



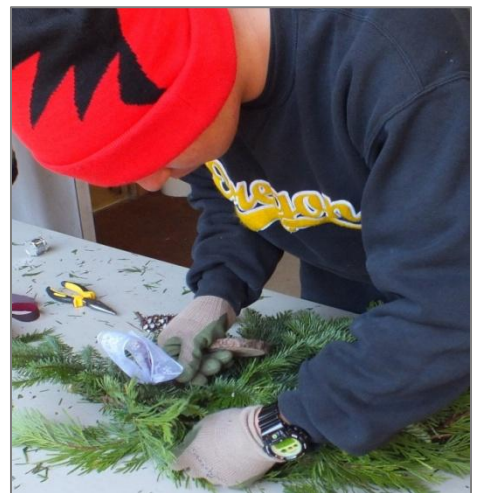
## 2012 Annual Report



## Education Programs and Volunteer Activities



## Hopkins Demonstration Forest







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## *Dear Friends and Supporters,*

I am pleased to present our 2012 annual report of accomplishments by education and outreach staff at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. This report summarizes key accomplishments of staff funded through our *Education Consortium*. The community comes to hike and enjoy the forest, volunteer to help with various projects or learn new skills in a workshop. Hopkins Demonstration Forest was full of children learning through play, field studies, sampling natural resource careers, constructing trails, and planting trees.

The businesses and organizations that comprise our *Education Consortium* have continued to support the educational and volunteer programs at Hopkins throughout the current economic cycle. Without these dedicated funders the activities described in this report could not occur.

I anticipate many changes and new opportunities in 2013. Please join us.

Ken Everett  
Executive Director

## *The Organization*

Forests Forever is served by an all-volunteer board of directors: twelve individuals who collectively invested more than 2,000 hours last year to help move the organization forward. Beyond the boardroom, members assisted with community outreach, education programs, resource management, and mentoring volunteers from the community. Board members wrote stories for our newsletter, helped keep our finances in order, and secured funding to support programs. Forests Forever board members exemplify how we get things done at Hopkins Demonstration Forest—it's a community effort!

What began in 1990 with a gift of forested land from the Howard and Margaret Hopkins family, and their desire to have it used for education and enjoyment by the community, is realized daily at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. A dedicated all-volunteer board of directors guides the operations and activities with a purpose in mind, *to promote science-based education that enhances the understanding of, and appreciation for the complexities and benefits of woodland management.*

Education and community programming at Hopkins Demonstration Forest is underwritten by generous funding partners that provide a base of support, allowing value and benefit to occur. The programs, collaborations, and volunteerism described in this report result from the investments of our *Education Consortium*.

**During 2012, consortium members invested \$103,500, which led to \$182,000 value of in-kind partnerships and volunteer contributions, and another \$18,000 additional funding to support programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.**

Education and volunteer programs occurring in 2012 were primarily coordinated and most often conducted by Oregon State University Extension Service faculty. In conjunction with our partners for 2012 - WolfTree Inc., Portland State University, OSU Master Gardeners™, Clackamas Community College, and Trackers Earth - more than 5,700 people were involved in *learning by doing* at Hopkins during the year. Our collaboration is realization of the mission of Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI) at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

The single-most distinguishing characteristic to education and community programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest is the direct engagement with forest resources in authentic situations. We put real tools in the hands of real people who learn by doing with real things, in a family-forest atmosphere. This report on 2012 education and community activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest features the month by month connections between community and the forest. Please enjoy this report and join us in 2013!

## THANK YOU DONORS

### 2012 Contributors

OSU/Clackamas County  
Extension

Oregon Forest Resources  
Institute

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Port Blakely Tree Farm

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Clackamas County Farm  
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# JANUARY

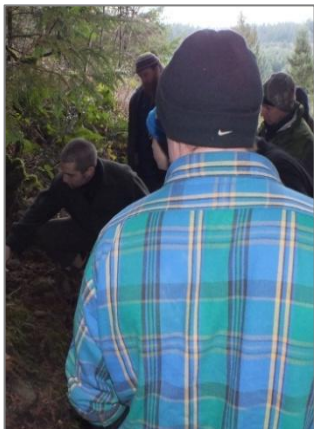
**Community Forestry Days** (CFDs) occur the second Saturday each month, year-round. The



Boy Scouts hanging bird nesting boxes.

community is invited to Hopkins to share in the variety of seasonal tasks common to family-owned woodlands. Most CFDs bring a mix of local families, youth groups and other volunteers from the community. Forests Forever board members and a few woodland

owners from the area provide project leadership and share their expertise. Community Forestry Days are about *learning by doing* in the course of completing important forestry tasks. 2012 began with a good example of what can happen at Hopkins when the community comes together on Community Forestry Day.



