

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



FORESTS FOREVER, INC.

## Executive Director Message

As we begin a new year at Forests Forever, Inc., it's always nice to take a moment and reflect on the accomplishments and activities of the past year. 2023 was a very busy year as you will be able to tell from the accomplishments listed below.

The doors were opened to the new Belton Outreach Center at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in April culminating a very successful 1½ year construction project. At the same time, Becky Everett came onboard as our Caretaker and Forest Host. Becky is living in the residence portion of the Outreach Center and opens and closes the gate each day and provides security on the tree farm.

New Interpretive panels were installed at Hopkins enabling visitors to read and learn about sustainable forest management, reforestation, wildland fire protection and defensible space, and the importance of ponds and wetlands in the forest while out hiking on the Hopkins property or participating in our education programs.

Peter Matzka, OSU's Extension Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator and our Forest Educator, spent his time working with teachers and thousands of students, again this year, who came to learn about the forest and participate in hands-on service projects in our woods. The number of students and teachers coming to Hopkins returned to pre-COVID levels and the number of visitors and walkers continues to increase each year.

This past fall, a timber harvest selectively removed trees along the stream buffer before the new stream rules took place in January. We also harvested trees on some of the poorly stocked areas located next to the stream buffer which were mostly hardwoods and brush. Another harvest was conducted on our Pedee Woodlands property south of Dallas taking advantage of strong timber markets in 2023.

Our volunteers continue to be an important part of our ability to make improvements, develop new structures, and maintain the facilities at Hopkins. Without these volunteers, many of the opportunities for forestry education and having a beautiful place in the community for people to enjoy the outdoors would not be possible. I want to take this opportunity to thank board members, volunteers, janitorial cleaners, and everyone else who worked tirelessly to keep the Hopkins family vision for education and service alive and continuing this past year.

I am looking forward to more exciting changes that will be coming to Forests Forever in 2024 to enhance our education programs and develop new opportunities to educate students, woodland owners, and the public about the importance of sustainably managing our forests.



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



# Introducing Jessica Westcott—Our Newest Board Member!

Jessica Westcott is the newest member of Forests Forever’s Board of Directors as representative to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).



Jessica is a Stewardship Forester for ODF’s North Cascade District, Molalla Unit. She started her career in forestry in 2018 after graduating from Oregon State

University with a B.S. in Forestry. Jessica was born and raised in Oregon, spending her childhood exploring the forests of the Cascade and Coastal Ranges. Her interest in Oregon’s forests steered her on a career path in natural resources.

After graduating from OSU, she worked as a lab technician at the University, a Northwest Youth Corps Community Crew Leader, and a 4-H Program Outreach Assistant with the OSU

Extension Service in Marion County. In 2019, she began work for the ODF in Tillamook where she worked as a Recreation Technician and Recreation Specialist for 3 seasons. In 2021, Jessica moved to the West Oregon District as a Reforestation Technician and Timber Layout Technician. In August 2022 she was hired as a Reforestation Specialist on the Forest Grove District where she assisted with monitoring regeneration stands and assisting in the preparation and administration of service contracts to support the success of the reforestation unit.

In May 2023, Jessica was promoted to a Stewardship Forester position in the North Cascade District, Molalla Unit, working with landowners and operators to achieve their management goals while following the Forest Practices Act and protecting resources. She is looking forward to being part of the educational opportunities offered to the public at Forests Forever’s various properties and to help everyone in the community better understand natural resource management.

Welcome, Jessica! ▲

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

*Our volunteer Board of Directors has the overall management responsibility for all Forests Forever, Inc. properties plus the legal and fiduciary oversight of the non-profit. The Board meets monthly to conduct business.*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- (Member, Board Since, Representing)**
- Ken Everett**, 1991, Forest Consultant, Executive Director, Colton
- Frank Wille**, 2012, Woodland Owner, Board Chair, Oregon City
- Mike Piazza**, 2007, Business Community, Board Treasurer, West Linn
- Pam Hayden**, 2018, General Public, Board Secretary, Lake Oswego
- Glenn Ahrens**, 2012, OSU Extension Service, Extension Forester, Oregon City
- Mike Bondi**, 1991, General Public, Lake Oswego

- Michael Daly**, 2010, General Public, Lake Oswego
- Mike Haasken**, 2013, General Public, Silverton
- Bob Kahl**, 2014, Woodland Owner, CCFPA Representative, Oregon City
- Tyson Losli**, 2022, Forest Products Industry, Colton
- Ben Smith**, 2022, Forest Products Industry, Molalla
- Jessica Westcott**, 2023, Oregon Department of Forestry, Stewardship Forester, Molalla
- Vacant position**—could this be you?

