



# the Forest Steward

Spring 2017

Volume 2, Number 1

“What’s wrong with a forest that’s 97% sugar maple? One of the first things we learned as children is ‘don’t put all your eggs in one basket’. With the increasing risk of invasive species and the unknowns of climate change today there is more reason than ever to diversify our forest portfolios.”

— Jon Fosgitt



Photo by The Nature Conservancy (Kari Marciniak)

Forest Stewards  
 Guild  
putting the forest first

## INSIDE

- 2 Letter from our Board
- 3 Michigan Forests Star in NCAA’s Final Four
- 4-5 Breaking Barriers
- 6-7 Seeing the Forest for the Birds
- 8 2017 Guild Gatherings





## Staff

**Fred Clark**  
 Executive Director

**Esmé Cadiente**  
 Southwest Program Assistant

**Zander Evans**  
 Director of Science and Programs

**Eytan Krasilovsky**  
 Southwest Region Director

**Mike Lynch**  
 Great Lakes Project Coordinator

**Amanda Mahaffey**  
 Northeast Region Director

**Matt Piccarello**  
 Community Forestry Coordinator

**Deborah Saeger**  
 Director of Finance and Administration

**Amy Zimmerman**  
 Development Coordinator

## Board of Directors

**Rick Morrill**, Chair

**Eric Holst**, Vice Chair

**Ken Smith**, Secretary

**Kaasten Turner-Dalby**, Treasurer

**Bill Bradley**

**Alan Calfee**

**Amber Ellering**

**John Fenderson**

**Chistine Hall**

**Kathy Holian**

**Robert Hrubes**

**V. Alaric Sample**

# ■ To our Members and Supporters

**T**his morning my husband and I got up early to burn piles of branches in our forest — the remainders of our thinning projects over the last few seasons. There was snow on the ground and on the piles from a recent snowstorm. We thought it would be a safe time to do a pile burn. Indeed it was so safe, that the flames just fizzled. Despite successfully burning piles in previous seasons, humility is clearly always in order.

I have been interested in healthy forests for a long time and I was excited to join the Forest Stewards Guild Board of Directors in December 2016. My husband and I own forestland on the Glorieta Mesa in New Mexico, in the piñon/juniper and ponderosa pine zones. We are fortunate that our land has never been over-harvested, nor have there been any catastrophic fires. In fact, we have some piñon pines that are estimated to be five hundred years old. But we also realize that opening up the forest to light by thinning out the small trees helps both the diversity of plant life and animals, and makes our forest safer.

As a Santa Fe County Commissioner for the last eight years, I have been concerned with how to promote healthy watersheds and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Santa Fe County has hundreds of square miles of forests ranging from piñon/juniper at the lower elevations to spruce/fir at the higher elevations. We have had some severe forest fires in our area, made worse by periodic droughts. Since so many in our community rely on wells for water supply, we in Santa Fe County are very concerned about healthy aquifers.



I first became aware of the valuable work that the Forest Stewards Guild does in our community as a county supervisor. The Guild has initiated forest restoration projects in the wild land-urban interface (WUI), as well as on larger private properties and ranches. Zander Evans (Director of Science and Programs) and Eytan Krasilovsky (Southwest Region Director) organize community meetings every year to help landowners improve the resilience of

their land and forests, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

I am thrilled to be working directly with the Forest Stewards Guild as a board member and I look forward to being able to help extend our reach and mission through stewardship and protection of our forests.

I would also like to welcome Tina Hall from Marquette, Michigan as our newest Forest Stewards Guild board member. Tina is a long-time Conservation Director with The Nature Conservancy, and she will bring her experience with land trusts and forest conservation to the Guild.

Finally, I want to extend an invitation to join one of our upcoming Guild Gatherings this summer and fall in Wisconsin, Oregon, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Mexico, or for our first international tour in Oaxaca, Mexico.

There is a lot happening this year and I hope we'll see you somewhere in the forest.

