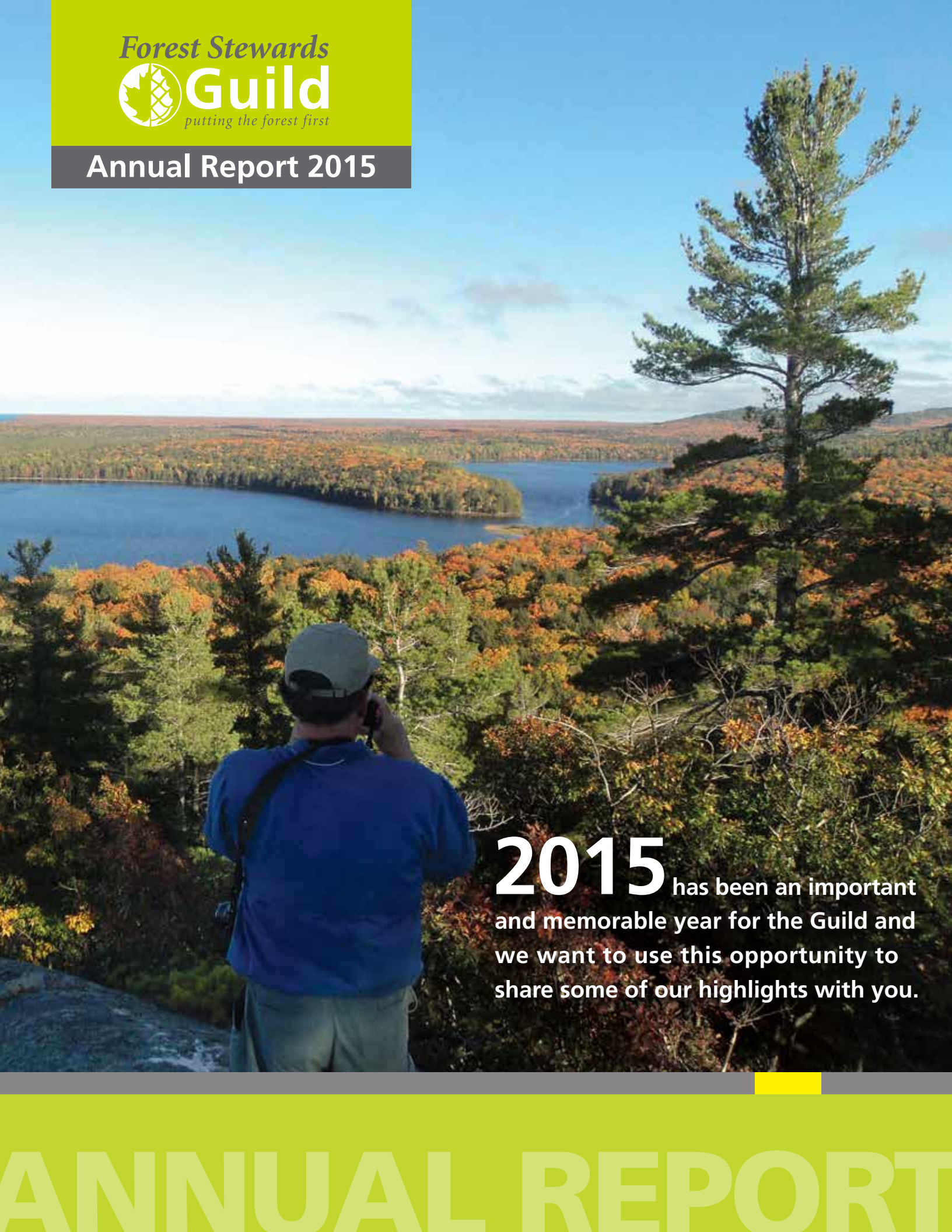




## Annual Report 2015

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue shirt, a light-colored cap, and a backpack, looking out over a large lake surrounded by a dense forest with vibrant autumn foliage. A tall, thin evergreen tree stands on the right side of the frame. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

**2015** has been an important and memorable year for the Guild and we want to use this opportunity to share some of our highlights with you.

# ANNUAL REPORT





## A Message From Fred Clark

**2015** has been a year of new growth and directions for all of us. For me personally, it's been a year to re-solidify my own commitment as a Guild member after several years away from forestry, and to appreciate the incredible work we do in so many places.