### STAFF

- Peter Matzka**, OSU Extension Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator
- Don Chase and Mike Haasken**, Special Projects
- 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
- Web:** [www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org)
- FB:** [www.facebook.com/HopkinsDemonstrationForest](https://www.facebook.com/HopkinsDemonstrationForest)
- EDITOR:** Mike Bondi
- CONTRIBUTORS:** Peter Matzka, Glenn Ahrens, Ken Everett, Pam Hayden, Joe Wheeler, Mike Daly, Mike Piazza
- LAYOUT AND DESIGN:** Minten Graphics
- COVER PHOTOS:** 1) Sign by Sarah Cameron; 2) Tapping by Sarah Cameron; 3) Pedee Stream by Sean Burgett; 4) Seedlings by Sarah Cameron; 5) Schink Table by Jenny Matzka

## Help Wanted!

It’s our volunteers who have stepped forward over the past 30+ years to build this amazing organization, known as Forests Forever, Inc., and continue to develop our locations for outdoor education at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Schink Demonstration Forest, and Pedee Woodlands. We are always looking for more community members to join this effort and help us have even greater impacts for youth, teachers, woodland owners, and the public.

In 2024, here’s where you (and/ or your family members, neighbors, friends) could help out. Come join us!

- **Forest Hosts:** We’d like to develop a volunteer Host Program. This includes meeting, greeting, and providing directions or information to visitors coming into the parking lot. We are

...continued on page 9

## Introducing Becky Everett—Our New Caretaker/Host!

Becky Everett is our new Caretaker and Forest Host at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest—starting this assignment last April when the new Belton Outreach Center was opened to the public.



If Becky's last name is familiar, you would be correct. Becky's dad is Ken. And, it's great having Becky on our team. She comes to Hopkins with knowledge of us and our facilities. And, like Ken, Becky is very organized, a "neat freak", and a very hard worker. That apple didn't fall far from the tree!

Becky ensures our entry gate is opened and closed daily. She keeps the grounds picked up, including cleaning of the facilities. Becky enjoys meeting community members that come Hopkins and answering questions they may have. She assists with opening and closing Everett Hall for events and works with Ken and Julie to order needed supplies. Becky lives in the Outreach Center—on the private resident side of the building—with her dog, Jade. Jade has also enjoyed living at Hopkins and has made a number of "dog friends" that she looks forward to seeing regularly.

Becky works full-time at Clackamas Community College as an Administrative Assistant for the Business and Computer Science Department. She has been working in higher education for the past 18 years and loves the mission of Forests Forever and the outreach education that we have at Hopkins—especially seeing all of the youth who come out to learn in our forest.

Be sure to greet Becky when you see her at Hopkins—and thank her for all she does! ▲

## OSU Master Gardeners—Long-time Volunteers Supporting Hopkins!

Local Oregon State University Master Gardeners have been volunteering their time and talents at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest since 2009. The original team of Clackamas Master Gardeners included a dozen volunteers and was the brainchild of Carol Koshkarian (pictured to right), Beaver Creek, who regularly rode her horse, Matlock, through the Hopkins Forest for fun and exercise.

[Note: Prior to 2009, horseback riding was permitted at Hopkins.

This policy was changed due to excessive damage on hiking trails.] The Hopkins setting and Carol's engineering management experience inspired a landscape plan she directed for several years—and still monitors.

The Master Gardeners' first project was to develop a Native Plant Display Garden adjacent to Hopkins Hall. Over the years, plantings were established, identification tags added, walking paths developed, and drip irrigation installed. Once established and mature, the Native Plant Garden has required less maintenance. A new information kiosk was erected in the Display Garden area this past year. During 2024, educational information will be added to include highlighting seasonal plants of interest.

After Everett Hall was opened in 2012, the Clackamas Master Gardeners shifted attention to landscaping around the front of this building. Again, native plants have been the primary theme. Today, the Master Gardeners volunteers meet monthly at Hopkins to



Original Master Gardener team members included our own Mike Daly, Board Member, and Marianne Kahl, wife of Board member Bob Kahl—both on left in top photo.



continue their amazing work, restoring plantings as needed, and doing on-going maintenance at Everett and at Hopkins Halls. Our 2023 volunteers managing both the Hopkins Hall and Everett Hall landscape projects included:

- Taressa Barowski
- Janna Christensen\*
- Jane Collier\*
- Mike Collier
- Karen Day\*
- Marianne Kahl\*
- Ulrike Lindner
- Tami Nolan
- Laura Oldenkamp\*
- Leslee Strubel
- Frank Wille\*

All of us at Forests Forever sincerely thank the OSU Master Gardeners who have provided their dedicated service over the years. Your work has been a huge asset to our programs and facilities! ▲

\* indicates Master Gardeners volunteering since 2009



# EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY

## Landowner Education Follows Forest Management at Hopkins

Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester—Clackamas, Marion, Hood River Counties

Major forest management activities at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest during 2023 included significant logging in anticipation of changing streamside protection regulations, clearing and replanting ice-damaged patches from the previous winter’s storms, salvaging dying western redcedars, and converting a patch of a hardwood-dominated hillside. Much of this work was done with the able assistance of forest contractors (Randy Stone, Bruce Norgren, and Derek Craven) hired for these jobs.

