

Forests Forever 20th Anniversary

1990-2010



Grouse Hollow News

FALL 2010—SPECIAL EDITION



Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Forests Forever, Inc.—a Novel Idea for a Unique Place

BY MIKE BONDI AND KEN EVERETT

It started around the kitchen table at Margaret Hopkins' house in Milwaukie on a cold and rainy winter morning in 1990. What evolved from these first discussions is something that is changing how people think about the forest around us and its importance in our lives.



Margaret Hopkins

That twinkle in Margaret's eye was about creating a place where people

would come to learn about forests and forest management where it was being practiced every day—a working tree farm. Her family's property, the Grouse Hollow Tree Farm in Beavercreek, became the perfect location to make this happen.

But first, an organization had to be created. Someone or some group had to own and take responsibility for her land and carry out its purpose. When Margaret's efforts to find someone to take her land failed, she challenged us to help her "just make this happen!"

No small task for sure. But with the help of the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, an excellent lawyer familiar with forming non-profit organizations, and a very supportive community behind us, Forests Forever, Inc. was born on September 18, 1990.

The early "believers" included Ken Everett, Mike Bondi, John Poppino, Wendell Harmon, and Ken Humbert. On one of our first visits to Grouse Hollow, we quickly realized that all of the work Howard Hopkins did on his tree farm created a perfect spot for



teaching and demonstration...lots of smaller areas with a diversity of different forest practices and conditions.

The plan for going forward became obvious...create a place open to anyone who wanted to get into the forest to learn, appreciate and enjoy. And, being all "hands-on guys," we decided we could offer something very unique—getting the learners and the community involved in helping us care for the land.

There have been many accomplishments during these past 20 years—really, too many to list. Here are a few of just the most significant ones:

Facilities

- Design and construct the main parking lot (Thank you, Dave Hill)—1991
- Two vault-style toilets installed; a key addition for hosting school groups, adults and the public (Thank you, Dick and Margaret Birkemeir)—1992

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- Hopkins Hall (Built by the community with donations of wood products and labor)—1994
- Cedar Grove Shelter (Thank you, Ellen Thronson)—1997
- 3-Bay Shop (Thank you, Margaret Hopkins)—1999
- New Education Building and community meeting space (Thank you to so many, already)—2010

Education

- Hired a full-time Community Forestry Educator—2003
- *Science in the Forest* classes for middle and high school students
- Vocational forestry opportunities for high school students
- Service learning for middle and high school students
- Summer work crews and job-readiness experiences for high school and post high school youth

- Forest landowner tours and demonstrations
- Summary: approximately 1,000 tours, classes, demonstrations, service learning and work experience opportunities designed and delivered during the past 20 years reaching about 12,000 participants

Organization

- Well-organized 13-person volunteer Board of Directors to oversee and direct corporation
- Annual budget grows from \$4,500 in 1991 to nearly \$150,000 in 2010
- Establishment of Forest Forever's membership program in 1999
- Purchased neighboring Post property—1998
- Created endowment program to provide sustainable funding for the corporation—2009
- Education Consortium established and now raising all funds for education programs—2004

Community Connections

- Nearly 240 Community Forestry Days/Work Days during the past 20 years with more than 4,000 participants
- Membership in local Chambers of Commerce—2003
- Collaboration with Clackamas County government, Oregon Department of Forestry, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, and forest products businesses for program and property development

So, what does the future look like for Forests Forever?

In the next 20 years—what might be possible? Truly, the future is unlimited for Forests Forever. But we will only go as far as the people are



Youth on school field trip at Hopkins

willing to give their time and talent to help create tomorrow. We have been blessed with a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who have served on the Board of Directors over the years. They have shaped this organization, our programs and our development. We will need more visionaries in the future.

Our immediate priorities as an organization are focused on the new education building and community meeting space. Progress is going well. If we can raise the remaining \$100,000, we will be able to complete the building as planned. Our goal is to complete fundraising by the end this year and open the building for public use in the spring of 2011. Let's make it happen!

The new education building will create many new opportunities and bring many more people to Hopkins. We expect our education programs and outreach in the community to grow. As we expand these opportunities, our staffing and support for the forest and our programs will need to expand, too.

The new fire tower will be another great addition to the forest. Funding is already in place for this project and we will soon have this special feature ready for educational use soon.

Forests Forever, Inc. has been and will continue to be all about hands-on forestry and natural resource education. Creating new opportunities, finding new partners in the community and making a difference in people's lives is what we are all about, and will be in the future. Come join us!



