



Annual Review 2016

2016

As we end a memorable and
historic year we – want to share
our accomplishments with you.

ANNUAL REVIEW



A Message From **Rick Morrill**

As we reach the shortest days of the year, the long nights offer a chance to reflect on where we have been in the last 12 months, and where we hope to go in the months ahead. It is a time to consider our successes, learn from mistakes, and renew our energy and enthusiasm for continued progress in the new year. For those committed to long term forest stewardship, successful management and conservation of our forest resources requires these same reflections on a regular basis. A willingness to engage in honest assessments while maintaining a commitment to constant improvement are hallmarks of adaptive stewardship. This same willingness is also embedded in the DNA of the Forest Stewards Guild. A combination of pragmatism and idealism enables the Guild to be both nimble and efficient, casting an impact and influence on forests well beyond what is typical of a small organization.

The Forest Stewards Guild has completed another outstanding year, driven by our principles, supported by our members, and focused on constantly improving our leadership in the forest management and conservation community nationwide. If you attended our national meeting in Duluth, or one of the many regional events throughout the year, you cannot help but feel the enthusiasm and momentum toward shared goals. If you read one of our many publications, you know the value of the confluence of science and ethics in research and education. It is the contagious

hope for the future and commitment to a stewardship ethic embodied in this work that motivates all of us and makes the Guild so special.

2017 promises to be a busy year, as the Guild is poised to expand existing programs like the Model Forest Network, while exploring new opportunities to improve member engagement and services. We are also continuing to grow our organization, always seeking to bring new forest stewards into our circle. To that end, I invite all of our members, from students to professionals, to reach out to friends and colleagues and tell them why you are a member of the Guild, and encourage them to learn more about our organization and values.

If you are already a Guild member – thank you for all that you do. If you are a prospective member, I invite you to join our community of stewards in the new year.

Happy holidays to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Morrill".

Rick Morrill
Board Chair



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Northeast

The Forest Stewards Guild was hard at work in the Northeast in 2016. We held *Women and Our Woods* workshops to empower women woodland owners to steward their land. We co-led *Foresters for the Birds* workshops to help foresters, loggers, land trusts, and landowners “see the forest for the birds” and explore new ways to implement silviculture with birds in mind.



Nancy Patch speaks about *Foresters for the Birds* at the Maine Land Conservation Conference.

Through the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, we helped spark field-based conversation about the role of fire in oak ecosystems in our region. We also helped host a national gathering of fire scientists and managers in New Jersey’s Pine Barrens. The Guild facilitated the Rhode Island Woodland Partnership’s strategic planning process to advance a culture of forest stewardship in Rhode Island.

All of this work and more was made possible through the support of foundations, individuals, and partners in forest stewardship across the Northeast. This heavily forested region is dominated by forested communities in which people care for the forest by caring for the places we call “home.” Together, through collaborative partnerships, the Forest Stewards Guild and friends are safeguarding our forests. We look forward to continuing this important work in the year ahead.



Pacific West

In September, Guild members played an active role in the Redwood Science Symposium that was held in Eureka, California. Initially developed by a team that included longtime Guild member Yana Valakovich of University of California Extension, the event brought together over 300 foresters and conservationists from around the country to share science and policy practices related to redwoods forest management. The Guild and our members helped sponsor the event with an opening reception.

In 2016, the Guild heartily welcomed Linwood Gill on staff as Pacific West Region Coordinator. As a founding member of the Guild and the manager of Parker Ranch, a Forest Steward Guild Model Forest, Linwood brings a wealth of experience and history to the organization. His passion for sustainable forestry and his deep knowledge of California’s redwood forests bring exciting growth opportunities for the Guild. He is already strengthening our relationship with the Blodgett Research Forest and is working to foster deeper connections between the Guild and forest owners and managers of Northern California. Through his leadership, we look forward to a year of new projects and partnerships throughout the region.



Guild Members and staff, Eric Holst, Linwood Gill, Fred Clark, and Stephen Smith reconnect at the Redwood Science Symposium.





Ann Calhoun of the Nature Conservancy, and Guild Members Mike Mossman and Rich Livingston joined UW-Madison students to explore the Baraboo Hills forests.



Staff members Eytan Krasilovsky and Esmé Cadiente joined Jeremy Bailey of the Nature Conservancy on a collaborative burn in southern Colorado.



Lake States

In 2016, the Guild deepened its roots in the Lake States. In September, University of Wisconsin-Madison forestry and wildlife ecology students joined professional Guild members to explore sustainable land management practices in Wisconsin's Baraboo Hills – one of the Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places. Long-time Guild member and Baraboo Hills native Mike Mossman educated the group about the region through maps and notes from his graduate student work.

In October, Guild professional members joined Michigan Technological University students at the school's Tech Trails Forest to discuss a variety of forestry issues while hiking through this newly-designated Forest Stewards Guild Model Forest.

We also strengthened our reputation of providing timely policy and research reports with the creation of a member's position statement on changes to Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law. We will continue to lead as an advocate on these and other ongoing forest policy issues in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

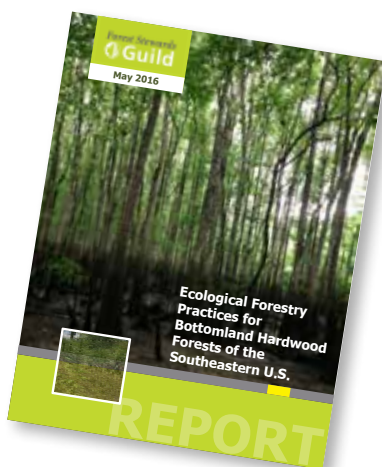
Finally, 2016 marked the second year of the Guild's new national office in Madison, Wisconsin, where we welcomed Deb Saeger, Finance and Administrative Coordinator and Amy Zimmerman, Communications and Development Coordinator.