Our forestry workforce capacity at Hopkins was beefed up thanks to the “Monday Mikes” (Board Members Bondi, Haasken, and Piazza). This group stepped up on many Monday’s in 2023 to keep up with tasks such as finding and marking trees to cut, controlling blackberries and poison oak, protecting young seedlings from animals,

burning piles, trail maintenance, and a variety of other tree farm chores. Later in the year, other volunteers joined the fun on Mondays to focus on forest management needs (Mark Triebwasser and Barry Bradie)

Landowner education events were planned to take advantage of this active forest management—one of our original purposes of the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Tree planting field days, mastication demonstrations, and the range of seasonal tasks covered in the Basic Woodland Management course used Hopkins to “Learn By Doing” in 2023. ▲



## Tapping into Something Sweet

In response to an increasing regional interest in bigleaf maple sugaring, FFI and the statewide OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program, established our own bigleaf maple sap collection site (aka, sugar bush) with 50 maple trees at Hopkins. “Sugaring” is an important forestry product in the Northeastern U.S. and Canada, but has never been a commercial-scale industry in the PNW. But, native bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) does produce enough sap to make syrup—and new technologies are stimulating interest in our region of the country.

“Sugaring, today, is not like the old days in the Northeast,” said Peter Matza, OSU Extension Forestry



PHOTO BY GLENN AHRENS

Program Outreach Coordinator at Hopkins. “Wooden tree taps and open-air buckets are out. Now, we have a sterile, closed system of plastic tubing suspended on high tension wires that go tree to tree and carry the tree sap to a filling station. It’s high-tech and designed to maximize production while keeping everything sanitary. An onsite reverse osmosis process and reduction vessel are used to create the sugar concentrate or syrup from the sap.”

In its first season, 32 of the maple trees were tapped in the Hopkins Sugar Bush during 2023. Over 150 gallons of sap were collected to produce about 2 gallons of syrup—with hundreds of visitors of all ages having the chance to witness the process of bigleaf maple sugaring.

During 2024 we hope to refine the production process and increase our education to woodland owners and the public about this forest product at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. ▲

PHOTOS BY SARAH CAMERON

# Youth and Public Outreach and Engagement

*Peter Matzka, OSU Extension Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator*

**F**orests Forever, Inc. has partnered with Oregon State University Extension in Clackamas County for the past 33 years to deliver outdoor youth forestry and natural resource programs in a place where “growing and learning go hand-in-hand”. Over that time, OSU’s programs have grown and evolved to meet FFI’s mission and the changing needs of student groups, curriculum requirements, and the forest community.



PHOTOS BY PETER MATZKA

With numbers returning to and surpassing historic highs prior to COVID, FFI’s properties (Hopkins, Schink, and Pedee) have seen not only an increase in number of users, but new learner groups—like home school and online school networks—are coming to us to

access our programs. Also, we are seeing a general increase in public visitors each year at Hopkins.

Students learn about their local forests, management practices, and history while also gain an understanding of the interconnectedness of ecosystems that instills a sense of responsibility for the natural world in a living laboratory that prioritizes experiential learning. Whether it is identifying tree species, tracking wildlife, focusing on timber harvesting, or participating in forest restoration, these hands-on experiences leave a lasting impact—and really not available at other places in the Portland area and Willamette Valley.

For high school career technical education students, these programs serve as a stepping-stone toward a career in



forestry, environmental science, or conservation. By exposing young minds to various aspects of these fields, the forest experience helps them make informed decisions about their future education and career paths.