HOPKINS
Demonstration Forest

Staff

Tim DeLano
Community Forestry Educator
Don Chase & Dick Stiles
Special Projects

Information

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16750 S. Brockway Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045
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www.demonstrationforest.org

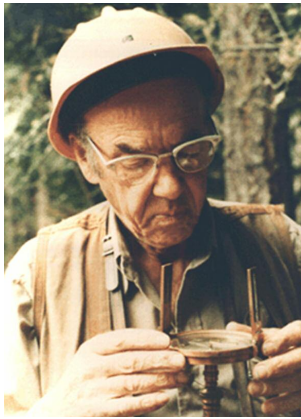
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Hopkins' Sisters Share Memories

BY JIM KADERA WITH CONNIE BATTAILE AND JILL HERZIG

Connie Battaile (pronounced "battle") of Ashland, Or., and sister Jill Herzig of Lakeside, Ca. share their memories and thoughts of the tree farm their parents, Howard and Margaret Hopkins, acquired and improved. Here's what they had to say:



Howard Hopkins

(to their Milwaukie home) that he could go out to work whenever he had a few hours free. And it provided a rewarding way for him to do hands-on forestry with all the challenges that entails. He was mortified when his first slash fire escaped. He lived decades longer than his three brothers, and we're sure the tree farm was

"Both of us were married and living elsewhere by the time Pop and Mom bought the tree farm in 1962. On various visits home, we all would go to the farm to see what Pop had been doing and to hear about his plans.

We also had family picnics, gathered greenery for their church, picked blackberries, and cut the family Christmas tree—once with a fierce case of poison oak resulting!

Pop was especially pleased with the pond he dug and where he put up a wood duck nest box. His greatest frustration was with boomers, mountain beavers, which he trapped by the dozens.

He worked diligently to improve the tree farm, including planting over 21,000 trees, though the boomers got many of them. Both Mom and Pop had a strong sense of stewardship and obligation to do best by the land and by the community.

During their years of ownership the tree farm obviously meant a huge amount to both of them, but especially to Pop. It was close enough

part of the reason.

After Pop died in 1989 at age 82, Mom decided she would like to see the tree farm kept as a park or demonstration forest despite the increasing development around it. Over the next year, she tirelessly explored possibility after possibility. Finally, after many consultations with Ken Everett and Mike Bondi, they came up with the idea of establishing a non-profit corporation, Forests Forever Inc., to take ownership.

The leadership of Ken and Mike and the contributions of so many others have turned the tree farm into a most remarkable asset to small woodland owners as well as the public in ways that delighted and astonished Mom and would have pleased Pop profoundly.

We remain impressed with the continued energy and vision of everyone who is involved. All of us in the family, including the grandkids, are proud that Mom's public spirit is part of our heritage."

Jill and Connie both still enjoy woody activities and are involved in the management of the Hopkins family's other tree farm near Scappoose. Jill does a lot of hiking in southern California, near her home while Connie enjoys botanizing in southern Oregon. The sisters take a camping trip together at least once a year, preferably sleeping out in the open.



Current Board of Directors

Ken Everett, *Executive Director*, Colton
Dan Green, *Board Chair*, Oregon City
Maralyn Turner, *Secretary*, Portland
Mike McCoy, *Treasurer*, West Linn
Keith Baldwin, Silverton
Mike Bondi, Lake Oswego
Mary Castle, Oregon City
Mike Daly, Mulino
Dave Hill, Oregon City
Jim Kadera, Oregon City
Mike Piazza, West Linn
John Poppino, Milwaukie
Vacant Position—could this be you?

Past Board of Directors

Terry Wertz	John Foster
Ken Humbert	Jim Wick
Dan Sanders	Merrily Enquist
Ilene Waldorf	Gilbert Shibley
Wendell Harmon	Tom Ortman
Russ Nelson	Mike Barsotti
Tootie Smith	Ken Ball
Ed Hendrix	Dave Jessup
Bob Phillips	Lance Christensen
Clem Hunter	Norie Dimeo-Ediger
Joe Pesek	
Lou Torres	

The past 20 years for Forests Forever, Inc. and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of many individuals, families, businesses, agencies, and organizations. These contributions of time, expertise, financial resources, materials and supplies, and creative ideas are certainly too numerous to mention. We would surely miss someone. You know who you are. We all thank you. We still have much to do. Let's make the next twenty years an even bigger success!

