal donors—Hampton Lumber Company and the Walker Family Foundation. "We are excited about this support and commitment," said Bondi. "Historically, many of FFI's youth education programs have been offered at no cost to schools and teachers. With donor support like we have, this expansion allows FFI to pilot new youth programs and reach additional audiences. Having the opportunity to bring the next generation to the forest for science-based education in a managed forest environment is critically important to our communities, state, and economy." ▲

## Welcoming New Board Members

2025 welcomed three new Board members to Forests Forever, Inc. Our Board is a dedicated group who meets monthly for three-hours to manage the business of the non-profit organization. We greatly appreciate the hard work everyone on the Board contributes to ensure our success. Adding to the Board this past year were:

**Bob Oblack**, Salem, was born and raised in the Molalla River Corridor and lived for many years next to what is now the Schink Demonstration Forest. Bob joins the Board to provide—not only a family connection to the Schink property—but an interest in the development of this site for education. Bob is also a local expert on the local geology of the Corridor and its natural history.



**Linda Butts**, Oregon City, is a well-known tree farmer, OSU Master Woodland Manager, and former school teacher. Linda is especially interested

in youth education, helping children understand the natural environment and why caring for the forest is important for everyone. Linda and her late husband, Lynn, were named Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year and represented the western U.S. in the national Tree Farm of the Year competition.



**Kevin Kaster**, Molalla, owns a custom sawmilling business in the Meadowbrook area and has worked closely with numerous private forest owners over the years. He has milled a myriad of specialty products for land-owners and has helped develop new markets—including for certified wood products. Kevin has been milling wood for thirty years and serves on several forestry-related boards, as well as, his church. ▲



## Hopkins Forest Host's Report

*Jim and Lisa Wentworth-Plato*

We've enjoyed our first full calendar year at Hopkins. We continue to appreciate the tidiness of Hopkins hikers. We only had to pick up a few piles and bags of dog waste that weren't put into the waste containers this year. We went through 2,500 "Mutt Mitt" bags which means over 2,500 people picked up after their dog to keep this forest clean. Thank you!

We enjoy helping the guests at Everett navigate the process of setting-up and cleaning-up after events and the joy that shines out of Everett Hall

every time we have a wedding is contagious and keeps us smiling.

We hosted the 2nd annual *Christmas-Day-Open-Pavillion* this year. We built a fire at Poppino, set up coffee, tea, cocoa and made fresh baked

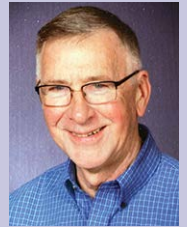


cookies. More than 30 hikers stopped by to say hello and we enjoyed getting to know some of our regulars and neighbors better.

Hopkins infrastructure continues to improve with trail and road maintenance managed mostly by volunteers. Have you hiked all the trails here? There are over 5 miles! Thanks to folks who gave us updates on where trees came down on windy days so we could get out and clean them up. ▲

## In Memory Bob Kahl

Forests Forever lost a great friend and dedicated volunteer this past fall. Bob Kahl passed away on November 1. He was 81 and is survived by his wife, Marianne.



Bob served faithfully on the Forests Forever Board of Directors since 2015 providing critical support to the non-profit in several areas. Bob loved to tinker with and maintain motorized equipment. Bob took on many of our facility maintenance functions, too, including setting up a potable water testing and compliance program to ensure our drinking water supply was safe. He was the Chair of our Facilities Committee for many years.

But, more than anything, Bob was FFI's Insurance Guru! Bob's professional career was in insurance and he was able to help the Board better understand the unique risks and liabilities a non-profit, like FFI, has to be concerned about. Whenever there was a question, we had Bob to analyze and advise us to reach the best decision possible.

Bob made incredible contributions to Forests Forever. He will be missed—but, not forgotten.





# EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY

## Youth Forestry Education at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

*Peter Matzka, OSU Extension Forestry Program Coordinator*

In 2025, youth and public forestry education at Hopkins Demonstration Forest remained strong and consistent through the partnership between Forests Forever, Inc. and the Oregon State University Extension Service, coordinated through OSU Extension in Clackamas County. Over the course of the year, OSU Extension delivered **more than 125 classes and programs, serving over 4,500 youth and approximately 1,000 adults** through school programs, homeschool field days, youth group visits, and public workshops.

Participating students came primarily from Clackamas County and East Multnomah County, including schools and programs associated with the Oregon City, North Clackamas, Molalla River, Canby, Estacada, West Linn, and Metro Region School Districts (to name a few), as well as homeschool networks and youth groups from the surround communities. Programming emphasized hands-on, place-based learning focused on forest ecology, wildlife habitat, stewardship, and working forest systems. Students engaged directly with the landscape while developing observation, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills grounded in real forest conditions.

2025 was not an expansion year, but it was a solid year that reflected sustained demand at or above program capacity. Requests for programming continued to exceed what could be accommodated given staffing and site constraints. Operating consistently at capacity remains a positive indicator of community interest while reinforcing the need for thoughtful, long-term growth.

**Looking ahead, 2026 will be an expansion year.** OSU Extension will continue its core role in delivering youth and public forestry education at Hopkins. The addition of the newly created FFI Forest Educator role expands overall capacity, allowing Forests Forever to address unmet demand, reach new audiences, and develop complementary programs alongside existing OSU Extension efforts. This shared approach supports growth while maintaining program quality and long-standing educational partnerships. ▲





# Education Committee Re-forms in 2025

**F**orests Forever's primary mission—since our inception in 1990—has been education. We manage our properties for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for youth, forest landowners, professional land managers, and the community.

FFI's Education Plan is a comprehensive document (posted on our website at [www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org); see homepage and *Who We Are* tab) that was written in 2013. Over the years, FFI has had an Education Committee to oversee our outreach programs, provide support and guidance to our educators, and prepare documents like our Education Plan.

Inactive for the past several years, FFI re-formed an Education Committee this past fall. Serving on the committee are Mike Bondi (FFI Board Chair), Linda Butts and Bob Oblack

(Board members), Kristin Rasmussen (Hampton Lumber), and Peter Matzka and Lindel Evers (Educators).

The Committee's purpose is to oversee the development of our new FFI Educator's (Lindel Evers) outreach for homeschoolers and our outdoor school day program. The Committee has been meeting monthly since Lindel joined FFI.

In addition, the Committee plans to update the Education Plan. When the plan was last written FFI had only one property—Hopkins. We have added the Schink and Pedee properties over the past 12 years. There was no lookout tower or Molalla Log House. We have more trails and forest management activities that can be used for education. ▲

## Meet Kristin Rasmussen

Kristin is Hampton Lumber's Director of Public Affairs and Communications. Kristin has been with Hampton for the past 10 years.



Kristin is a native Oregonian, born and raised on the central Oregon coast in a small timber and fishing community. Kristin is a firm believer in providing outdoor education opportunities to youth and schools and is particularly interested in FFI's focus on the Portland metropolitan area. Hampton Lumber is one of the co-funders for FFI's initiative to hire a second educator for the organization and to focus on the homeschool and outdoor school audiences.

# Expanding Oregon's Bigleaf Maple Education

**Peter Matzka**, OSU Extension Forestry Program Coordinator

**B**igleaf maple sugaring continued to advance in 2025 as a distinctive and increasingly important educational focus at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Hopkins now functions as both an OSU Extension demonstration and research site for bigleaf maple and a regional hub for maple education in western Oregon.

Through youth programs, public workshops, and seasonal demonstrations, participants learned how sap can be sustainably collected from Oregon's native bigleaf maple and processed into syrup. Programming integrated forest management, tree physiology, seasonal sap flow, and local food systems, while reinforcing broader concepts of forest health and sustainability.