In 2023, over 7,000 youth (plus their adult teachers, leaders and chaperones) visited the Hopkins and Schink Demonstration Forests and our Pedee Woodlands through directed educational programming. In addition to our youth programs, monthly

Community Forest Days, and Chartered BSA (boys and girls) Scouting Troops, and the public’s use at Hopkins, we approached as many as 15,000 visitors last year exploring the forest, studying the various interpretation kiosks and observing our numerous management and demonstration areas. ▲

## Tree School at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

*Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester—Clackamas, Marion, Hood River Counties*

**T**he variety of forest types, demonstration areas, and facilities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest makes it a great destination for field forestry classes at Tree Schools organized by the OSU, FFI, and the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association. The Clackamas Tree School (March 25, 2023), had about 60 participants attend classes at Hopkins on Woodland Roads, Stand Density Management, and Multi-age Forest Management. At the second annual Tree School Field Day (October 7, 2023), 120

participants attended their choice of 14 field workshops and demonstrations including repeated sessions. Sixteen instructors from OSU and a variety of other partners offered sessions on:

- Preparing Your Home for Wildfire
- Drones for Aerial Surveying
- Sawmill Demonstration
- Attracting Forest Pollinators
  - Mature Forest Management
  - Forestry for the Birds
  - Bigleaf Maple Sugaring
  - Thinning Your Forest
  - Maintaining Forest Health
  - Riparian Forest Management
  - Weed Management Principles



PHOTO BY AMANDA LOMAN

Thanks to all the partners and volunteers who make Tree School happen! ▲



# GROUNDS & FACILITIES

## Major Progress on MLH in 2023

*Pam Hayden, Board Secretary and MLH Project Coordinator*

Hopkins has been the new home of the authentically reconstructed historic Molalla Log House (MLH) since 2017. It is always a joy to see the intrigue on the faces of visitors, young and old, who view this unique square hewn building, made with Douglas-fir, for the first time. It's well worth a hike through the woods to experience the MLH and then meander the trails to nearby wildlife wetland ponds for a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Four interpretive panels tell the story of this finely crafted historic log building.

After winter storms there is always work to be done to clear downed branches from trails and visitor spaces. Last winter volun-



teers labored to remove debris, regrade, and rock the trails near the Molalla Log House. The grounds around the house have been landscaped with native forest plants and bark chips. Master Gardeners donated native plant materials and Pam and Greg Hayden contributed to landscape work. Next year more planting will occur to beautify the grounds. Eleven volunteers from Clackamas Community College

spread bark chips around the house as a service project. Volunteers are surely the heart of Hopkins!

Major milestones for the Molalla Log House in 2023 were the installation of hand-made doors and handicapped access to the building. Entry into the MLH is by appointment only for security purposes. Work in 2024 will finish the building with stairs on the front side of the house. A compatible shed roof will be built over one gable end of the house to help preserve the oldest logs from the weather. ▲

*Top photo: Volunteers from Clackamas Community College landscape with native plants and spread bark chips around the Molalla Log House.*

*Center photo: New interpretive panels were placed to tell the story of the historic log building.*

*Bottom photo: The front of the Molalla Log House shows newly installed doors and handicapped access.*

PHOTOS BY PAM HAYDEN

# Outreach Center Project Successfully Completed in 2023

A milestone was achieved when the new Belton Forestry and Natural Resources Outreach Center at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest opened to the public this past year. The Center welcomed the community in April with an Open House. The one-and-a-half year project included the efforts of local contractors, volunteers, and 75 donors who provided \$490,000 of financial and material contributions. By year-end and the close of our fund-raising campaign, the building was fully paid and debt-free.

“We are very pleased with how the Outreach Center turned out,” said Forests Forever Executive Director, Ken Everett. “This was a big project for a lot of people, but is going to provide new opportunities for our education programs and serving the community. The all-wood building is a great showcase of forest products and something we can all be proud of.”

The Outreach Center includes our Caretaker’s residence, a conference



PHOTO BY MIKE BOND

*Carol Belton, surrounded by her family, at the naming dedication for the Belton Outreach Center in July 2023. A plaque honoring Carol’s late husband, John, is located in the Outreach Center’s Conference Room.*

room, and two over-night rooms for visiting educators, researchers, graduate students, and other special guests.

A July public dedication officially named the Outreach Center recognizing the Belton Family. John Belton was a well-known woodland owner near Sandy, leader in the forestry community, OSU Master Woodland Manager,

and volunteer at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. John’s wife, Carol, and sons, Arthur and Stephen, participated in the dedication.

Check out our Forests Forever website ([www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org)) for a review of the Outreach Center project including a photo gallery. ▲

## Another Busy Year at Everett Hall

Our prime venue space at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest is Everett Hall—our 2,400 square foot classroom and meeting space. Everett Hall has a capacity of 75 and includes a catering kitchen. Opened in 2012, Everett Hall is used for a wide variety of forestry and natural resource classes and meetings by OSU Extension and our partnering groups. Everett Hall is available for rent to the community, too, when not reserved for our needs.

During 2023 Everett Hall continued as an important source of capital for Forests Forever’s general fund. Total gross income generated from January through November 2023 was \$49,989, significantly more than budgeted (\$35,000), but slightly less than the same time frame of last year. Rentals peaked in July and October at 14 each month and reached lows in February and November with just 4, each. According to our Everett Hall Building Manager, Mike Daly, “I can’t complain, but God just didn’t make enough weekends, especially in the summer!”