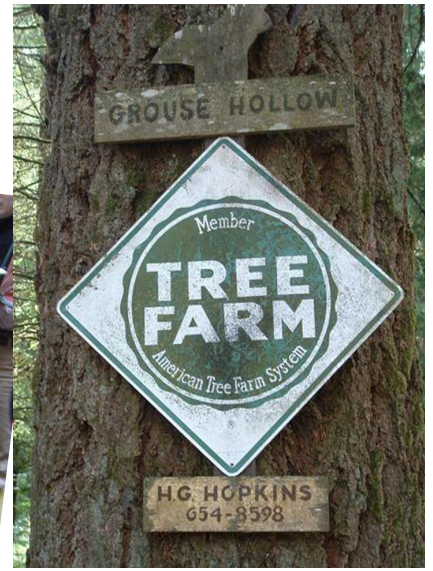
Celebrating 20 Years



Family along the trail enjoying wildflowers



Science inquiry-learning tree ID



Grouse Hollow Tree Farm historic sign



Appreciation event



Kiosk construction



Thinking about it



Board members with new bus

Raising one of the walls at the new education building





Clatskanie Lookout Tower before moving to Hopkins



Forest owner tree planting workshop



Hopkins Hall



Cedar Grove Shelter



GPS class for woodland owners



Teaching adults about tree growth



Learning how to use a compass



Measuring and testing water samples



Marking the next harvest in Uneven Aged Management



Logging on the Post property

Learning by Doing

BY TIM DeLANO

“There’s no other place I know of where the community is more involved in tending a forest than at Hopkins Demonstration Forest,” claims Tim DeLano, the on-site Community Forestry Educator. The slogan *Learn by Doing* is embodied in how education programs are used to manage the forest at Hopkins. Youth and other forestry “novices” are often given a shovel or other tool and quickly become involved in planting trees or maintaining a trail somewhere on the property.

Soon after Forests Forever’s inception, Terry Wertz brought his Sabin Skill Center vocational forestry students to Hopkins to learn how to do forestry. A 17-acre harvest unit, sometimes referred to as “Margaret’s Unit” swarmed with some 200 young volunteers and woodland owners in 1992. Many trees planted on that hillside are now approaching 50 feet tall, and have been pruned by other volunteers in recent years. Participation in forestry activities by the larger community has grown each year for two decades.

Eight specific “demonstrations” showcase different forestry approaches: thinning and pruning, wildfire prevention, uneven-age management, poles, bough material, red alder and more. A five-mile network of trails and roads connects all corners of the 140-



Tim DeLano teaching students in the field



acre property allowing access to the varied habitats by a curious public. In all cases volunteers, many of them young people, helped shape the forest and build the facilities on the property. Hopkins is a place where woodland owners can learn what they need to know and pass on their skills and knowledge to others—they learn by sharing.

For some youth, their forestry experience at Hopkins is their first paying job. In other cases, former students are teaching others how to plant trees. High school interns, Boy Scouts, and youth crews are taking leadership roles for a variety of projects.

DeLano recalls, “I have visited with several young people who return to Hopkins to see how the forest is growing, or to show a friend a project they worked on. When this happens, I know the impact of the experience remains valuable to that individual. I think important life lessons are learned in the process of completing the forestry or facility chores.” The forest grows more than trees. People grow, too, in their knowledge and understanding. And, these are the people who will lead us in the future.

Building an education program that becomes self-perpetuating (sustainable) takes time. Future leaders are always being recruited, trained and mentored as an integral



Sabin High School youth lighting a burn pile



Students netting bugs at Hopkins

element of education programs at Hopkins. It’s more than service...its learning. DeLano concludes, “Through our experiences the past two decades it has become even clearer that hands-on, with real tools in a real forest, doing real forestry is the best way to learn forestry.”

Tim DeLano is the Community Forestry Educator at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. DeLano is a faculty member of the OSU Extension Service in Clackamas County. Funding for the Educator position comes from FFI’s Education Consortium. Tim first visited Hopkins in 1993 when he came to work in the Portland metro area training teachers to include forestry among their classroom lessons. Since 2003 he has worked full time, stationed at the Hopkins property. Tim is responsible for forestry education and outreach to the community.

Teachers

BY JIM KADERA

Gerilyn Howard was the first teacher to introduce her students to the natural wonders of Hopkins Demonstration Forest in the early 1990s.

David Scharfenberg discovered Hopkins just four years ago and has found new ways to lead his pupils into learning about woodland ecology and even developing their own schools' mini forest. Both teachers say Hopkins has become a valuable source fostering growth for their classes.