Going Bear tracking workshop

A morning wildlife tracking workshop “Going Bear” led by Trackers Earth founder Tony Dies took guests on a field excursion to learn about a black bear that uses Hopkins as part of its customary roaming.

Many other wildlife activities were observed

during a couple hours foray for tracks, scat and other signs.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, a Boy Scout led a brief workshop in the afternoon on constructing bird nest boxes. Three different styles of boxes were constructed in the shop, and then hung in the forest to provide nesting opportunities for songbirds, wood ducks and owls.



Eagle Scout project constructing nesting boxes.

**Community Forestry Days** in 2012 involved 162 volunteers at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, resulting in 787 hours of service. CFD volunteers maintained trails, planted trees, controlled weeds and reduced erosion, piled and burned or chipped slash, improved wildlife habitat, installed new landscape features, and repaired buildings and equipment.

# FEBRUARY

**Tours** are commonly requested, and are frequently presented in participatory style. Similar to education programs, tours provide forest guests direct access to the resource - a hands-on experience.

One memorable tour in 2012 was presented for attendees of the National Tree Farm System State Leadership Conference being held in Portland in mid-February. By request, the tour focused on how education programs and volunteers are involved in the actual resource management at Hopkins.

The culminating stop of the tour included tree planting in conjunction with a group of high school volunteers. The tree farmers were asked to share their expertise in reforestation and mentor the youth in tree planting techniques. In that process all the talk at a few previous stops on the tour became very real, highlighting the Hopkins model of community forestry - *learn by doing*.



*Tree planting at Hopkins.*

**Twenty-four tours included 427 participants and featured various aspects of Hopkins Demonstration Forest during 2012.** Thirteen tours for general public and special groups included 143 people. The other 11 tours for schools involved 312 students. Tour topics

ranged from plant knowledge and wildlife, to project planning and review, and “how we do it” tours, in the context of active sustainable forestry at Hopkins.

## **MARCH**

**Tree School** is a full day of courses, field tours, demonstrations, exhibits, vendors, and visiting with friends. Tree School is an important annual educational event that FFI is a key partner and beneficiary. The event provides valuable content and experiences for woodland owners and those interested in a wide range of forest and tree topics. The exhibit hall is a mini-mall of forestry tools, information, and services for the small woodland owner. FFI raises some funds and makes connections with the forestry community for potential volunteers and services.

While most Tree School activities occurred on the Clackamas Community College (CCC) campus, Hopkins was one of five field sites used for classes in 2012. FFI board members Mary Castle and Dave Hill (both engineers) shared their expertise in a Woodland Roads Workshop.



*Woodlands Roads Workshop at Hopkins for Tree School 2012.*

The same field gear used by hundreds of young students at Hopkins during our forest science programs was used for a forest measurements lab at Tree School. Over 600 people attended one or more of 68 classes held on the CCC campus.



*Forest measurement lab at Tree School 2012.*

A table display featuring Hopkins Demonstration Forest was one of 55 exhibitors at Tree School. In total, at least 750 people participated in some way. It remains the largest one-day educational event focused on forestry in the state.



*Lunchtime at Tree School 2012.*

**Forest owners** and those who work for and with them are an important audience that Tree School attempts to serve. Tree School is likewise important for Forests Forever, in that our relationships in the forestry community often include volunteers sharing their skills, and donations that support the many education programs described in this report. Thank you.

## APRIL

**Outreach activities** most often occur off-site, to put Hopkins Demonstration Forest in front of new audiences, while remaining in touch with familiar friends. Outreach is a year-round mix of networking



*School tour at Hopkins in April.*

through chambers of commerce and other community groups, writing articles for newsletters and local newspapers, and hosting a display table at a variety of community events. Sometimes exceptional opportunities for outreach are presented. Oregon Forest Resources Institute, working in cooperation with local television broadcaster KPTV Channel 12 Portland, filmed a school tour at Hopkins. The school activity was used as the visual element to help illustrate features on how Oregon's forestry laws are designed to ensure reforestation and protect wildlife habitat and water quality. The three-minute segment can be viewed on YouTube at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u87S7n\\_5XJg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u87S7n_5XJg).