This past year included important transitions for our Everett Hall team. Mike and his wife, Jan, neighbors within a couple miles of Hopkins, moved to “town.” When Becky Everett arrived this past spring as our Caretaker and Forest Host, she was able to help with Everett Hall rental duties like showing to prospective renters, opening, monitoring, and closing the hall for each event.

Besides the usual birthdays, weddings, quinceañeras, holiday parties, business meetings and retreats, Everett Hall hosted a mini-convention of large animal veterinarians, as well as multiple state and county government agencies. The total number of hosted events in 2023 was 88 compared to 70 the previous year.

Major projected expenses in the coming year include a new high-definition overhead projector and a 16:9 aspect screen. Repairs to the flagstone patio are planned, too.

Rental information for Everett Hall is available on the Forests Forever website at [www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org). Also, Forests Forever rents the Poppino Pavilion—an outdoor picnic shelter that includes 6 tables and a fireplace. Contact the FFI office for more information. ▲

# Lookout Tower—a Popular Attraction at Hopkins!

The Historic Clatskanie Mountain Fire Lookout at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest has been open to the public since the summer of 2021. And, the lookout has proven to be a popular attraction for the public and many of those coming out for a walk or hike in our woodlands.

Mark Triebwasser, a professional forester and retired Nursery Manager for Weyerhaeuser Company at their Aurora Nursery, has taken a special interest in the tower, has been the lead volunteer to host the public at the tower, and coordinates activities there. Mark can be found at the tower every first Saturday of the month of the year (from 9:00am until 1:00pm) meeting and greeting visitors, sharing historical information about the tower, and details about fire prevention, control and defensible space.

According to Mark, “It’s always interesting to see who comes out of Hopkins to see the tower and climb to the top. Most have never been in an authentic fire lookout tower, much less know how they were used to spot and locate fires.” The Clatskanie tower was an active lookout in the Coast Range east of Astoria until the 1960s.

Mark and volunteers Mike Haasken and Becky Everett joined Peter Matzka to host the summer schedule for the lookout tower on most Saturdays from May through September.

Mark summarized the team’s data

	Hiking Visitors	Average per Saturday	Lookout Tower Visitors	Average per Saturday
Total # Adults	714	27.5	305	11.7
Total # Youth	193	7.4	112	4.3
Total Visitors	907	34.9	417	16.0

Note: Data collected only between 9:00am and 1:00pm on ½ of Saturdays during 2023.



PHOTO BY PORTLAND TRIBUNE

collected by the volunteers during 2023 about those visiting the tower. The data above included the first Saturdays during January through April and

October through December, plus 19 Saturdays from May through September when staffed by volunteers at the lookout.

The data represents the best indication of the actual visitor counts at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest—something we’ve always been curious to know—just how many people come out to walk our trails on their own time and with their own interests.

Based on the data, it is estimated that about half of people coming out to Hopkins, during the same hours of the lookout tower’s staffing, go hiking in the forest only. Most of the lookout tower visitors, also, go hiking in the woods before or after their tower visit. As a result, we estimate the total visitor count at Hopkins on Saturdays, only, to be approximately 70 per day. No data are available for visitor counts at Hopkins on other days of the week. But, assuming a similar number of visitors on Sundays and about 25 visitors each day Monday through Friday, our best guess would be 12,000 to 15,000 visitors coming out the Hopkins annually to walk in the forest, see the activities there, and read our interpretive signs.

Thank you, Mark, for your leadership at the Lookout Tower and your efforts to produce these data. More volunteers are needed to help staff the Lookout Tower and help ensure we have coverage on every Saturday in the summer months. Of course, with more volunteers we could expand outreach to the public, too. Contact the FFI office (503-655-5524) for more information about how you can help. Training is provided! ▲

## Priorities for '24!

- **Administration**—Executive Director search, hiring, and transition
- **Education**—Expanding youth education opportunities—assistant help for Peter to grow home-school and CTE programs
- **Capital projects**—Everett Hall patio restoration, replacing watershed trail footbridge, new trail development, replacing audio/visual system in Everett Hall, Schink master plan development

- **Community Outreach**—Recruiting volunteers for forest hosts, lookout tower hosts, web manager, Board of Director position
- **Forest Management**—reforestation in harvest 2023 harvest areas at Hopkins and Pedee; next harvesting project at Pedee
- **Financial**—maintain balance budget, remain debt-free, grow Education Consortium and Friends of Hopkins, expand grant-funded initiatives, grow endowment funds



# More Big Improvements to Facilities

Joe Wheeler, Facilities Chair

Most who come to Hopkins are quick to comment on the first-class facilities developed over the years. What many may not know is that much of the building construction, upkeep, and maintenance is done with the support of a dedicated group of volunteers who work tirelessly to keep us “looking good.” That’s a tradition going back to the founding of Forests Forever. We’ve always been a community volunteer organization who does much of the work ourselves.