Southeast

Activity is growing for the Guild in the Southeast. In May 2016, the Forest Stewards Guild produced a report on ecological forestry practices for bottomland hardwood forests of the southeastern U.S., which launched us into engagement in regional initiatives on this important topic. As discussions grow about sustainability and the ecological management of bottomland forests, the Guild aims to be in the heart of it, advocating for decisions based in science and practical experience. We are grateful to the many contributors who shared their expertise.

In 2016, the Forest Stewards Guild was honored to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Fred White, whose legacy to generations of forest stewards is immeasurable.



Southwest

The Southwest team continued to work in rural forested communities and areas of frequent forests fires. Highlights from this year include the expansion of the Forest Stewards Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), a core Guild program for nearly two decades. In 2016, 46 youths, across six crews, worked in the Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests. In addition to providing mentoring, job skills training, and college credits, the YCC Program helped further conservation projects in critical areas throughout northern New Mexico.

Community Forestry Coordinator, Matt Piccarello, expanded our prescribed fire expertise by gaining first-hand experience working on wildfire assignment. Matt joined an interagency team assigned to manage Utah's Mineral Fork fire over the course of two weeks.

Since 2013, the Guild has coordinated and led prescribed fire training exchanges and cooperative prescribed fires to further the development of fire adapted communities. This year was no exception and began with fuel reduction burning on private land in a high-risk community near Santa Fe. Later, with support from the Fire Learning Network and the New Mexico State Land Office, the Guild returned fire to over 520 acres of ponderosa pine and dry mixed conifer forest, an effort that will restore healthier forests.

Finally, the region benefited from the addition of our two hard-working summer interns, Owen Ludwig and Nicholas Olson and we welcomed our newest full-time staff member, Esmé Cadiente, as Southwest Program Assistant.



2016 YCC members proudly display certificates of completion.

National Meeting

The 2016 National Meeting of the Forest Stewards Guild drew over 130 natural resource managers, researchers, and students together in Duluth, Minnesota for a singular event designed to empower practitioners with restoration tools rooted in forest science, conservation, and collaboration. The three-day program created an opportunity to learn and practice an evolving land ethic.

The keynote address by Aldo Leopold scholar, Curt Meine, set the stage for interweaving lessons from Leopold with the evolution of our understanding of ecosystem function and our responsibility as a “thinking community” to restore and sustain our forests. The full indoor program offered participants a suite of presentations on collaborative work in forest conservation and management, strategies for ecological forest management in a variety of forest types, and tools for restoration and community collaboration through the lens of sustaining healthy watersheds across a diversity of ownerships and management landscapes. Field trips on the second day provided an in-depth look at restoration work in exceptional forest landscapes. The Cloquet Forestry Center provided the perfect venue for the final synthesis workshop. A harbor cruise, softball game, canoe trip, and an evening gathering provided opportunities for attendees to network and connect.

The Guild honored two of our founding members with Lifetime Achievement Awards at our meeting. Ross Morgan of Craftsbury Common, Vermont, and the late Fred White of Chapel Hill, North Carolina were recognized for their lifetime of personal and professional service in *Putting the Forest First*, and for teaching and inspiring others who care for people and the land. The Guild is a much stronger organization as a result of their contributions.



National Meeting attendees put learning into action at the Cloquet Forestry Center.

Linking Science, Experience and Practice



The Guild research program synthesizes and conducts scientific research that facilitates the practice of ecological forestry. Our work in 2016 provides good examples of linking science, experience, and practice. In March, the Guild and partners released a report on the economic and ecological effects of forest practices and harvesting constraints on Wisconsin's forest resources and economy. This report paired the field experience of Guild

members in the Lake States with research to produce a better understanding of the impacts of forest policy.

A key part of putting science into practice is engaging with scientists and land stewards through workshops, field trips, and conferences. Research Director, Zander Evans presented the Guild's work at meetings from Washington, DC to Durango, Mexico and the Guild's National Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. Partnerships extend the positive impacts of our work and the Guild is deeply engaged with others, like the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition and Fire Science Knowledge Exchanges, who share our passion. In 2017, work will continue on a range of research issues from management of post burn landscapes to building the concept of resilience into land management planning organization as a result of their lifetime contributions.



Guild Research Director, Zander Evans (left) participated in a field tour with Mexican and Canadian foresters near El Salta, Mexico.



Stewards Circle

Providing essential support for our work

Stewards Circle members give generously to support the Guild's work. We extend our sincere thanks to these and other friends who became leaders in giving as members of the 2016 Stewards Circle:

Laura and John Addison, Santa Fe, NM
 Catherine Bauer, Longwood, FL
 Bill Bradley, New York, NY
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Parker Ten Mile Ranch

Thanks to the many partners who supported us in 2016

We want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank over 150 organizations and businesses who partnered with us or supported our work in 2016. Our many accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the help of these and other organizations who support our mission.

Aitkin County Land Department
All Tree Firewood
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Anya & Henry Bagley Charitable Trust
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Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
Zuni Pueblo School



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A Year to be Thankful!

We are grateful that 2016 has been a year of new opportunities, positive accomplishments, and new members and supporters from across North America. As 2017 approaches, we look forward to continuing important work, while we watch carefully to see how national and international developments affect our work and mission. One thing that will not change in 2017 is our resolve to advance our mission of caring for and conserving forests through research, education, professional practice, and advocacy.

We owe you, our members and supporters, an enormous thank you for all you do for the benefit of forests and forest communities, and for your continued support.

*From all of us at the Forest Stewards Guild,
We wish you all the best for 2017!*