Backyard Bash is a community event organized by Beaver Creek Telephone Cooperative in



Hopkins educational display at Backyard Bash.

support of local non-profits that serve the community. In 2012 Hopkins was an exhibitor and beneficiary. It was a great

family-oriented community event. An estimated 800 people enjoyed music and other entertainment by local performers, exhibits, a food court, kids fun zone, silent auction, raffle and bingo games.

**Outreach activities** in 2012 included over 40 networking activities, and another dozen public events. In total an estimated 4,600 contacts were made in the community.

## MAY

**School programs** filled the forest with sounds of children - excited, learning...and exhausted on the walk uphill to their bus at the end of the day.

Programming in 2012 for schools at Hopkins



Science in the Forest program at Hopkins.

exceeded all past annual totals. The most popular programs in 2012 based on

requests (30) and number of students served (841) were forest sciences. Premiere among field science programs was *Science in the Forest*, provided in partnership with WolfTree Inc., with much assistance from Portland State University students. In this program, volunteer mentors work with small groups of students in hands-on exploratory field science teams, investigating ecologic questions of the students' design.

Service-learning activities put tools in the hands of students who learn in the process of completing some basic forestry tasks such as tree



One of the service-learning activities.

planting, pruning or slash piling. These activities provide authentic contexts to learn about forest ecology, tree biology, and fire behavior. A baker's-dozen classes came to Hopkins for 212 students to have service-learning experiences. Tours for 11 school groups led 312 students on guided walks in the woods. Tours focused on tree identification and forest management at Hopkins. Tours even put students in contact with the forest. There is no such thing as a "look and learn" tour. All tours require participation and are presented to extend lessons from the classroom.



During 2012, most classes visiting Hopkins also received a classroom visit by staff or a program partner/volunteer prior to field studies, and often follow-up support after the Hopkins visit. 726 students in 35 classrooms benefitted from these extra sessions.



*Hopkins classroom visit by program volunteer.*

**One of our students in 2012 wrote ...**“When we arrived at the Hopkins Forest it was rainy and it seemed like we were in for a pretty dreadful day, but it wound up the exact opposite. Everyone had a great time: we were always in motion doing a number of different things people do, who work in forestry.”

## **JUNE**

**Teachers in Woods (TIW)** program aims to provide teachers an authentic, in-depth forestry experience as a context for their developing classroom activities and other curriculum connections. As soon as school closed to students in June, Hopkins opened for three local teachers. The participants completed their five-week program with grand plans and motivation to introduce their students to forestry, including visits to Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

The unique nature of TIW is best described in excerpts from one teacher’s reflective evaluation: “This program turned out to be much more than I anticipated...the curriculum piece was my biggest draw to the program. My mindset was, ‘we have a job to do in the forest, expectations that needed to be met, so let’s get out and get it done;’ however, that was not what happened.

“The route we took was different than I have ever experienced. I did not expect to discover the forest on my own terms, become comfortable walking in the woods by myself; and I found a new lens to teach my students about the subjects that are close to my heart.



*Teacher in the Woods 2012 program at Hopkins.*

“I appreciated the ease that we moved through the process of learning about the woods and it has reminded me that teachers are perpetual students. We have to keep learning, and put ourselves into the place of our students, and look at the world through their eyes. I don’t know when I have ever allowed myself the opportunity to get on the ground and watch a slug eat a cherry or to notice a fungi and appreciate its complexity and beauty.”

**Teacher workshops**, planning tours and meetings, and training programs for volunteers who supported education programs in 2012 prepared 37 educators to support and better connect classroom curriculum with forest sciences.

## JULY

**Forest Hall** was dedicated in July and first opened for community use in summer 2012! A dedication event brought around 120 donors,



*Forest Hall dedication.*

dignitaries, contractors and others with a role in the project to celebrate.

After five years of fund-raising and construction a new facility is available at Hopkins Demonstration Forest – Forest Hall. With a large meeting room, catering kitchen, modern plumbing, and electronic media, Forest Hall complements existing outdoor facilities to support a variety of opportunities for more groups to enjoy the forest and learn at Hopkins.