A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of 4-H Bigleaf Maple programming, marking the first formal effort to integrate maple education into youth development pathways. These programs combined hands-on forestry education with applied science and problem-solving, creating new opportunities for sustained youth engagement.



FFI's support of demonstration infrastructure and public access has helped establish Hopkins as a regional center for bigleaf maple education, serving educators, families, landowners, and youth organizations. In 2026, programming will continue to grow in coordination with OSU Extension, with a focus on refining curriculum, expanding youth engagement through 4-H, and strengthening Hopkins' role as a statewide resource for bigleaf maple research and education. ▲





# Hopkins is the Hub for Landowner Education

*Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forestry Agent—Clackamas, Marion & Hood River Counties*

**H**opkins Demonstration Forest is the hub for forest landowner education in the north Willamette Valley. Tree School classes at Hopkins provided hands-on field experiences with top-notch instructors. The 35th annual Clackamas Tree School (March 22, 2025), featured sessions on Silvicultural Options, Stand Density Management, Bigleaf Maple Sugaring, and Foraging your Woodland (20 participants each). At the fourth annual Tree School Field Day (September 27, 2025), 20 instructors from OSU and partners delivered 23 workshops and 10 demonstrations. A total of 120 participants chose from a menu of options for each of five class periods. Topics included:

- Thinning Your Forest
- Forestry for the Birds
- Weed Management
- Forest Health
- Riparian Restoration
- Assessing Tree Risk
- Understory Management
- Air curtain incinerator
- Reforestation
- Logging with a Tractor
- Christmas Trees
- Bigleaf Maple Sugaring
- Sawmilling
- Spoon Carving
- Basket Weaving



Tree Schools are organized by Oregon State University in collaboration with Forests Forever, Inc. and the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association—with a lot of help from partner agencies and volunteers.

Seasonal activities including tree planting, maple sugaring, weed management, slash burning, thinning, and fuels reduction provided opportunities for landowner education throughout the year. Everett Hall provided comfort and convenience for indoor learning such as the Ties to the Land Succession Planning workshop, helping landowners sustain their stewardship across the generations.

A highlight of 2025 was the Thinning Your Forest workshop (July 12, 2025), beginning with a memorial bench



dedication honoring Mark Havel, who was instrumental in establishment of the thinning and pruning demonstration area at Hopkins. Using Mark's innovative small-scale tools as well as cutting-edge mechanized methods, thinning demonstration sessions engaged about fifty participants.

Over 500 forest landowners and community members enjoyed learning while doing over the year at Hopkins. ▲





## GROUPS & FACILITIES

### Facilities Report

*Joe Wheeler, Facilities Committee Chair*

2025 started with damage control work after a wind event on Christmas Day 2024 that damaged a top in the redwood tree along the lower parking lot. With Caretaker Jim's tree climbing tools and expertise we succeeded in getting a rope over the broken top and pulling it down with the tractor. That same storm brought an alder down on the boardwalk of the West Watershed Loop trail breaking the beams of one section. Several weeks work repaired the broken section and reopened the trail.

Our next project focused on replacing the upper bridge over Little Buckner Creek. One of the stringers of the old bridge showed center rot at one end so we placed a new span adjacent to the old bridge. With the new bridge usable we dismantled the old bridge and pulled the old material away. Usable decking from the old bridge will be recycled into new projects and the old stringers will be placed along the trail to hold the gravel in place along the creek.

In mid-spring we discovered a major carpenter ant infestation in the roof and walls of the pump house building. Pete Wille succeeded in exposing the worst damaged areas and saving the building through extensive repairs. To avoid future infestations we cleared the outside perimeter of the building

and installed wire fabric and metal flashing to discourage squirrels from getting into the roof or tunneling under the slab.

To help control expenses with the new patio installation at Everett Hall our Monday crew took on installing the cable perimeter fencing. We also extended an electrical circuit from Everett Hall to the



patio perimeter for lighting in the future.

Through much of the summer and fall, two to three of our Monday crew assisted Gregg Olson in building the shed addition at the Molalla Log House.

