



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

A Year to be Thankful

Throughout the seasons and the changes of 2014, the Forest Guild has actively advanced forest stewardship across the forest landscape. As the year's end approaches, we would like to pause and share the highlights of a busy year and offer thanks to our many members, supporters, and active partners who have made our successes possible.





forest GUILD

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Pacific Northwest

In the Pacific Northwest, the Forest Guild is building on the hard work members and staff put into the regional biomass harvesting guidelines. The Guild is reaching out to biomass users and producers to look for opportunities to adapt and implement the Guild's recommendations for sustainable use of wood for energy.

Northeast

Regional Director Amanda Mahaffey authored a report on forests and forest-dependent communities in northern New Hampshire and western Maine. This report pairs biometric data with interview material to paint a uniquely well-rounded picture of the state of forests in the region. "The State of Forests and Forestry in the Androscoggin Valley-Mahoosuc region" is available on the Forest Guild website – publications page.

Guild members and supporters in Maine enjoyed a three-day field trip to The Nature Conservancy's St. John River Forest in Aroostook County – one of the TNC's largest fee-ownerships in the nation - to look at the challenges of silviculture in northern Maine, where the moose are common but markets for wood products are scarce.



The Forest Guild co-led a snowshoe tour of The Nature Conservancy's largest managed forest.

The Guild and other partners have brought the Foresters for the Birds landowner outreach program to Maine through workshops uniting foresters and landowners to see the forest from the perspective of migratory songbirds. Farther south, we've partnered with Providence Water and the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District to educate Rhode Island citizens, including families and children, on the connection between healthy forests and clean drinking water.

Southwest

The Forest Guild's longtime commitment to community forestry and outreach to young people was marked this year with our largest program ever with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) in the Southwest. Newly hired Southwest Community Forestry Coordinator Matt Piccarello began his summer with our most



The Forest Guild and partners in the Rhode Island Woods to Water Partnership brought together four hundred schoolchildren from the City of Providence and schools within the Scituate Reservoir watershed for a day of educational activities at the annual water festival.

senior employee, Orlando Romero, managing our YCC program and the over 50 young people who participated. Eight Guild sponsored YCC crews worked in six different National Forest ranger districts building fences, maintaining trails and facilities, mapping boundaries, and removing invasive plants, all in forests near their home communities.

"These past two years working for the Forest Guild YCC has improved my work ethic a lot! I learned valuable working skills that I can use in the future."

– Aubriana Archuleta,
Forest Guild YCC Crew Member

In over 15 years of the Forest Guild's sponsorship of Youth Conservation Corps, hundreds of young men and women have undergone what for most is a life-changing experience. Many of our YCC alumni have gone on to careers in natural resources, and all of them have returned home better prepared to make a difference in their communities.



New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps workers perform trail and fencing work on the Santa Fe National Forest.



A crew of young adult, newly-trained wildland firefighters after a hard day's work on a Forest Guild burn.

[continued from Southwest]

Under the guidance of Southwest Regional Director Eytan Krasilovsky, the Guild planned and coordinated a 255 acres prescribed burn at Black Lake in New Mexico's Jemez Mountains. The burn reduced canopy cover, helped maintain the diverse forest species and the health of the Upper Coyote Creek watershed, and increased qualifications of wildland firefighters, forest restoration practitioners, and private and state managers.

The Guild's ongoing program efforts in fire ecology and management, forest health issues, and in our engagement with leaders and youth in the pueblos and forest-dependent communities of the Southwest are excellent examples of our Guild mission in action.



Forest Guild staff gathered in Santa Fe (clockwise from top left): Eytan Krasilovsky, Southwest Region Dir.; Zander Evans, Research Dir.; Matt Piccarello, Community Forestry Coordinator; Fred Clark, Executive Dir.; Renee Denipah, Administrative Assistant; Mark Silano, Finance Manager; Amanda Mahaffey, Northeast Region Dir. (via computer); Reina Fernandez, Membership Coordinator; and not pictured Orlando Romero, Senior Forester, Community Forestry Program.