2023 has been another busy year for work on our facilities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. FFI Board Member, Bob Kahl, who chaired our Facilities Committee for many years, stepped aside this past year. Joe Wheeler has taken over the leadership of the committee. As many as ten volunteers regularly—or somewhat regularly—participate in projects according to our needs and their interest.

Last January the volunteers were able to salvage many trees blown down during a wind event and spent much of the spring milling those trees into lumber to use in building a carport for the new Belton Outreach Center. Lumber was also used to construct two new kiosks—one in the native plant garden next to Hopkins Hall and the other kiosk overlooking the clearcut and reforestation area along Grouse Hollow Road.

The interior work on the Outreach Center finished up in late winter and the building was dedicated on April 2nd. All of the beautiful custom-made cabinetry and trim work was done by volunteers including the construction of a wonderful conference room table from a slab of an historic elm tree in Oregon City—with special thanks to Pete Wille and John Krieg!

An equipment cleaning pad was graded and concrete poured in June along with re-grading the lower parking lot, resetting the retaining wall to the north of Poppino Pavilion, and establishing a drainage channel to

carry runoff from the parking lot and around the pavilion. A new donated footbridge across that channel was put in place during the summer and work is underway to create a new gateway entrance at the bridge and from the lower parking lot (pictured).

Summer’s dry and sunny days provided the opportunity to re-stain a couple of the most weathered exterior walls at Everett and Hopkins Halls. This fall construction was completed on the carport at the Outreach Center. Work in the fall also focused on addressing maintenance deferred during the many construction projects throughout the year.

Future projects include using a second donated footbridge to replace a failing structure in the forest crossing Little Buckner Creek, maintaining clear vegetation control for fire safety around our buildings, and expanding the lower parking lot for better bus and overflow parking.



PHOTO BY JOE WHEELER

A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped complete these many projects this year and their continued help in keeping Hopkins going—we couldn’t do it without you!

And, if you’d like to get involved—either regularly or occasionally—you are ALWAYS welcome to join in. Our main volunteer team meets every Monday at Hopkins. Some team members work 8:30am-Noon and another group works 9am-3pm. Contact Joe Wheeler (joe.e.wheeler@comcast.net) for more information. ▲

## Help Wanted! continued from page 2 .....

always surprised how many “never been here before” folks come out to Hopkins each week. Starting out, we are most interested in weekend timeslots—like mornings or afternoons, but other days can work, too, depending on your schedule.

• **Lookout Tower Hosts:** Interested in sharing about fire prevention and the history of the Clatskanie Mountain Lookout with the public? The tower has been open on Saturdays in the summer and once a month the remainder of the year. More volunteers would help us provide better access for the public.

• **Website Manager:** See Website article on page 10.

• **Board Members:** From time to time, we do need to recruit for a new Board member. If you are interested, please add your name to our list for consideration. The Board meets

monthly at three-hour meetings and provides key oversight and vision for the non-profit organization.

• **Work Day Volunteers:** We have a group of volunteers who come out to Hopkins every Monday to work on facilities, including construction and maintenance, or work in the woods. The facilities team works ½ days until Noon. The woods crew works until 3pm. Come join the fun. Our weekly group varies from 5 to 10 volunteers on most weeks depending on availability.

If you have a passion for what we do at Forests Forever and the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, get involved with us. You’ll meet great folks and make a REAL DIFFERENCE in our community and for the next generation. Contact FFI Board Member, Mike Bondi at michael.bondi@oregonstate.edu for more information. ▲



# Check Out the Website Updates

Have you seen the Forests Forever website lately? If not, check it out. Go to:

[www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org). We've been working hard this past year to make updates and add new features. There's still much to be done. We'd appreciate any comments and feedback, too.

Here's a quick look at new items you'll find...

- See **Outreach Center** section on **Home Page** for a summary for this project. You'll find the latest information, our photo gallery, and list of donors.

- Also on the **Home Page** are the latest news releases and stories featuring activities, volunteers, and supporters.

- Near the bottom of the **Home Page** you will find the updated list of our **Education Consortium** members and our public thank you.

- Finally, on the **Home Page** you will see the **DONATE** button. Forests Forever can receive on-line/credit card donations. A new feature is the tab to identify specific funds where donors would like their contribution to be directed—general fund, endowments, etc. Let friends and neighbors know about FFI and this important feature.