We are currently helping Pete Wille build a new outbuilding along the patio at Everett Hall to store equipment and provide a dry sheltered area.

Many thanks to the volunteers that help Hopkins Demonstration Forest keep our facilities in good condition and open to the public. Your dedication extends our reach and impact to the community of forest lovers and everyone that appreciates the trails and experience Hopkins provides. ▲

### Naming Opportunities

*In 2025, Forests Forever offered two new naming opportunities for donors to the Friends of Hopkins annual campaign. The Harmon Family sponsored a naming for a bench on the Madrone Trail and on a foot bridge located along the Redwood Trail. Thank you to the Harmon Family for this support!*





# Historic Molalla Log House Advances Preservation with New Shed-Roof Reconstruction

**Pam Hayden**, Board Secretary and Molalla Log House Project Coordinator

A new phase of the Molalla Log House preservation project at Hopkins Demonstration Forest has been completed with the reconstruction of one of the building's historic shed-roof additions. This feature, originally added decades after the structure's original construction, now protects fragile lower logs and reflects a documented period of habitation in the building's history.

The project was led by Gregg Olson, Historic Building Repair specialist, with extensive support from committed volunteers. Working over several months, volunteers used techniques consistent with 19th-century building practices to ensure historically sensitive restoration. Their dedication reflects the community investment that has carried the Molalla Log House through every phase of its preservation.

Dendrochronology suggests that the building's timbers were felled in 1798–1799, predating Euro-American settlement of the Molalla region. The original structure was built using precise, nail-less joinery similar to fur-trade construction methods known in Canada at the time, suggesting skilled craftsmen connected to early Northwest Company fur trade activity in the Columbia River watershed. Subsequent alterations—including the shed-roof additions—indicate changing occupants and evolving uses through the first half of 19th century, prior to pioneer settlement.

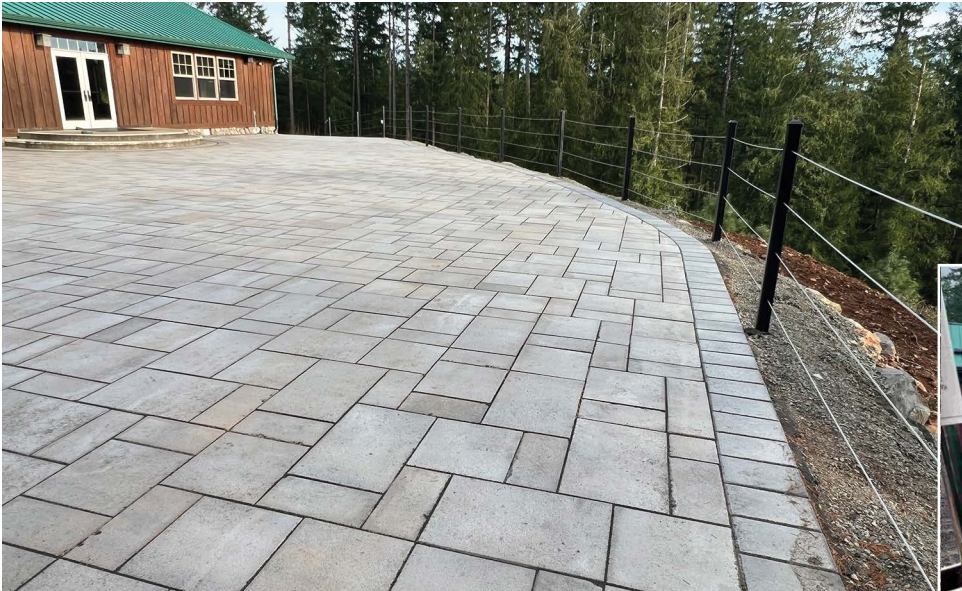
Today, the Molalla Log House stands as a rare architectural survivor that reflects more than two centuries of regional history, from early construction and habitation to an 1892 relocation, 2008 dismantling and preservation, and current reconstruction at Hopkins.