This spring, twelve members joined our board and staff in the planning effort, *Sighting Our Compass*. The result of that work was a clearer picture of our audience and our message – work we're implementing right now.

Our Board of Directors, our Membership and Policy Council, and our active members all share the goals of seeing the Guild grow and become more effective at achieving our mission. This year, we made some important and necessary investments to make that possible.

We are fortunate to have a very talented program staff who lead our work across the country. In addition, almost every project we take on is successful in large part because of the collaboration of our members and our many partners.

Here are just a few of the projects our members and staff led across the country in 2015:

- In North Carolina, we worked with the North Carolina Forest Service, the Forestland Group, and other partners to focus on conservation and stewardship of ecologically sensitive bottomland hardwood forests.
- In Maine, the voice of our experienced members made a difference as we engaged with agency heads and policy makers over proposed changes to Maine public lands management.
- In the Huron Mountains of northern Michigan, the Guild continued to guide the stewardship on 24,000 acres of family-owned old growth forest.

- In New Jersey, Maine, and Vermont, we're working with foresters and forest owners to develop tools for bird-friendly forest management.
- In New Mexico, we're helping improve forest health and reduce fire risk to homes and communities by putting prescribed fire on the ground on private lands, and by leading the Fire Adapted Communities program throughout New Mexico.
- In Wisconsin, we are working directly with The Nature Conservancy to help guide management of their Baraboo Hills Forest Preserves, one of the Conservancy's Last Great Places.

In all of these projects and more, you'll see our unique capability to use the best science, combined with local knowledge and expertise of our members, all applied with our clear ethic of conserving forests for all their values, or as we more often say: putting the forest first.

We're already making plans for 2016 and our national meeting July 13-15 in Duluth, Minnesota. We'll also continue to build our programs and the services we provide to our members. And *Forest Wisdom*, our venerable print newsletter, will be coming out next year with a new look and feel.

We'll be organizing forest walks and events for our members and supporters around the country to keep the spark glowing from the Eastern Seaboard to the West Coast.

On behalf of our staff, our Board of Directors, and our Membership and Policy Council, we thank you all for your continued support and engagement. We are a unique organization in American conservation because of you.

Thanks for all you do for forests!





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## Staff

### Fred Clark

Executive Director

### Henry Carey

Senior Forester

### Zander Evans

Research Director

### Barb Irvin

Administrative Director

### Eytan Krasilovsky

Southwest Region Director

### Mike Lynch

Great Lakes Project Coordinator

### Amanda Mahaffey

Northeast Region Director

### Matt Piccarello

Community Forestry  
Coordinator

### Nick Curran

Financial Manager

## 2015 Board of Directors

**Rick Morrill**, Chair

**Eric Holst**, Vice Chair

**Ken Smith**, Secretary

**Bill Bradley**, Treasurer

**Alan Calfee**

**John Fenderson**

**Kathryn Fernholz**

**Robert Hrubes**

**Jon Martin**

**Susan Moore**

**V. Alaric Sample**

**Kaarsten Turner Dalby**



## Northeast

The Guild's Northeast program had an active year in the areas of fire, birds, conservation, and women woodland owners. As a partner in the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, we hosted workshops and field trips in Massachusetts and New Jersey to help facilitate communication between fire scientists and managers in our region. In partnership with Audubon chapters, the Guild is helping expand the Foresters for the Birds program to Maine and New Jersey. Keep



Charlie Koch, Ehrhard Frost, Bruce Spencer, and Jeff Smith at the Yale-Myers Forest for the Guild's Northeast Regional Meeting in October.

an eye out for the Forestry for Maine Birds guidebook and future workshops! In partnership with the Maine Forest Service and local conservation groups, the Guild is helping connect women woodland owners to resources and tools to make informed decisions about their land through the Women and Our Woods program.

2015 saw many Guild gatherings across the Northeast, including the field tour and recognition of the North Woods Stewardship Center's Lydia Spitzer Demonstration Forest in Vermont as a Forest Guild Model Forest. Guild members were excited to welcome our

executive director to the neighborhood with field tours in Maine and Massachusetts. Members of the Guild staff, Board, and MPC crafted a position statement and policy summary on current events affecting the management of Maine's Public Lands. In October, the Forest Stewards Guild Northeast Regional Meeting brought together members from all New England states and Pennsylvania for a top-notch field gathering at Yale-Myers Forest in Connecticut and Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Massachusetts.