It's an annual tradition for chambers to join in celebration at Hopkins during a warm summer evening in July. Two years after many chamber members helped push up the east wall of Forest Hall and stood among construction debris, many

returned to a finished Forest Hall in 2012 to recognize the accomplishment.



*Forest Hall dedication 2012.*

**Summer Camp:** Trackers Northwest is one of the program partners at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Summer camp programs brought over 1,000 children to explore forest resources, ecology and sustainability through role-playing, storytelling and nature craft.

Other day camps from local community centers, churches and youth clubs use Hopkins forest during school breaks. Another 900 children benefitted from the direct access to the forest. The value of a place so close to town like that little woodland nearby in decades past where children played freely all day, is hard to measure. But if you listen to the children in the forest, you will know the value of such a place is priceless.



*A day of summer camp at Hopkins.*

## AUGUST

**Workforce Development** opportunities are provided for youth and young adults at Hopkins. The youth are enrolled through a variety of other agencies and programs. The recruitment, supervision, and any remuneration for labor, if provided, is the responsibility of our third-party partners. Whether paid, volunteer, or done as community service, much of the forestry work at Hopkins is accomplished in the process of young people practicing basic work habits that are relevant to all employers and the community: arriving on time, ready, willing and able to work.

During 2012, Parrott Creek Ranch clients served as the Hopkins trail crew, completing basic maintenance on over one mile of trail, and focusing on a couple drainage problems that required special attention. It was the fifth year that Parrott Creek youth have joined the Hopkins community on a regular schedule during summer. The experience was an opportunity to work and learn outdoors, and accomplish tasks that are appreciated by the community. In 18 days, with an average of 10 participants per day, the crew put in 366 total work-hours.



*Trail work with Parrot Creek Ranch clients.*

Organizations, the Boy Scouts, and agencies serving at risk youth often request service opportunities for their clients at Hopkins. This is when the Forests Forever mission also serves a larger purpose in the community. In the process of accomplishing many of the essential tasks at Hopkins: tree planting; weed control; erosion control; trail maintenance; pruning; slash disposal; event support; education program support and facility cleaning, the youth participants complete an important part of their development. The young people learn and practice important life skills for success. Who else might we turn to someday to be leaders in our forests and community if our youth do not grow up capable?



*Life skills are taught at Hopkins.*

## SEPTEMBER

**Harvesting timber** from the Uneven-age Management Demonstration was completed in September. It was the largest thinning project conducted at Hopkins Demonstration Forest: 170,000 board feet of mostly 60 to 70-year-old Douglas fir was removed from this forest management project begun in 1996 on 15 acres.

During harvest, part of the forest was closed for safety. Many guests were curious and wanted a closer look. A public tour of the uneven-age thinning project included a visit to a local mill which had purchased some of the logs and drew nine people for an up-close view.



*Public tour of the thinning project.*

A series of exhibits were produced and will soon be installed around the Uneven-age Management Demonstration to help interpret this alternative forestry technique.

**A favorite place ...** Hopkins Demonstration Forest is open daylight hours, seven days per week, year-round. The staff's best guess is that more than 2,000 people annually visit the 140-acre woodland only fifteen minutes from the closest freeway.



*View from Forest Hall.*

Hopkins features five miles of walking routes – trails and roads - that crisscross the property and is a very popular place to walk. Exhibits located at various places of interest in the forest help guests understand some of the forestry demonstrations. The visiting community has shown interest in learning and seeing more.

The staff greets many regular guests and seemingly every day someone who is newly introduced to Hopkins. Finding ways to convert these casual guests into volunteers and donors is an ongoing challenge - some have made the leap, others will with additional emphasis.

## ***OCTOBER***

Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association was there in the beginning when Forests Forever was first formed in 1990. The organization for woodland owners has supported Hopkins through the decades, as have many in its members individually. One tradition at Hopkins is for CCFFA to focus on the October Community Forestry Day as specific for their involvement. There are certain forestry tasks where expertise is needed more than novice enthusiasm. On the heels of our uneven-age thinning, CCFFA members fired-up chainsaws to cut slash into manageable lengths for stacking in piles. Those piles were covered until burned in December. The cleared ground will make upcoming tree planting an easier task in the coming season.



