



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Nick Biemiller, Southeast Regional Coordinator, Forest Stewards Guild, [nick@forestguild.org](mailto:nick@forestguild.org), 828-772-7992.**

**“Forest Stewards Guild Receives Grant to Engage Lower Mississippi Landowners in Sustainable Forestry”**

SANTA FE, NM (July 17, 2019) – The Forest Stewards Guild (Guild) announced today that it has received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s (NFWF) [Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund \(LMAV Fund\)](#) of over \$130,000. The project will benefit forests and wildlife in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Including matching funds, the resulting conservation impact will total more than \$200,000.

“This grant enables us to promote and expand good forest management practices that improve wildlife habitat for many species, including forest interior birds, such as the Kentucky warbler,” said Nick Biemiller, Southeast Regional Coordinator of the Forest Stewards Guild. We are grateful to NFWF and their funding partners for advancing our work to restore and enhance the forests of Mississippi Alluvial Valley, an area rich with biodiversity.”

Through this project, the Guild and its partners will host a regional learning exchange and workshops to share best practices. We will perform strategic and targeted outreach to private forest landowners, prepare forest management plans for high-priority private landowners, and implement enhancement activities on 1,200 acres of private and state forest lands.

“It is so important to have partners like the Forest Stewards Guild help us pursue our bottomland hardwood restoration goals in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley,” said Jay Jensen, Southern Region Director for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. “Their expertise in connecting with landowners and providing sound land management advice is central to improving habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.”

The LMAV Fund is a public-private partnership supported with federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service, and private funding from International Paper's Forestland Stewards partnership, the Walton Family Foundation, and American Forest Foundation's Southern Woods At-Risk Wildlife partnership. In total, six grants were awarded this year to various organizations, with a total conservation impact of nearly \$4.3 million to support efforts to restore, enhance and protect more than 10,000 acres of forest and wetland habitats.

**About the Forest Stewards Guild** Celebrating 25 years in 2020, the Forest Steward Guild is a national, non-profit, member organization of foresters and other natural resource

2019 Galisteo St., Suite N7  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

*phone* 505-983-8992  
*fax* 505-986-0798

[www.ForestStewardsGuild.org](http://www.ForestStewardsGuild.org)

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professionals who believe in [our core principals](#). We practice and advocate for ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forest stewardship. Using research and on-the-ground observations to inform management, training, and engagement, we are *putting the forests first*, and thereby supporting all who depend on them.

**About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Working with federal, corporate, and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 4,500 organizations and generated a conservation impact of more than \$5.3 billion. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).