Photos left to right: Heading home; Wabanaki Youth Science students take part in a Guild-led Forestry for Maine Birds workshop at Penobscot Experimental Forest, Maine.



## Pacific Northwest

We're supporting the Pinchot Institute on their pilot study of carbon project development for small forest owners.

In Oregon, our longtime members Mark Miller and Mike Messier of Trout Mountain Forestry led a May field tour with members and friends at the Orgeon Metro's Chehalem Preserve followed by a members meeting.







## Lake States

2015 marked a seminal year for the Guild as we opened our new national office in Madison, Wisconsin. We welcomed Barb Irvin as our new Administrative Director and Nick Curran as our new Finance Manager. The Guild has a long presence and many active members in the Lake States. Our increased visibility in the region is already leading to new partnerships and program growth. Madison is home to many things – and holds a credible claim to being the beer, bratwurst, and cheese capitol of North America. Our members traveling in the area are all invited to stop in for a visit!



Executive Director Fred Clark, Administrative Director Barb Irvin, and Finance Manager Nick Curran

The Guild garnered new visibility in the Lake States region as an advocate for science-based rule-making on the decision to list the Northern Long-eared Bat under the Endangered Species Act. Our members in Minnesota and Wisconsin played a key role in working with and educating the Minnesota-based U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to develop rule language that effectively protects habitat for forest-dwelling bats while recognizing the complementary role that sustainable forestry plays in sustaining healthy bat populations.

We've strengthened our partnership with faculty and students at Michigan Technological University through the designation of a new Guild Model Forest at MTU's Ford Forestry Center, and through the Guild's own gift acquisition of 410 acres of working forest land in Houghton County, Michigan. These lands will be managed by Guild staff and partners to demonstrate Guild-style forestry principles and provide teaching opportunities for students at Michigan Technological University.



## Southeast

The Southeastern U.S. is seeing a rapidly shifting landscape for forest products as new European markets for fuel wood drive demand for southeastern wood pellet producers. Building on our earlier work and partnerships in sustainable forest-biomass utilization, we organized trainings for southeastern pellet producers on the United Kingdom standards for fuel wood and our Guild guidelines for biomass utilization to help meet those standards.

In October, we launched a new project focused on conservation practices for southeastern bottomland hardwood forests. This project, led by our NE Region Director Amanda Mahaffey, supported by the Sapelo Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, and many of our local members and partners, will focus on threats and best practices for this high conservation-value forest resource.





## Southwest

In 2015, the Southwest Program continued to build capacity for forest restoration through a suite of projects ranging from large landscapes to individual landowners. In addition to promoting policies and practices, collaboration, education and outreach, and training in forest and watershed restoration, the Southwest Program led by example through innovative implementation projects. These projects integrated forest and watershed restoration techniques, expanded the use of prescribed fire to promote fire-adapted communities, engaged landowners to reduce structural ignitability and hazardous fuels, and trained environmental groups like the Great Old Broads for Wilderness through an extensive series of forest and water monitoring efforts.



A landowner ignites piled slash under supervision as part of a prescribed burn on her land.

In November of 2015 we led our first prescribed broadcast burn on private land in ponderosa pine forest. In two days, we burned 101 acres with a suite of partners across two properties in western New Mexico. Many of these efforts will continue to unfold and expand in 2016. In the winter, we also burned 6.5 acres of piles from a 2014 thinning project.

Above photos from left to right:

Guild member and retired Wisconsin DNR Forester John Nielsen explains tree grading and bucking with Madison City forestry crews as part of a Guild training session on log utilization.

Cibola National Forest Silviculturist Shawn Martin volunteering on a prescribed broadcast burn in a ponderosa pine forest, New Mexico 2015.

Guild NE Region Director Amanda Mahaffrey, with Bruce White, GFR Forestry, and Joe Schwartz, the Forestland Group, or TFG, at Forestland Group's Lumber River Forest in Lumberton, North Carolina.

The Aldo Leopold Shack in Baraboo, Wisconsin

Research Director Zander Evans (second from left) on a research project with Santa Clara Pueblo's forestry crew collecting data.

◀ Forest Stewards Guild Members on a forest assessment near Marquette, Michigan.