Member Services

In April, we launched a re-designed Across the Landscape edited by our Southeast Region Coordinator Alyx Perry. We've also added a new member webpage to facilitate networking, information sharing, and the development of an online resource library for Guild members.

Southeast

The Forest Guild has been working in the Southeast to protect forests while recognizing the opportunities presented by new markets for wood energy. The Guild's common sense guidelines for harvesting biomass have been incorporated into both state biomass recommendations and European sustainability recommendations.

In March, Southeast Regional Coordinator Alyx Perry presented on the importance of

sustainability standards for biomass production at the Department of Energy's Incorporating Bioenergy in Sustainable Landscape Designs conference in North Carolina.

And in 2015 we will embark on a new project focused on bottomland hardwood forests that brings together our concerns for biomass sustainability and clean water.

Lake States

The forest dwelling Northern Long-Eared Bat, like other bats in eastern North America, has been declining and is at risk from the deadly introduced disease, White-nosed syndrome. As the US Fish and Wildlife Service considers a listing decision, the Guild is working to make science-based information on forest management and bat ecology available for practitioners and policy makers.

Minnesota Guild members Katie Fernholz and Mark Jacobs co-hosted a "Bat-Friendly Forestry" workshop in Aitkin County in October that brought foresters and ecologists together to understand bats and how forestry effects bat habitat and summer roosting. Membership and Policy Council Chair Amber Ellering has worked extensively with the MPC to produce a

Guild position statement on the Northern Long-eared Bat. The position statement can be found on the Forest Guild website.



Left: Biologist Tim Sichmeller explains characteristics of bat roosting habitat on Aitkin County, MN forestlands to participants at the Bat Friendly Forestry Workshop.

Right: Members and participants at the June national meeting gathered at Shelburne Farms, Vermont for a field workshop on climate change and forestry, and a game of softball in the best Guild tradition.

“If you believe that silviculture is both art and science, come to a Guild meeting, where practicing forestry artists exchange experiential data in the field.”

— 2014 National Meeting participant



National Meeting

In June, 175 Forest Guild members and friends from across the country converged on Burlington, Vermont for one of the most successful Forest Guild national meetings yet. Three days of engaging presentations and outstanding field workshops in an exceptional location on the shore of Lake Champlain were all designed with the theme of adapting forests to the changing climate. Events also included a commemoration honoring Guild founder Henry Carey and the

30th anniversary of our parent organization, the Forest Trust, and, of course, the annual softball game topping off three days of spectacular Vermont weather.

The 2014 meeting may have set a new bar for Forest Guild gatherings, and its success speaks volumes to the dedication of our members and the power of the “spark” that inspires us all to be forest stewards.

A Time of Transition - Long-time Member becomes the New Director

2014 saw the departure of long-time staff member and Executive Director Mike DeBonis. Mike remains an active Guild member, repatriated to his home country in Vermont as Director of the venerable Green Mountain Club. During an extensive search process led by Board Chair Rick Morrill, Research Director Zander Evans served with distinction as the Interim Director and helped maintain continuity of Guild programs during the busiest part of the year.

Forest Guild Board of Directors and staff ask that you raise a glass to our Interim Executive Director, Zander Evans, and past Executive Director, Mike DeBonis! We are thankful for the hard work, dedication, selflessness,

and positive energy that these directors have brought to the Forest Guild.

New Executive Director Fred Clark began work November 1st. As a Professional member since 1998, Fred brings long and deep roots in the Guild and in sustainable forestry. Fred will operate from Wisconsin while traveling to develop programs and support our membership throughout the country. While the holiday red and green chiles in the Lake States are more likely to be ceramic than real, our members promise that the diversity of cheese, bratwurst, and locally-brewed beer available near the Guild’s new office in Madison will more than compensate any members who plan for a winter visit!



Fred Clark
New Guild Director

A Year to be Thankful

As 2015 approaches, we look forward to a new and exciting era for the Forest Guild. Please keep in touch! Our new website and member webpage offer additional ways for you to stay connected with friends and share forestry knowledge. We owe you, our members and supporters, an enormous thank you for all that you do for the benefit of our forests and forest communities.