



Grouse Hollow News

SPRING 2014



Hopkins Forest Education Program Renewed

BY GLENN AHRENS

Forests Forever has found a new Hopkins Forest Educator, just in time for tree planting season. FFI has contracted with Peter Matzka to run the education program through June 30, 2014.

Peter has extensive experience in forestry and forest engineering as both a practitioner and a teacher. His qualifications include a B.S. and M.S in Forest Engineering, a PhD in Harvesting (all from Oregon State University), and work experience as an Instructor, Assistant Professor of Forest Operations, Forest Educator, a practicing Logging and Roads Engineer, and seasonal wildland firefighter. Although Peter has a strong background in practical forest engineering, he has found his passion in pursuit of forestry education.

After years of teaching and practicing forest engineering in Humboldt County, California (2001-2007), Peter and his wife Jenny found that they were drawn to return to Oregon and they moved back to Silverton in 2007. "It was a family decision to move back



PHOTO: GLENN AHRENS

Peter leading one of his first school groups visiting Hopkins in February—students from the Sabin-Schellenberg Center in Milwaukie.

to Oregon and live in a community we loved rather than just move to the next job location." Peter, Jenny, 4-year-old daughter Arianne, and soon to arrive son, Will, made the move to his wife's home town of Silverton and their jobs just fell into place.

For the last six years Peter has been working on forestry education programs for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), including K-12 programs at the *Rediscovery Forest* at the Oregon Garden and the *Careers in Forestry* program in High Schools across Oregon.

The new direction at Hopkins Forest happened to coincide with changes in the *Careers* program for OFRI, providing some flexibility for Peter to take on the Hopkins Forest Educator duties as

a contractor. Peter comes highly recommended and all indications are that this will be a great fit for Peter and for FFI. "The Transition from OFRI to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest is an exciting chapter to my career in public education. Early on, I knew I wanted a different career path in forestry and the research and educational aspects were always a huge interest of mine. Making connections with the public and professionals in forestry (of any age) is exciting and rewarding. Whether it is a 10-year olds' first time out in the forest, a high school student aspiring to enter Oregon's forest sector workforce, or seasoned landowners and professionals in forestry or teaching, each group offer unique experi-

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Roads Get Extreme Make-Over

BY JIM KADERA

In the final days of 2013, 41 truck-loads of crushed rock totaling 640 tons were spread over three roads at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. It was one of the biggest road improvements in the non-profit woodlands acquired in 1990 by Forests Forever Inc.



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Grouse Hollow News

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"When we acquired the property, there was one road now called Grouse Hollow Road. Over the next several years we improved the road by applying a new coat of rock, and we developed more than a mile of old log skid trails into drivable dirt roads," explained Ken Everett, Forests Forever Executive Director.

"Improving our roads is a good way to show how to properly maintain forest roads, and demonstrate to the public the correct ways to control water and erosion," he emphasized.

Fortunately for Hopkins, two FFI Board Members are veterans at planning and managing road work. Dave Hill is a woodland owner who retired as city engineer for Portland. Mary Castle is a forest roads engineer for Weyerhaeuser Co. They planned the recent improvement, and are putting together the first long-term road development and maintenance plan for Hopkins.

At just over one mile long, Grouse Hollow remains the main route running through the forest, and it received most of the rock in December. Short stretches of Low Gear and Up Creek roads most in need also were rocked.

"We haven't been paying enough attention to the roads," Hill said. "I was the first engineer on the board, and I saw no strategic plan for taking care of them." Now he and Castle are working

on a five-year plan they will offer this spring for board approval.

The proposed plan will include improvement of Low Gear and Up Creek roads, which now can't handle traffic in Oregon's long wet season. "We'll try to improve them to a higher standard for fire control and increased access to the classes that visit during the school year," Hill explained.

"We'll develop a list of projects and estimate costs like we did in Portland. It doesn't mean in five years we'll get it all done."

About two thirds of the Hopkins routes totaling just over three miles are rocked. One of the challenges will be what to do with a mile of unrocked primitive skid trails available only in dry months.

Hill said right-of-way clearing and culverts will be needed besides more rock to bring roads up to higher standards.

The December job was financed by an \$8,900 federal grant from the National Resource Conservation Service. Another grant of about \$5800 is available this year to put in seven or eight of 12 needed culverts and improve ditches to control storm runoff, he said.

Hill and Castle will suggest that Hopkins keep a stockpile of rock to fill small potholes before they become a problem. "An engineer always thinks about maintenance after building it," Hill said.

Education Consortium—partners in learning

In 2004 Forests Forever, Inc. formed an Education Consortium to provide funding support for our education program at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The Consortium's goal each year is to raise about \$100,000 to fund a full-time forest educator and provide teaching support for supplies and materials. Listed below are the 2013 Education Consortium contributors. Thank you for your support!

Clackamas County Extension and
4-H Service District

Oregon Forest Resources Institute

RSG Forest Products

Key Bank Foundation

Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation

Port Blakely Tree Farms, Ltd.

A.J. Frank Family Foundation

Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association

The Giustina Foundation

Walker Family Foundation

Beaver Creek Lions Club

Clackamas County Master Gardeners

Improvement Projects Coming

BY JIM KADERA

Visitors to Hopkins this year will find improvements just outside and near Forest Hall.

“Our main project is to complete the stone patio behind the building,” said Ken Everett, Forests Forever Executive Director. “We’re creating a beautiful place to enjoy the view of the valley, and more usable space for groups renting Forest Hall.”

Weyerhaeuser Co. is providing the flat stone from a rock pit near Molalla, he noted, and “One of our forest hosts, Marcelino Maceda, volunteered to fit and lay the stone.”