## Save the Date

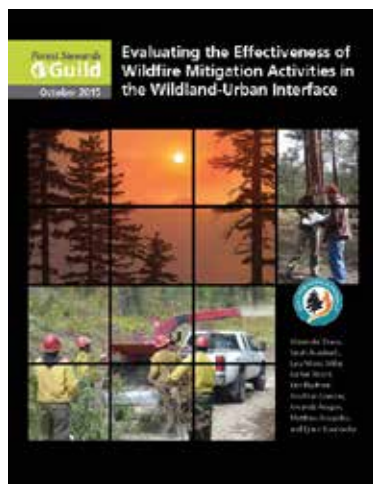
The Forest Stewards Guild National Meeting is shaping up to be better and bigger than ever. Please mark your calendars for our 2016 National Meeting on July 13 - 15 in Duluth, Minnesota, the heart of Lake Superior Country. We're joining key partners in the conservation and forestry communities and there'll be learning and networking opportunities you simply won't find anywhere else.

The Duluth Harbor is the site of the 2016 Forest Stewards Guild National Meeting.



## Research to Support Ecological Forestry

In November, the guild research program released a new report titled, *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Wildfire Mitigation Activities in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)*.



Forest Stewards Guild Research Director, Zander Evans, led a study team to examine how fuel treatments change modeled wildfire behavior. They analyzed over 2,000 assessments of home wildfire hazard, studied the community hazard reduction program called Firewise, and finally integrated these different pieces of WUI mitigation efforts by studying the implementation of nine Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The Guild also contributed to an in-depth study of the ecological impact of pile burning as a fuel reduction treatment in western forests.

In 2016, the Guild will complete a study of the economic and ecological effects of forest practices and restrictions in Wisconsin and contribute to a research project on the interaction of fire and cultural resources in the Southwest.



Guild staff and leadership at the Aldo Leopold Center, Baraboo, Wisconsin in July. Standing from left: Eytan Krasilovsky, Eric Holst, Mike Lynch, Fred Clark, Jon Fosgitt, Alan Calfee, Al Sample, Zander Evans, John Fenderson. Seated, from left: Rick Morrill, Amanda Mahaffey, Kaarsten Turner Dalby, Ken Smith, Robert Hrubes, Bill Bradley, and Katie Fernholz.

## Leadership Retreat

In July, the Guild's leadership convened in the shadow of Aldo Leopold's Shack in Baraboo, Wisconsin, for hard work and rich conversations about our ethical roots and future opportunities. The gathering of members of the Guild Board, Membership and Policy Council, Guild staff from Madison, Santa Fe, and Freeport (Maine), and our members and supporters from Wisconsin to Vermont, made for a special event in a special place.

Our hosts led a tour and discussion of forest ethics and the legacy of Aldo Leopold at his family's shack. And, we enjoyed cold beer and warm conversations with many of our friends in the conservation community. This opportunity for our leadership to come together for creative inspiration was invaluable, and the energy from that event continues to drive our plans for next year and beyond.

# Stewards Circle

*Providing essential support for our work*

We depend on support from many people and organizations to do our work. In 2015 we launched our Stewards Circle, to recognize those members and supporters who have given generously to support the Guild and our work. Our sincere thanks to these and other friends who have stepped up to join the Stewards Circle in 2015.

Anonymous	Timothy Metz - Garberville, CA
Bill Bradley - New York, NY	Rick Morrill - Greensboro, VT
Alan Calfee - Dorset, VT	Charles Moreno - Center
Fred Clark - Madison, WI	Strafford, NH
Dan Donahue - Ashford, CT	Nancy Patch - Richford, VT
Kevin Evans - Spartansburg, PA	Robert Perschel - Littleton, MA
Peter Evans - Albuquerque, NM	Keith Ross - Warwick, MA
Kathryn Fernholz -	Al Sample - Washington, DC
Minneapolis, MN	Jeffrey Smith - Thetford
Troy Firth - Spartansburg, PA	Center, VT
The Fox Foundation -	Ken Smith - Sewanee, TN
Princeton, NJ	Jennifer Speers - Salt Lake City, UT
Don Handley - Florence, SC	Bruce Spencer - New Salem, MA
Geoff Jones - Stoddard, NH	Brendan Whittaker -
Mark Lancaster - Weaverville, CA	Brunswick, VT
John Lee - Langley, WA	Joe Wiley - Dresden, ME
Brent McCown - Madison, WI	

## Organizational Sponsors



## Thanks to the many partners who supported us in 2015.

We want to take this chance to recognize and thank the over 125 organizations and businesses who have partnered with us or supported our work in 2015. Our many accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the help of these and others who support our mission.

Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation	Picuris Pueblo
Allegheny College	Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Arid Land Ideas	Pine Creek Forestry
Audubon Vermont	Providence Water
Baahaali Chapter of the Navajo Nation	Rachel Wood Consulting
Baxter State Park Authority	Ramah Navajo Chapter - Forestry
Betterment Fund	Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.
Blandin Foundation	Reineke Construction
Bluewater Acres Fire Department	Rhode Island Woodland Partnership
Bureau of Indian Affairs Northern	Rocky Mountain Ecology
Pueblos Agency	Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Bureau of Land Management - Taos Field Office	Santa Clara Pueblo
Caro's General Works	Santa Fe County, Wildland Division
Carson National Forest	Santa Fe Fat Tire Society
Chris' Tree Services	Santa Fe National Forest
City of Madison, Wisconsin - Parks Division	South-Central Mountain RC&D
City of Santa Fe Fire Department	Southeastern Massachusetts Pine
Cibola National Forest	Barrens Alliance
Cottonwood Gulch Foundation	Southwest Fire Science Consortium
Dovetail Partners Inc.	Stockton University
Downeast Lakes Land Trust	Tesuque Pueblo
Ecotone Consulting	The Forestland Group
Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network	The Nature Conservancy - Fire
Fire Service Support	Learning Network
Forest Works!	The Nature Conservancy - Colorado Chapter
Foundation for Sustainable Forests	The Nature Conservancy - Maine Chapter
GFR Forestry, Raleigh, NC	The Nature Conservancy - Michigan Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness	The Nature Conservancy - Minnesota Chapter
Hidden Valley Nature Center	The Nature Conservancy - New Mexico Chapter
Horizon Foundation	The Nature Conservancy - Wisconsin Chapter
HR Vigil Small Products	The Sapelo Foundation
Huron Mountain Club of Michigan	The Seney National Wildlife Refuge
Isleta Pueblo	The Watershed Research and Training Center
John C. Bock Foundation	Timberlake Ranches
Joint Fire Science Program	Toyota TogetherGreen by Audubon
Maine Audubon Society	Trout Mountain Forestry
Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands
Maine Community Foundation	University of Arizona
Maine Forest and Logging Museum	University of New Mexico - Earth and
Maine Forest Service	Planetary Sciences
Maine Invasive Species Network	University of Wisconsin Madison - School of
Maine Natural Areas Program	Forestry & Wildlife Ecology
Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Seney National
Marathon County Wisconsin -	Wildlife Refuge
Forestry Department	U.S. Forest Service - Northern Research Station
McCune Charitable Foundation	U.S. Forest Service - Pacific Northwest
McDougall Orchards	Research Station
McKinley County, New Mexico -	U.S. Forest Service - Rocky Mountain
Fire Department	Research Station
Michigan Technological University	U.S. Forest Service - Southern Region
Mt. Taylor Manufacturing	U.S. Forest Service - Southwestern Region
National Council on Air and	U.S. Forest Service - Southwestern Region
Stream Improvement	Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
National Wildlife Federation	U.S. Geological Survey
New Jersey Audubon	U.S. Geological Survey - Jemez Mountain
New Jersey Forest Fire Service	Field Station
New Jersey State Forestry Services	USDA Forest Service Penobscot
New Mexico Association of Counties	Experimental Forest
New Mexico State Forestry	Valles Caldera National Preserve
New Mexico State Land Office	Vermont Land Trust
New Mexico Youth Conservation	Village of Angel Fire, New Mexico -
Corps Commission	Fire Department
Norcross Wildlife Foundation	Western Ecosystems Technology
Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary	William P. Wharton Trust
North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange	Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of
North Carolina State University	Public Lands
Northeast Forest & Fire Management, LLC	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources -
Northern Arizona University	Forestry Division
Northern Rhode Island Conservation District	Yale School of Forestry and
Northwoods Stewardship Center	Environmental Studies
Old Sturbridge Village	Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
Old Wood	Zuni Pueblo School



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## A Year to be Thankful

As 2016 approaches, we look forward to a new and exciting era for the Forest Stewards Guild. Please keep in touch! Our 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.



Please like our Forest Stewards Guild page on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



Membership and Policy Council Member Nancy Patch of Vermont