Howard learned about Hopkins from Tim Delano at a teacher training session in 1993. The next year she began busing eighth graders from Binnsmead Middle School (now Harrison Park School) in Southeast Portland to the tree farm for day-long learning sessions, once each in the fall and spring. That continued until last school year when budget woes canceled the trips.

"Last year most of the seniors who won science awards at Benson High School were my former students," Howard said. "I was pleasantly surprised to see I knew so many names on the list."

Seedlings planted several years ago by some of the students "have outgrown the kids and now look like part of a forest," she said. Visits in recent years included studying causes of soil erosion and the problems of invasive species.

"It's what kids remember when asked what they did in middle school science," Howard said. "It's well worth the time and effort to give them on-site learning. It really piques their interest and opens new windows for them to look out of."

In the summer of 2006, Scharfenberg participated in the *Teachers On Summer Assignment* program sponsored by Oregon Forest Resources Institute. He returned the



Exploring the forest—students on a field trip at Hopkins



A student points out deer antler rub on an alder tree



Surveying wildlife from a pond-side blind

last three summers to learn more. Rather than take his classes from Pleasant Valley School in Centennial School District to Hopkins, Scharfenberg transferred his forestry

knowledge to sixth graders and, in turn, to the land around the school.

"I talked to Mike Bondi and teachers my first summer about the value of kids seeing how a forest ecosystem works," he said. "We had seven fallow acres at the school and we got the school board to approve planting trees there. We had to make a commitment to stay with it and not quit. We split the work into manageable planting chunks so we didn't try to do too much at one time." The idea of a demonstration forest—now created in

a new location.

Most of the planting was completed in two years. A hedge row goes in this fall to promote pollination of native plants that are part of the new ecosystem. Putting water-loving plants in a 15-foot swale has routed storm runoff through a wetland and reduced flooding potential along a nearby creek, he said. Also, a board-walk trail to avoid soil compaction might be built.


"My principal reminds me that my first job is teaching children rather than habitat restoration," Scharfenberg emphasized. To get school board approval, "we promised that kids would learn how to solicit donations of seedlings or to buy protective clothing to wear while working on projects."

Besides learning to read articles on various ecosystems, students have mastered fund raising. At a time when budget cuts are constraining Oregon public schools, Scharfenberg's classes have raised almost \$40,000 through grant applications and other means to develop and manage their mini-forest. Corporate donors include Starbucks and Home Depot. Public helpers include City of Gresham and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Meanwhile, Howard worries there is no money for busing and a classroom substitute teacher so she can resume outdoor science class trips to Hopkins in the new school year.



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We Can All Help Raise the Classroom!

BY MIKE BONDI

The construction of the new Forestry and Natural Resources education building at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest is well-underway. During 2009 all site preparation was done, the foundation was poured and all utilities and infra-structure completed. Since this past June 1 the building's floor, all walls, roof trusses and sheathing is now in place. And, the porch and fireplace are going in next.

There is still lots to do—roofing, siding, windows, decking and all the interior work. The push is on to “button up” the building before winter.

Fund raising is in full-swing, too. We still need to raise about \$100,000 to complete the project.



You can help by volunteering to complete the construction phase of this project. We will work as long as the money holds out. Your labor, your skills and your desire will make this project a success.

Financial, building material and

service contributions are all needed, too. Our goal is to open the education building by March,

2011. Let's make it happen!

Contact Forests Forever, Inc. Executive Director, Ken Everett, to volunteer or to make a contribution. Ken's phone is 503-655-5524 and his email is ken@mapforesters.com.

Education Consortium

The Forests Forever Education Consortium is a partnership of donors committed to ongoing financial support of education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. We want to thank and recognize these important contributors.

Clackamas County Government—Title III (2003-2008)

Clem and Phyllis Hunter (2003-present)

Oregon Forest Resources Institute (2004-present)

Walker Family Foundation (2004-present)

Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association (2004-present)

Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation (2004-2006)

Connie Battaile (2004)

Blount Inc.—Oregon Cutting Systems (2004)

A.J. Frank Family Foundation (2005-present)

Port Blakely Tree Farms, Ltd. (2005-2006 and 2010-present)

James and Nancy Tedrow (2005)

Belton Family LLC (2005 and 2008)

Freres Lumber Company (2006-present)

RSG Forest Products (2006-present)

Starker Forests, Inc. (2006-present)

Safeway Corporation (2007)

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Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation (2008-present)

The Campbell Group LLC (2008-present)

Beneficial Financial Corporation (2008)

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Clackamas County Extension Service District (2009-present)

Katherine Bisbee Foundation/Oregon Community Fund (2009-present)

Longview Timberlands Corp (2010-present)