*Slash piling on a Community Forestry Day in October 2012.*

Much of this report so far describes learning opportunities for youth. In addition to Tree School field classes held at Hopkins, six other workshops during 2012 served 58 people, both woodland owners and general audiences.

Fall Fungi in the Forest workshop had to be postponed from October into November given



*Fall Fungi in the Forest workshop.*

the late arrival of rain after a long-dry summer. It took a few weeks of ground-soaking rain before the mushrooms popped up. Fungus

forays are popular and provide another way to help people realize additional values and benefits that can be derived from local forests.

## **NOVEMBER**

**This is time to be thankful for all the wonderful volunteers** who give so freely of their time and talent throughout the year. From

Board of Directors to Cub Scouts planting trees, the youth crews who work trails in summer and the college students that make field science programs possible; little is accomplished at Hopkins Demonstration Forest without volunteers.



*Master Gardener working on landscape plan around Forest Hall.*

Among notable accomplishments of volunteers the past few years is the work of OSU Master Gardener™

Volunteers. In 2012 the “MGs” as they are often called, shifted their attention from native plant beds established near Hopkins Hall, to a new landscaping challenge around Forest Hall.

Master Gardeners will continue the development of landscapes around Hopkins facilities. Meanwhile, topsoil was delivered and rocks set in place in front of Forest Hall concluded a busy year. Lead by Carol Koshkarian, a core of dedicated MG’s have planted a beautiful landscape for all to see. Grants have been awarded to purchase landscape materials and irrigation supplies.

The Master Gardener volunteers invite anyone who wants to lend a hand in the garden to join in during the coming year when there will be plenty of projects to go around.

Volunteers make it happen at Hopkins. Little is accomplished without the help of people who share their skills with the community.



Master Gardener working on the landscape in front of Forest Hall.

## DECEMBER

**Deck the Halls** with boughs from Hopkins! Just in time for winter holidays, swag, wreaths and table centers were shared with a supporting community. It's one way to conclude a year in which we turned to our community for their support, attention, and assistance to leave a reminder of fresh cut greens as the old year turns new.



December holiday decorations.

Cutting greens and creating festive holiday decorations, is a popular tradition, second only to tree planting. Tree planting and bringing trees or their parts indoors

during the darkest days of the year are reminders of the forest around us. For those who know, these signs of the season can remind us again of how the mission of Forests Forever is served in many ways throughout the year at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

In this report are descriptions of programs, tallies of participants, and a few expressions of personal connection and value. If the reason why we plant trees is to have forests in the future, then perhaps the best reason to provide forestry education is so there are people who care and can manage those forests for the future.

In early December at the end of the busiest fall season staff has experienced in ten years, a class of students came to Hopkins for their third visit in three years - each building upon the previous visit. A "thank you" letter from one of the students can underscore all the details in this report:

*"Dear Forests Forever,*

*Thank you for the chance to learn and grow at Hopkins. I have had lots of fun when our class went to learn about, plant, and maintain trees. It was always one of the highlights of my year and I will probably remember what I did for the rest of my life. I feel what you guys are doing is great. I believe every kid should have this eye-opening experience."*

8<sup>th</sup>-grade student, St. John Fischer School



*JOHN POPPINO*, one of the Forests Forever Inc. founders, has retired after 22 years on the board of directors.

“John was one of the people who made this place,” said Mike Bondi, another of the founders and the current board chairman. “He was instrumental in everything that happened here, including working with woodland owners, making a 20-acre purchase, managing our first board retreat, and for the last several years leading our consortium (major donors) recruitment. We appreciate all you’ve done over the years,” he told Poppino at the December board session.

Poppino later reflected that program expansion at Hopkins Demonstration Forest exceeded his early projections. “I didn’t see a thousand kids each year coming for environmental education. Use of the forest has far exceeded my expectations, and it’s going in the right direction.”

What did John most enjoy doing at Hopkins? “Forestry work like laying out inventory plots and finding the location of property lines,” he replied.

Poppino became a Hopkins leader after 40 years with the U.S. Forest Service, all in Oregon. He began as a 16-year-old firefighter in 1947 and retired in 1987 from the Forest Service research station in Portland.

Poppino remains an active woodland owner, recently giving a tour of his property to foreign visitors interested in U.S. timber management.

*Thank you John!*