Best regards,

Kathy Holian  
 Glorieta, New Mexico

# Michigan Forests Star in NCAA's Final Four



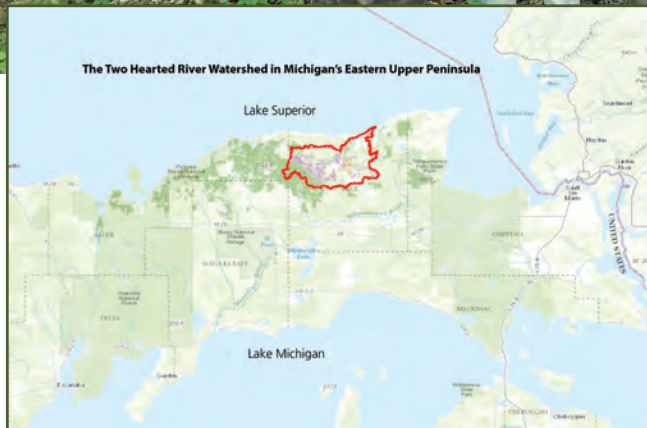
One of the least populated and least developed regions in the eastern United States lies southwest of Sault St. Marie, Canada and northwest of Mackinac in Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula. It's also the location of one of the region's best examples of ecological forestry – The Nature Conservancy's 24,000-acre Two Hearted River Forest Reserve. For a brief time in March, the wood from that forest was on display for up to 16.8 million basketball viewers each day.

The Two Hearted River landscape consists of a mosaic of patterned fens and lowland conifers on old lake plains, and extensive upland northern hardwood forests on just slightly higher sandy end-moraines. There are no mountains here, but it is a landscape with many charms. The Two Hearted River Forest Reserve is managed by Guild member Jon Fosgitt of Compass Land Consulting and was designated as a Forest Stewards Guild Model Forest in 2016.

Tina Hall, Director of Land Resources and Forest Conservation for the TNC's Michigan Chapter (and a recent addition to the Forest Stewards Guild Board of Directors), was one of the leaders in the Conservancy's effort to acquire and begin managing the former industrial forest that has become the Two Hearted River Forest Reserve.

After generations of over-harvesting, most of the Two-Hearted's upland hardwood forest was lacking the structural and species diversity characteristically found in unmanaged, older forests. Hall and The Nature Conservancy made a commitment to restoring that character to their forests. The forestry practices developed by the Conservancy, with Fosgitt's direction, are designed to restore a more complex and diverse forest structure and serve as a model for other forest owners throughout the region, who want to manage their forests to promote ecological values while generating economic returns.

The Two Hearted River was made famous in Earnest Hemingway's 1925 short story "Big Two Hearted River". While it's not certain that Hemingway actually fished the river that became the namesake of his story, he did spend many seasons in and around the eastern Upper Peninsula town of Seney after returning home from the First World War. More than 90 years after Hemingway visited, national attention



has again focused on this iconic Great Lakes landscape.

In November 2016, timber from the Forest Stewardship Council certified Two Hearted River Forest Reserve supplied hard maple for the 2017 men's and women's NCAA Final Four basketball courts. While college basketball fans were just beginning to get excited for March Madness in early 2017, The Nature Conservancy had

been preparing for that moment for months.

The Conservancy partnered with Connor Sports, the official floor provider of the NCAA Men's and Women's Final Four courts, to supply hard maple needed for court floors. Through this partnership, they hosted an educational event to help area high school students understand the value of forests to their community. At the end of the event, students traveled to the nearby school forest where they witnessed the ceremonial felling of the first tree to be used in this year's Men's and Women's Final Four courts. After the tree felling, the harvest continued for another two weeks at the Two Hearted River Forest Reserve, where The Nature Conservancy has practiced sustainable forest management since 2005. Since then, the Two Hearted story has been covered by news and sports outlets from ESPN and Men's Journal, to local outlets like the Iron Mountain Daily News.

Foresters have wondered for years how best to build awareness and acceptance for work with natural resources that most people benefit from but rarely see. How to explain the difference between forestry that sustains social and ecological values, from the unfortunate story of forest exploitation to a public whose knowledge of the outdoors and attention span is increasingly limited? In the case of the Two Hearted, it took a unique but increasingly common partnership between foresters, forest products companies, and a conservation organization to identify and take advantage of the opportunity to tell a great story about forests.