- Under the tab **Who We Are**, see the updated Board of Directors and Staff sections. Each of our key people involved in managing Forests Forever is shown with their biography. An impressive group!

There is still much more we could do with the website to make it most useful to the community. If you have interest and/or experience in working with websites and would like to help manage our the FFI site, please contact Board Member, Mike Bondi at 503-705-2434. It would be great to have someone with real expertise involved in this project. FFI does contract with a company to do the website's mechanics, but we still need a Website Manager to monitor the site, organize updates, and prepare the needed information. ▲

## Forests Forever Inc. Financial Report

Mike Piazza, Board Treasurer

Forests Forever's financials finished up 2023 with a positive \$150,000 in net income driven primarily from planned timber harvesting at both Hopkins and Pedee Woodlands.



we have some significant, planned expenses coming our way:

- The stone patio behind Everett Hall is needing restoration work that may include replacing the current stone pavers. The audio-visual system and screen will need to be replaced in

Everett Hall as they are beyond their useful life.

- There is important trail work, clean-up, and restoration needed following our logging this past November and December at Hopkins—we are a working forest and not a park! We hope to add more kiosks and interpretive signs for our visitors, if possible, to enjoy a quality educational experience at Hopkins.
- Maintenance and upkeep on our 20 structures continue to demand attention, and in turn, costs money to keep them all in good working order.
- 2024 will be a critical transition year as we work to replace our long-time Executive Director, Ken Everett. Ken is ready to step down. Replacing him will be next to impossible, but needs to happen for Ken. There will be a major budget adjustment coming, as a result, and in recognition of the incredible time and energy Ken has volunteered over the years.
- The overall financial position of Forests Forever is sound as we enter 2024 debt-free and with reserves in the bank. It's full steam ahead! ▲

The Projected Operating Budget for 2024 will again be close to \$250,000, not including any planned timber harvests that might occur. The FFI Board finalized our annual budget during our first Board meeting of the year in January.

The biggest impact on our financials this past year was the completion of the Belton Outreach Center. That project was finished on time and, more importantly, **On Budget!** A total of nearly \$460,000 in cash contributions was raised that allowed for the construction loan to be paid off within six months of the completion of the Center and its Grand Opening in April. Also, a carport was able to be constructed as an unplanned addition and complement to the Outreach Center's residence.

During 2023 we can report continued strong support from our Consortium Partners, raising over \$45,000 in contributions—an all time high and thanks to additional new members. The FFI Board was able to establish an "Emergency Fund" in 2023—something we have never been able to have—with initial funding of \$25,000 for any unforeseen major expenses that may occur in the upcoming year.

Looking forward to what's ahead,

# Lots Happening at Pedee Woodlands, too

Another gift that keeps on giving is the Pedee Woodlands property. Pedee includes two forest tracts donated to Forests Forever beginning in 2013. Both properties were owned and managed by former FFI Board Member and OSU Master Woodland Manager, Bob Phillips, and his family. Today, the Pedee property includes 320 acres of very productive Coast Range forestland.

Located in a quiet rural area two hours from Hopkins in southern Polk County, the forest this past year wasn't exactly a quiet place. Local schools use the property for their outdoor education purposes. One example was Fall City High School's career and technical forestry and natural resources programs who came out to Pedee Woodlands regularly doing stream and aquatic surveys, pre-commercial thinning, timber cruising, tree planting, and young plantation management.

An 11-acre logging project conducted by FFI at Pedee harvested over 445,000 board feet of timber. The logs were sold to Hampton Lumber's sawmill in Willamina. The logger on the project was Black Rock Timber LLC located in Dallas, Oregon.

Finally, Forests Forever participated in the South Fork Pedee Creek Enhancement Project this past summer. The project was coordinated by the Luckiamute Watershed Council. The South Fork flows through the Pedee Woodland property. Local landowners, industry and agency partners contributed support for the project. FFI provided over 70 Douglas-fir trees used in the stream channels. A video production describes the project and you can now view on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLjvUEdlu98>). ▲

## Consortium Member Thank You!

We have a great group of Education Consortium members who each year provide funding to support the work of the OSU Forestry Program Coordinator who is responsible for Forests Forever's outreach. FFI provides about 25% of the university's cost for this position to the OSU Clackamas County Extension and 4-H Service District. The FFI Consortium members are making contributions ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 each year to support this position. During 2023, the following Consortium members raised nearly \$47,000—a new record for us! Please know that these businesses and organizations support Forests Forever and are instrumental in making our education outreach possible. We sincerely thank:

Oregon Forest Resources Institute	Freres Lumber
RSG Forest Products	Starker Forests
Campbell Global	A.J. Frank Family Foundation
Walker Family Foundation	Stimson Lumber
Hampton Lumber	Beavercreek Lions
Key Bank	