Another important project, he said, is to improve lighting of the main parking lot near the hall. The facility management committee researched options, and decided to convert mercury vapor lights to more efficient and cost effective LEDs. Private donations paid for the upgrade.

Everett also wants to complete a small cabin and other work so the historic fire lookout tower erected two years ago can be available for public visits, but there is no target date for



PHOTO: MIKE BONDI

completion. Funding is still being raised for this project.

Meanwhile, several members of the OSU Master Gardeners Clackamas chapter will continue their volunteer efforts this year to maintain and improve a native plants garden near Hopkins Hall. The volunteers in 2009 began creating the garden with more than 70 native plant species, including some transplanted from Hopkins Forest sites. Many are drought resistant, but some need summer irrigation.

With help from three local businesses, the gardeners last year installed part of an irrigation system at cost of about \$1,500. Lacking money for drip irrigation lines, oscillating sprinklers were

used until additional funds could be raised. Drip lines will be installed this year if enough money is raised at a Tree School native plant sale and from other sources, according to Carol Koshkarian, Project Coordinator for the Master Gardeners.

Fernando Espinosa, owner of Custom Yard Construction, donated design and labor for the irrigation work done last year. Ewing Irrigation discounted price of materials. Hunter Industries contributed a programmable timer to automatically control the watering schedule.

The garden also will see more plantings this year. “The garden is always a work in progress,” Koshkarian said.



PHOTO: MIKE BONDI

A crew digging the irrigation lines in the native plant landscape at Hopkins Hall.

Recruiting Now for 2014 Friends

BY MIKE BONDI

Campaign 2014 is now underway for the Friends of Hopkins. This year’s goal is to raise \$10,000 in cash contributions to fund improvement projects at the demonstration forest. Since the campaign opened just before Thanksgiving, campaign donations have topped \$8,500. With this winter’s response, maybe we should re-set our target to \$12,000!

“We feel great about this year’s response,” said Mike Bondi, Forests Forever’s Chairman of the Board of Directors. “Our Friends include a wide array of individuals, businesses and

organizations who share our vision for what a special place the Hopkins Demonstration Forest is and the work we do.”

Friends contributions are utilized to make priority facility and program upgrades—addressing needs outside the normal budget for the forest. Friends are recognized in FFI’s *Grouse Hollow News* each year. Contributions begin at \$25. All contributions are welcome and can be tax deductible.

Join the Friends of Hopkins by contacting the Forests Forever, Inc. office at 503-655-5524.

Forest Education Program Renewed continued from front page

ences and learning opportunities for them and me, it's what makes the job fun."

"While only in my first month, I see the immense opportunities out at Hopkins to engage these various audiences, and given the forest structure and facilities available, the educational experiences seem endless. Hopkins has a good visitor base and I look forward to getting to know those groups and find ways to expand and grow them as well and find others. In addition, teacher education is a high priority of mine and it is a goal to make Hopkins a leader in Oregon's teacher

education efforts."

Peter will be at Hopkins Forest Tuesdays through Thursday and for Community Forestry Days. He is also teaching a course in Forest Operations at the OSU College of Forestry on Mondays and Fridays.

Priorities for Hopkins education programs this spring will include youth and public education events appropriate for the season, woodland owner events, and community work days. And also renewed effort on updating demonstration projects with volunteers and planning for a Teachers in the Woods program for

summer 2014. At the same time that Peter is helping implement the programs as a contractor this spring, the Education Committee for Forests Forever will be finishing up the longer-term plan for the position. The goal is to hire a new permanent Hopkins Forest Educator employee in July 2014.

Hopkins Uneven Aged Management Stand in the Snow

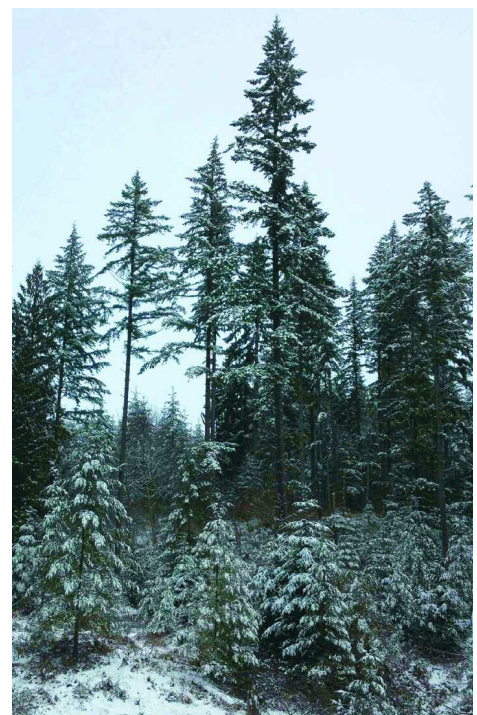


PHOTO: GLENN AHRENS

Calendar

Community Forestry Work Days, 2nd Saturdays each month. Work Days begin at 8:30 am and we usually put tools away by 4:00 pm. Lunch is part of the deal. If you want to join us, please call 503-655-8631 or email jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu by the Thursday prior to the CFD date to help with project and meal planning.

March 8, Community Forestry Day focusing on brush and slash treatment, planting spot preparation, and planting western redcedar and Douglas-fir in selectively harvested areas.


March 22, Tree School, Clackamas Community College.

April 12, Community Forestry Day focusing on spring cleaning around facilities, grounds, gardens, and trails.

May 10, Community Forestry Day focusing on trails, signage, and setting up the canopy for field days.

May 17, Forest Wildlife Management Field Day for woodland owners.

Mark Your Calendar Now...back by popular demand: October 4-5, 2014 Forest of Arts

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