Those opportunities exist – maybe more often than we think.

*Photo top: Fred Clark and Mike Lynch of the Forest Stewards Guild (right) award the Guild's Model Forest designation at the Two Hearted River Forest Reserve to Tina Hall of The Nature Conservancy and Jon Fosgitt of Compass Land Consultants.*





# Breaking Barriers –

## The Life of one of America's First Female Foresters

By Fred Clark

4

Despite years of social progress and dismantling of institutional barriers, forestry remains one of the least diverse professions in the United States. Women in forestry today, including the growing number in leadership positions, are still likely to face challenges and biases that can make their jobs and career advancement more difficult. If there was ever to be an honor bestowed on an early pioneer for women in forestry – at least one could be given to an Englishwoman named Diana Smith.

Even in her 90s, Diana Smith had a youthful, energetic, and positive spirit that infused just about every part of her life. She very much needed that spirit to craft a distinguished career in the early 20th century in a forestry profession dominated by men. For a brief time she had the honor of being the Guild's oldest (honorary) member.

Diana was born in 1919 in the mountainous Northwest Frontier of India (now the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan). Her American father and British mother met as missionaries in Calcutta.



*Diana Smith, with her colleagues in 1966, including (standing at right) Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff.*

She recalled spending the summers of her youth with her sister as being “born free”, riding horses, swimming in mountain lakes, and hanging around riverbanks with crocodiles.

As an adolescent she moved with her parents to Chile, England, and finally Scotland. But that formative experience in India forged a sort of homing instinct and a deep desire to return, as a forester, to the mountains of the Northwest Frontier.

As a young girl she never thought of forestry as either distinctly masculine or feminine. She knew she didn't want a desk job, and she was quite certain that a person could do almost anything if they were really

willing to sacrifice for it. Her belief was tested many times in her career.

Diana began applying to forestry schools in the United Kingdom in 1936. All the traditional forestry schools, including the University of Oxford and the University of Wales, were quick to reject her application. So did the University of Edinburgh. She didn't give up however and after challenging Edinburgh's initial rejection, the school finally acknowledged that although they could not technically refuse her application to join

the forestry program, it was considered highly irregular for a woman to apply, and they did not recommend it. She joined a class that year that included eight Hindus, eight Pakistanis, two Poles, and one self-described headstrong woman.

During the Second World War, Diana was in charge of the local home guard for the Thames River. After the war, she worked as a forester for the British Forestry Commission. There is little record of her work, however, because the forest management plans and other documents she wrote all had to be signed by male colleagues.

At a meeting of a British Forest Commonwealth Commission in London she met George Hunt, the Director of the newly established U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. That connection yielded an invitation to travel to the United States in 1947. For one of her first meetings on that visit, she was forced to enter the prestigious (and for men only) UW-Madison's University Club through the employee entrance in the back.

Hunt offered Diana an exciting new opportunity at the Forest Products Laboratory. Exciting as it was, the pay would have to come later because the position offered was a six month stint as a "collaborator without compensation". It would be 10 years into Diana's Forest Service career before she was properly rated at a General Schedule Wage Scale.

With time, and a good deal of persistence, she obtained an M.S. in Forestry at SUNY Syracuse, and rose to prominence as a cellular technology scientist and a project leader. For many people however, she was known



*Diana Smith accepting an award for development of the Dual Linear Micrometer for wood cell measurement from President Lyndon B. Johnson as part of the USDA's "War on Waste", in April, 1966.*

simply as "the woman scientist". That became "famous woman scientist" after she received a 1965 award presented by President Lyndon Johnson for her work developing techniques for "Wood Cell Measurement with Dual Linear Micrometer" – a device that she designed and commissioned the first versions of for work in wood cell technology.

In fact, Diana had never really planned on being a scientist. As she said to me on several occasions, "I always just really wanted to be a field forester". Despite her persistence, that opportunity was denied to her throughout her career. While the Forest Products Laboratory supported her work in the lab, their director made it clear that there would not be any women working in the field under his watch. According to one of her colleagues, Kent MacDonald, in the 1960s even for a

woman to travel alone to attend a meeting was considered improper and was discouraged.