## 2023 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 especially thank of 2023 donors!

Paul Adams, Bend	Beverly Koch, Oregon City
Glenn Ahrens & Cathy Rose, Mulino	Greg & Malia Kupillas, Mulino
Amy Archer-Masters, Oregon City	Cindy Lampa, Silverton
Keith & Juli Baldwin, Silverton	Carl Larson, Portland
Mike & Jo Barsotti, Lyons	Donald & Kathleen LeBlanc, Estacada
Thomas Bauman, Mt Angel	Kevin Lodeen, La Center, WA
Jeanne & Jeff Becker, Oregon City	The Maglothlin-Hansma Family, Mulino
Loren & Sylvia Bowman, Estacada	Gerald Main, Oregon City
Gary & Beverly Bush, Mulino	John Martinson, Oregon City
Joan Bryan, Estacada	Master Gardeners Assoc.—Clackamas Chapter, Oregon City
Bryan O'Byrne, Estacada	Linda Butts, Oregon City
Linda Butts, Oregon City	Dale & Julie Bystrom, Molalla
Dale & Julie Bystrom, Molalla	Dick & Judy Caldwell, Mulino
Dick & Judy Caldwell, Mulino	Jean Carter, Corbett
Jean Carter, Corbett	CYO/Camp Howard, Portland
CYO/Camp Howard, Portland	Gregory Cline, Salem
Gregory Cline, Salem	Mike & Jan Daly, Lake Oswego
Mike & Jan Daly, Lake Oswego	Tom Daudistel, Canby
Tom Daudistel, Canby	James & Alice DeShazer, Coeur d'Alene, ID
James & Alice DeShazer, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Walt Dilley, Mesa, AZ
Walt Dilley, Mesa, AZ	Catherine Dunlap, Corbett
Catherine Dunlap, Corbett	Christine Ehlert, Canby
Christine Ehlert, Canby	John Ellis, Canby
John Ellis, Canby	Gerald Erickson, Colton
Gerald Erickson, Colton	Jennifer Everett, Oregon City
Jennifer Everett, Oregon City	John Fox, Oregon City
John Fox, Oregon City	Robert Friedrich, Mulino
Robert Friedrich, Mulino	Walt & Pat Garvin, Milwaukie
Walt & Pat Garvin, Milwaukie	Dale Golston, Beavercreek
Dale Golston, Beavercreek	Dan Green, Oregon City
Dan Green, Oregon City	Scott Hanson, Happy Valley
Scott Hanson, Happy Valley	Happy Valley Tree Farm, Lebanon
Happy Valley Tree Farm, Lebanon	Toni Hart, Oregon City
Toni Hart, Oregon City	Pam & Greg Hayden, Lake Oswego
Pam & Greg Hayden, Lake Oswego	Elizabeth Howley (in honor of Peter Matzka), Oregon City
Elizabeth Howley (in honor of Peter Matzka), Oregon City	Kathleen Imholt, Oregon City
Kathleen Imholt, Oregon City	David & Karen Jessup, Happy Valley
David & Karen Jessup, Happy Valley	Barbara Jones, Mulino
Barbara Jones, Mulino	Bob & Marianne Kahl, Oregon City
Bob & Marianne Kahl, Oregon City	Diane Kelso & Peter Hoffman, Boring
Diane Kelso & Peter Hoffman, Boring	Chris Kleps, Estacada
Chris Kleps, Estacada	

Our 2024 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.



P.O. Box 1320  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

## Schink Demonstration Forest— Another Gift that Keeps on Giving

We continue to host youth and adult learners at the Schink property in Dickey Prairie for special programs focused on aquatic and fish biology lessons and the essential role of sustainable forestry on these important natural resources.

The Schink Demonstration Forest was donated to Forests Forever in 2019 by Hannah Schink and her children, Andrew and Janice. Since that time, a road has been developed into the 21-acre property, a parking lot created to accommodate busses, and a picnic shelter and pit toilet installed.

During 2023, Peter Matzka—OSU’s Extension Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator for Forests Forever—hosted five school groups for learning activities at Schink. Schools from Canby, Molalla, and Silverton visited in the fall to learn about fish habitat requirements and testing water quality for potential fishery needs. By the way, student tests indicated that the Molalla River water is a “nearly perfect” aquatic resource! Also, during their visits, students released chinook salmon fry they raised in their classrooms into the Molalla River drainage at Schink for this project. The Schink Demonstration Forests features 600 feet of Molalla River frontage—one of the north Willamette Valley’s premier salmon, steelhead and trout fisheries.

A special thanks to the Schink Family for their gift—that **KEEPS ON GIVING!** ▲



PHOTOS BY JENNY MATZKA