Visitors can now explore the site via new accessible trails, benches, and interpretive signage. Clackamas Master Gardeners maintain surrounding native plant landscaping, supporting the educational setting for students, families, and heritage visitors. ▲





# Upgrades Now Complete at Everett Hall



Everett Hall is our educational building but does double duty as an event venue bringing in needed revenue to support our educational endeavors. In fact, Everett Hall rental income is FFI’s largest annual revenue source each year. During 2025 Everett Hall has hosted 87 events, almost a quarter of the year!

To make the venue more attractive—and functional—for weddings, birthdays, celebrations of life, business meetings, holidays parties, and other activities, we have a number of improvements over the past three years. First, we added a modest fire-

wood storage shed. The beautiful stone fireplace in Everett Hall is an important attraction. Last year we managed an extreme make-over in front garden area thanks to the Clackamas Master Gardener team who care for this landscape.

And, in 2025, we made two more big improvements. We upgraded of audio visual and sound systems in the classroom and meeting area. It was just time for the latest technology. But, the grand finale was a complete re-do for the back patio area. We replaced our flagstone surface—with all of its settling issues—prepared a new subsurface base layer,

and installed pavers for a smoother and safer surface. Much of the heavy lifting was contracted, but our volunteers played a big role, too, including building a very cool perimeter cable fence. Finally, a combo storage/bar tender station was added to one side of the patio under the direction of our all-around carpenter Pete Wille.

We are looking forward to a busy 2026 with all of our upgrades now complete. ▲

## Thank You to Our 2025 Education Consortium Members

Clackamas County Extension Service.....	In Kind*
Oregon Forest Resources Institute .....	\$15,000
RSG Forest Products .....	\$5,000
Campbell Global LLC.....	\$5,000
Hampton Lumber .....	\$5,000
Port Blakely.....	\$3,000
A.J. Frank Family Foundation .....	\$2,000
TOTAL: \$35,000	

\*In-kind donation from the **Clackamas County Extension** exceeding \$96,949 to provide staff support for delivering our Education Programs at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest



## OUR OTHER FOREST PROPERTIES

### Pedee Woodlands Timber Harvest Supports Education and Infrastructure



In 2025, Forests Forever, Inc. completed a carefully planned timber harvest on our Pedee Woodlands property located near Dallas, Oregon. Approximately 21 acres of timber were harvested as part of our long-term sustainable forest management strategy for the site.

The harvest was conducted by Greenup Enterprises, a professional logging contractor based in Estacada, Oregon. A total of 530,000 board feet of timber was removed, with operations designed to protect soil, water resources, and long-term forest health.

Revenue generated from the Pedee Woodlands harvest was reinvested directly into Forests Forever's education and demonstration forests. Funds supported ongoing trail maintenance and infrastructure improvements at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, ensuring safe and welcoming access for thousands of annual visitors. Harvest

proceeds also provided funding to replace the patio behind Everett Hall, enhancing outdoor learning and gathering space for education programs and community events.

Finally, in 2025 the Forests Forever Board of Directors adopted a policy to set aside at least 5% of the net proceeds from every commercial timber harvest for deposit into the Poppino Long Term Investment Fund, which functions as the organization's endowment. These invested funds are dedicated to providing a stable, long-term source of support for Forests Forever's education programs, and this past year's timber harvest marked the first transfer into the fund.

This project highlights how active forest management can both sustain healthy working forests and provide critical financial support for education, recreation, and public outreach across Forests Forever properties. ▲

## Truffle Hunting Initiative Off to Great Start!

*Mike Piazza, FFI Truffle Master*

The Truffle operation at Pedee Woodlands got off to a great start in 2025—our first full year of activities. Forests Forever has partnered with Dr. Charles Lefevre, a noted Eugene-area expert in the world of truffling in Northwest forests. Dr. Lefevre is also a well-known speaker and instructor at the Clackamas Tree School where he has been teaching truffle classes for the past 30 years. Pedee is the home of "Oregon Black Truffle" which rival the best truffles found in Italy and France—just like our Oregon wines.