Despite some remarkable accomplishments, it may have been that 20 years of a glass ceiling had taken its toll, or it may have been that her desire to

work with and help people in need became more important than labwork. In the mid 1970s she left the Forest Service and embarked on a second career in nursing.

Diana spent most of her years, well past the age of 90, living alone in former one room school houses, complete with drafty walls, wood stoves, large gardens, and a steady stream of friends and admirers. As one of her former co-workers Karl Wolter said, "Diana was probably one of the more interesting people I have ever met".

Diana may have had few chances to inspire women foresters during her career, but she has been an inspiration to a long list of co-workers, neighbors, and friends, and possibly future forest professionals, and that list grows larger even today.

**Editor's Note:** *I wanted to capture Diana's story in some way for years, and had conducted several interviews with her. On a recent Saturday in March, I was passing near the nursing home where she lived and stopped to let her know we were finally going to write her story. We spent an enjoyable hour talking again about foresters, redwoods, and old age. Diana died the following day, at the age of 98.*





# Seeing the Forest for the Birds

By Steve Hagenbuch

6



The cold, snow-covered forest landscape of a Vermont winter is not the first image for most people thinking about nesting songbirds. However, earlier this year in the Town of Stowe's Sterling Forest a group of landowners and other interested individuals led by Guild members Michael Snyder, Dan Kilborn, and Steve Hagenbuch, were on top of fresh snow doing exactly that. The conversations moved from property histories to timber harvesting methods, and resulting forest structure. A common theme woven throughout was how timber harvests can achieve multiple objectives, including habitat enhancement for forest nesting songbirds. This tour was the latest offering in the popular and successful collaboration between wildlife experts and foresters called *Foresters for the Birds*.



Northern New England provides nesting habitat for some of the greatest numbers of migrant bird species found anywhere in the United States. For some, such as the black-throated blue warbler, a significant proportion of their global population returns to the Northern Forest region each spring. Other species, such as the wood thrush with its harmonic, flutelike song, have been experiencing long-term population declines throughout their breeding range for years. In response to troubling trends for the entire group, in 2005, Audubon Vermont developed the Forest Bird Initiative. Their goal was to help protect high-quality nesting habitat by collaborating with landowners, foresters, and other land managers to make sure forest and natural resource planning incorporates bird habitat considerations.

Photo top: Vermont Stewardship Forester Tim Morton discusses gap structure after logging with logger Kyle Brennan of Long View Forest, Inc. on the Calvin Coolidge State Forest, Windsor County, Vermont.



Audubon was able to reach over 100 landowners in the first years through workshops, presentations, and technical assistance to landowners. With success of the model proven, the move to critical scale of impact required a closer collaboration with people who influence forest structure and composition, and thereby habitat and birds, every day – the foresters whose work determines the future make up of managed forests.

The *Foresters for the Birds* (FFtB) project was launched in 2008 with support from the USDA Forest Service. Now operated in Vermont as a partnership between Audubon Vermont and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, the project envisions healthy forests that provide suitable breeding and post-breeding habitat conditions for a suite of priority birds and sustained yields of timber and other forest products and services along the Atlantic Flyway. The first three years of the project saw a tremendous amount of information-sharing between groups who didn't often talk to each other. Biologists learned about commonly-used forest management practices and how they influence forest structure and composition. Foresters gained a better understanding of the habitat needs of priority bird species. And forest owners benefited from forestry practices on their lands better suited for the birds.

Since its inception, *Foresters for the Birds* in Vermont has engaged over 200 foresters and other land managers in bird-friendly management techniques. The impacts have been significant. Since 2008, over 230 forest management plans, covering nearly 27,000 acres of forestland have incorporated some level of bird habitat considerations. These plans are the first step toward on-the-ground actions that benefit birds. The project was the recipient of a 2013 Forest Service "Wings Across the Americas" habitat management and partnership award for outstanding achievement in conservation.

Demonstration sites throughout Vermont allow landowners, students, and foresters to see examples in practice, and serve as sites to study the impacts on the forest and associated bird communities.