2025 produced a small commercial truffle harvest which added to our Forest Products initiative as we build on the resources we manage on our FFI properties. Last March we held our First Annual Truffle Foray Fundraiser with 20 participants enjoying time in the Truffle Patch accompanied by Charles and a team of 4 amazing Truffle Dogs. The foray was concluded by lunch at a local winery and demonstrations by Charles and fellow truffer, Ava Chapman, on how to clean, store, transport and enjoy the fruits of the foray.

Forests Forever will be hosting our first event in conjunction with the Oregon Truffle Festival on February 22nd, which will allow Festival partici-



pants to enjoy the experience of truffle foraging. This is a major step toward enhancing our truffle knowledge and engagement.

Finally, we will be setting up an experimental a two-acre plot this spring at Pedee to investigate truffle inoculation practices and their effects on tree growth. We will be working with our partners at Oregon State University to develop this new learning opportunity.



**Oregon Truffle Festival—February 22**  
**2nd Annual Forests Forever Truffle Foray Fundraiser—March 28**

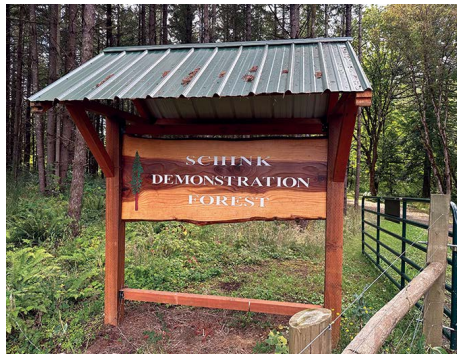
Be on the lookout for information about our 2nd Annual Forests Forever Truffle Foray Fundraiser (say that fast three times!) scheduled for Saturday, March 28th. You will not be disappointed! ▲

## Vision-Mission Created for the Schink Demonstration Forest

*“A Living Classroom for the Molalla River Corridor”* ...is a key message, Bob Oblack and his 5-member committee delivered to the FFI board.

The Schink Demonstration Forest sits at the gateway to the Molalla River Corridor, offering hands on learning, habitat restoration, and public stewardship opportunities that connect people to place. The site highlights riparian zones, oak woodlands, upland forests, and the region’s distinctive geology while demonstrating practical, science based land management.

Through demonstration plots, interpretive signage, and community programs, Schink will model restoration techniques—riparian conservation,

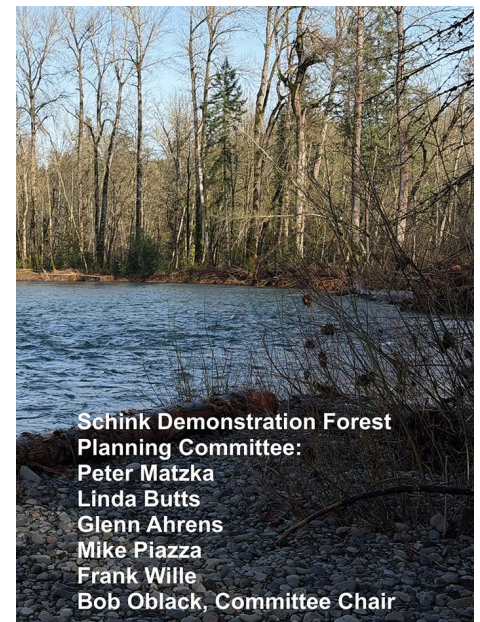


oak woodland renewal, and floodplain habitat protection—while serving as an outdoor classroom for students, landowners, and volunteers. Planned features include groundwater monitoring wells for educational use, interpretive panels about the Molalla’s geology and habitats, and pilot planting trials



that prioritize minimal soil disturbance to improve seedling survival.