Over the years, interest in *Foresters for the Birds* has grown beyond Vermont and throughout the Atlantic Flyway. Maine, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and North and South Carolina have all developed or initiated bird-friendly forestry projects. The Guild and our Northeast Region Director Amanda Mahaffey are helping to lead many of these projects. Broadening the scope of bird friendly forestry projects not only supports healthy forests, it supports suitable habitat throughout the migratory routes of many of our highest priority bird species.

The Forest Stewards Guild and its members have long practiced integrated approaches to forest management by "putting the forest first." That principle is made real by seeing the forest for the birds.



*It's amazing now that we're five years along, to revisit landowners where we first implemented this work, and see not just the positive impact in both forest productivity and bird species diversity, but also in forest owners' appreciation for their resource. The toolkit that the program produced now has a place beside any other silvicultural guide on the forester's bookshelf.*

Charlie Hancock, Montgomery Center, Vermont

*"Foresters for the Birds provides a new avenue to engage landowners who might otherwise be uninterested in managing their forests. A canopy gap, which before may have been viewed as a void or a hole in the forest, becomes an opportunity to establish new growth and create nesting habitat for a black-throated blue warbler. The "messy" woody material left behind after a harvest becomes a perch for a singing winter wren, or the protective cover for an ovenbird to build a home. It is an ever so delicate tweak that provides a whole new way of looking at the forest."*

Jared Nunery, Hyde Park, Vermont





*Address Service Requested*

## 2017 Guild Gatherings

We'd like to make sure every one of our members can join a Guild event somewhere near home in 2017, so this year we're offering regional Guild Gatherings from California to New Hampshire, as well as our first-ever international tour in Oaxaca, Mexico in October.

Check out our Guild Gatherings webpage at: [www.forestguild.org/GuildGatherings](http://www.forestguild.org/GuildGatherings) to learn more and to register for these and other events.

### ■ Forest Management at Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge and the Dartmouth Second College Land Grant

Date: June 21-22, 2017

Location: Errol, NH

Leaders: Kevin Evans and Tom LaPointe

At Umbagog NWR, we will look at ecological forestry principles applied to achieve wildlife habitat objectives. Our visit to the Dartmouth Forest will include wildlife research and adaptive silviculture for climate change.

### ■ Kemp Station and the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

Date: July 21-22, 2017

Location: Woodruff, WI

Leaders: Mike Lynch and Ron Eckstein

Join our Lake States members in the heart of the Northern Highlands for tours in and around Wisconsin's largest State Forest and the iconic Northwoods retreat at Kemp Station. Cookout, camp-out, and tall tales are guaranteed.

### ■ Hyla Woods Gathering

Date: July 29, 2017

Location: Portland, OR

Leaders: Dr. Jerry Franklin and Peter Hayes

Our tour will explore the forests of Hyla Woods - a perfect venue for a forward looking conversation about the Forest Stewards Guild and our future in the Pacific Northwest.

### ■ Cherokee Boy Scout Reservation and Duke University Forest

Date: September 15 -16, 2017

Location: Durham, NC

Leaders: Nick Biemiller, Sara Childs, Dave Halley, and David Schnake

Our Southeast gathering will focus on forestry in the southern Piedmont. We'll bring together long-time Guild members and new friends to explore silviculture at the Duke Forest, Cherokee Boy Scout Reservation, and North Carolina's Umstead Research Station.

### ■ Santa Fe Plaza Gathering

Date: September 28, 2017

Location: Santa Fe, NM

Leaders: Kathy Holian and Henry Carey

Join our Guild Board of Directors, our staff, members, and local partners for an informal evening social in the city where the Guild was born. And if you have more time in town, you can visit the 27th Annual Santa Fe Wine & Chile Fiesta.

### ■ Community Forests of the Sierra Norte, Mexico

Date: October 21-28, 2017

Location: Oaxaca, Mexico

Leaders: Zander Evans, Esmé Cadiente

Oaxaca is home to some of the richest culture in Mexico and the Sierra Norte mountains are home to community forests practicing exemplary forestry. Join our staff and local foresters in exploring Oaxaca and making connections with our colleagues in Mexico.