Managed by Forests Forever, Inc., Schink complements the organization’s broader mission of experiential forestry education across multiple demonstration forests. The planning committee recommends a 5-year strategic plan, partner coordination with OSU Extension and local youth corps, and a simple annual reporting mechanism to track progress toward our goals. ▲



**Schink Demonstration Forest Planning Committee:**  
 Peter Matzka  
 Linda Butts  
 Glenn Ahrens  
 Mike Piazza  
 Frank Wille  
 Bob Oblack, Committee Chair







# New Forest Trails App Bring Technology to the Woods

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest, located in the Beavercreek area southeast of Oregon City, has recently released a new trails application for mobile phones that invites visitors to explore their forest in an engaging and educational way. Developed by Parthenon Software Group of Vancouver, Washington, the Hopkins Trails App provides interactive features that make it easier to navigate the forest's trails while learning about the trees, plants, wildlife, and history found throughout the 140-acre outdoor classroom.

"We're really excited about this new technology and how we think it will transform our visitors' experience in the forest," said Ken Everett, Forests Forever's Executive Director. Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI) has owned and managed the Hopkins Forest since 1991. "As electronic communication and digital platforms have become more and more common in everyday lives, we need to stay up-to-date with our technology use in the forest, too. Our new mobile phone app is the best way to know where you are at and what's around you at any place during your visit."

Everett and a team of current and former Oregon State University Extension Forestry faculty (Peter Matzka, Glenn Ahrens, and Mike Bondi) provided the vision and content for the trails application. The project took nearly a year to complete. Funding was provided through a grant by Clackamas County Tourism/Mt. Hood Territory. This county government agency's investment at Hopkins



strengthens outdoor recreation and hands-on environmental education opportunities in this region of the state.

According to Mike Bondi, former Extension Forestry Agent in Clackamas County, the number of people across all generations who use a paper map in the forest is much lower than in previous years. "Some data suggest as few as 7% of Gen Zs can read a paper map and maybe only half of the population across all genera-

tions. Our new forest trails app could be

a huge help to those who might be out hiking and trying to identify where they are at and where they want to go."

In addition, the trails app can be used to identify trees, shrubs, wildlife in the forest, and provide detailed information about buildings and structures around the property—like the historic Clatskanie Mountain fire lookout tower and the Molalla Log House, the oldest known building in the western U.S.

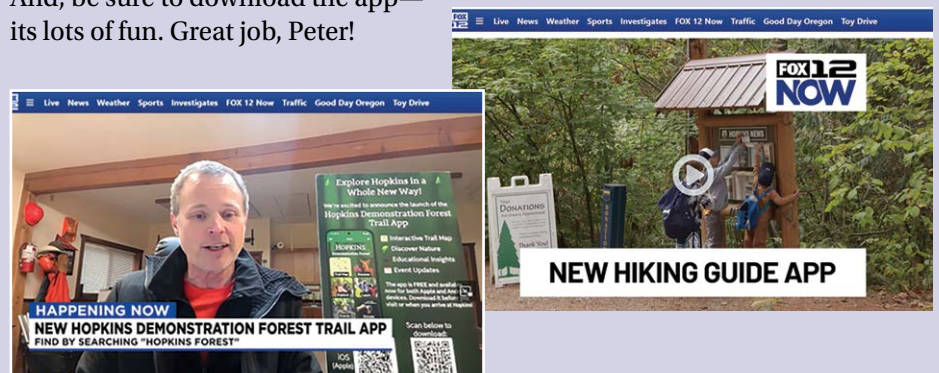
The Hopkins Trail App is free and now available for download through both the Apple App Store and Google Play. The app is available in both English and Spanish, helping make forest education more accessible to the broader community. ▲

## Forest Trails App Featured on Local TV

The new Forest Trails App attracted local television interest in live-streamed news programming on KPTV-12 in Portland. Gregg Nibler, the show host, reached out to Forests Forever for the story.

The 13+ minute interview featured Peter Matzka, OSU Extension Forestry Outreach Coordinator, at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Matzka took a lead role in developing the trails application.

Check out the full YouTube interview at: [www.youtube.com/live/-F-mL1Nd1Uk?si=rBfn133DIngBhnad](https://www.youtube.com/live/-F-mL1Nd1Uk?si=rBfn133DIngBhnad). And, be sure to download the app—its lots of fun. Great job, Peter!





# 2025 Friends of Hopkins

The Friends of Hopkins Campaign is our annual public appeal for donors to support our day-to-day activities at Forests Forever. Funds are used for trail development and maintenance, signs, brochures, and special projects to enhance the public's enjoyment and learning at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. We are especially thankful for our 2025 donors!

## **BENEFACTORS: \$1,000-\$2,500**

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## **Our 2026 Friends of Hopkins Campaign is NOW UNDERWAY!**

Please contribute however you can. Donate on-line by visiting our website at [www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org), click on the DONATE tab, select Friends of Hopkins to designate your gift.

Donations also accepted via mail or contact Julie at 503-655-5524.



## **Treasurer's Report—2025**

*Mike Piazza, Board Treasurer*

The 2025 calendar year played out financially very much as planned, with revenues and expenses tracking closely to projections. While there were a few surprises along the way, the organization remained financially stable and well-positioned thanks to careful planning, strong partnerships, and disciplined expense management.

One notable exception was the replacement of the patio behind Everett Hall, which came in approximately \$30,000 over budget. Excavation costs were higher than anticipated, as additional material had to be removed at greater depth to ensure a solid and lasting foundation. Fortunately, this unplanned expense was largely offset by stronger-than-expected revenue from the Phillips-Pedee timber harvest, driven by rising timber prices.

Recurring support continues to be a cornerstone of our financial health. Consortium partners and the Friends of Hopkins program again provided dependable annual revenue. The 2025 Friends campaign is expected to exceed \$28,000—up from \$26,000 the previous year. Looking ahead to our 35th anniversary in 2026, the Friends goal has been set at \$35,000.

We are also deeply grateful to Dosha/Aveda for their annual April fundraiser, which generated more than \$11,000 this year. Long-standing partnerships like this reflect the strength of Forests Forever, Inc.'s mission and community support.

While expenses remain within budget, operating costs continue to rise. Road maintenance is becoming a higher priority and increases in insurance and utility costs are now a significant budget consideration. One critical contribution does not appear on the profit and loss statement but is essential to controlling costs: the Monday Crew. Each week, 8–10 dedicated volunteers provide the labor that helps keep facilities maintained and expenses in check. Without their commitment, our operating costs would be substantially higher.

As we look to 2026, we anticipate growth in our Forest Products initiative, including exciting developments highlighted later in this report. The Forests Forever team looks forward to another strong year of engaging the public across our properties in the Willamette Valley. Thank you for your continued support—it truly makes this work possible. ▲





P.O. Box 1320  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

## Volunteer Opportunities at Hopkins in 2026

Interested in joining our team of volunteers supporting Forests Forever, Inc. and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest? Here's opportunities where you can help out:

- **Like working with youth?** Our new FFI Educator, Lindel Evers, would appreciate assistance to help support education activities for homeschool youth or those involved in the Outdoor School program. Days could be flexible and random during this first year of development. Hours normally about 9:00am-2:00pm on days of programming. Training provided.

- **Lookout Tower hosts** wanted for second, third, or fourth Saturdays each month from 9:00 to 1:00pm—summer or year-around. Training provided. We can work with you to customize a schedule that fits your needs.

- **Monday Volunteer Work Crew** members always welcome! Each week from 8:30am-Noon for Facilities Team. Or, 8:30am-3:00pm for Woods Workers. Come and go as you can.

**For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact the FFI Business office at 503-655-5524.**



*Campbell Global is a member of our Education Consortium and regularly brings a team of employees to volunteer a workday at Hopkins. This year's group provided great help to maintain the Redwood Trail in the Uneven Age Management Area.*