

2017

A year of change, community
building, and hope — how we
are contributing to the vision.

Rising to the Challenge



Hyla Woods, Oregon.

Message From **AL SAMPLE**

In just a little over two decades, the Forest Stewards Guild has become a leading professional organization promoting the conservation and sustainable management of forests. It has a growing membership of practicing professional foresters who are committed to the kind of land ethic first articulated by Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac*. This commitment is reflected in the forest management plans they develop and implement, and in their active approach to helping private forest landowners and public natural resource agencies sustainably manage forests.

The Guild has become a respected voice in the development of policies and practices relating to forest stewardship. Our guidance is sought in addressing new challenges to public forest resource conservation, and in promoting a broad public understanding of the issues, needs, and opportunities faced by the managers and stewards of private forests. We work to educate and inform, and to ensure recognition of the broad public interest that is served by sustainable forest management that is environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.

Throughout this period of growth and development, the Guild has never lost sight of its central mission to support the work of its members. The Guild has continuously improved its capacity to facilitate a professional network of ethically committed forest management practitioners. We take advantage of new, lower-cost strategies for keeping members connected with one another for the exchange of ideas, information and techniques, as well as mutual support and advice.

The challenges of forest conservation are continually growing and evolving, and the science and practice of forestry must also continually evolve to meet these challenges. We have entered a period of unprecedented environmental change. We face a future in which past experience will provide little guidance, and we must find ways to help forests be resilient to forces that we have limited means to predict.

Under the leadership of its new Executive Director, Zander Evans, the members, staff, and board of the Forest Stewards Guild are up to the challenge. 2017 demonstrated again that we are strong, we are resilient, and we are leaders in making positive change in our forests.

We are guided by sound science and grounded by practical field experience. The Forest Stewards Guild was built by members and contributors who recognize the value of this unbeatable combination, and their numbers continue to grow. We are deeply grateful to the many friends, partners, and supporters who helped make possible the accomplishments described in this report, and we look forward to welcoming many more to the Forest Stewards Guild community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Al Sample". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Al Sample
Board Chair



612 W. Main St., Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703
608-333-0551
www.ForestStewardsGuild.org

Staff

Zander Evans

Executive Director

Sam Berry

Project Coordinator

Nick Biemiller

Southeast Regional Coordinator

Esmé Cadiente

Collaborative Forestry
Project Manager

Fred Clark

Senior Forester

Eytan Krasilovsky

Southwest Region Director

Mike Lynch

Great Lakes Project Coordinator

Amanda Mahaffey

Northeast Region Director

Leonora Pepper

Project Coordinator

Matt Piccarello

Assistant Southwest Director

Colleen Robinson

Communications Coordinator

Deb Saeger

Director of Finance and
Administration

Board of Directors

V. Alaric Sample, Chair

Ken Smith, Vice Chair

Rick Morrill, Immediate Past Chair

Amber Ellering, Secretary

Kaärsten Turner-Dalby, Treasurer

Bill Bradley

Alan Calfee

John Fenderson

Christine Hall

Kathy Holian

Eric Holst

Robert Hrubes



Northeast

In the Northeast, the Forest Stewards Guild advances forest stewardship through partnerships and boots-on-the-ground good work. We brought Forestry for Maine Birds workshops to new audiences and helped train loggers, landowners, and foresters in bird-friendly silviculture. Our feature Women and Our Woods workshop brought together Women of the Maine Outdoors and enthusiastic woodland owners for an action-packed skills workshop. We look forward to helping grow these initiatives in 2018.

October 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of the 1947 fires that swept across Maine and the Northeast. Through the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, the Guild helped bring attention to the way these fires shaped our forests and the wildfire preparedness measures in place today because of these historic events. We also brought together fire managers and scientists from around the region for a three-day fuels monitoring workshop that equipped participants with a “cookbook” of economical and effective monitoring techniques.

Many people connected at Guild Gatherings across the landscape. Our partners at the Foundation for Sustainable Forests had a hugely successful Loving the Land through Working Forests conference highlighting forest stewardship in western Pennsylvania. Vermont Guild members gathered for woods walks featuring high-caliber discussions of silviculture, climate change adaptation, and more. A two-day Gathering at the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge and Dartmouth Second College Land Grant showcased Guild-style forestry that works in the vast North Woods.

Each of these events and programs rekindled the “spark” that keeps us strong in the face of adversity in the woods and in our home communities. Guild members are carrying out the good work needed to steward our forests for future generations.

Read more 2017 highlights from
all of the regions online at
www.ForestStewardsGuild.org



Pacific West

Guild Gatherings brought together a wide range of expertise, experience, and interests that will grow to support continued efforts here.

Professional forest managers from the Sierras and Coast Range, students and professors from UC Berkeley and the University of Nevada Reno, and representatives from CAL FIRE and the California Resource Agency gathered at Collins Pine, California to discuss a breadth of topics related to multi-age forest management. Hosted by our long-term and valuable partner, Collins Pine, attendees learned new perspectives in terms of cohort development, harvest rotations, residual stocking levels, and species mix. A discussion of research projects through University of California Cooperative Extension could lead to replicated treatments throughout the Sierras to assess effects of climate change. The group wants to meet twice each year, in the Sierra/Cascades and on the coast.

At the Hyla Woods-Mt. Richmond forest near Gaston, attendees had a special treat. Dr. Jerry Franklin, “the father of ecological forest management” from the University of Washington spent time with the group discussing ecological forestry. His ideas spurred rich discussion about what is possible, feasible, necessary, and critical in how we think about and practice forest management. This Hayes family forest is managed with a commitment to “ecologically complex, economically viable, and responsibly operated forests.”

Parker Ten Mile Ranch in Fort Bragg, California is one of the first Guild-designated Model Forests. The primary silvicultural method is single tree selection with small groups less than ¼ acre. This best mimics the natural disturbances of the coastal area of Mendocino County. Large, stand-replacing fires are rare here, and natural disturbances are typically related to high wind events or individual tree mortality. Discussions of the management of micro-sites emphasized encouraging growth of redwoods and Douglas-fir. Other topics included conifer regeneration, bear damage, cable yarding, tanoak management, and managing under a working forest conservation easement.



North American Fire Science Exchange field trip at Acadia, National Park, Maine.

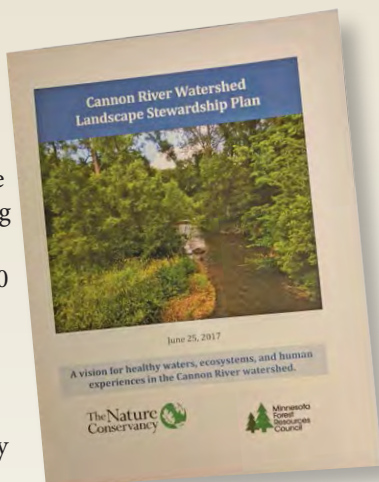




Lake States

Guild activity in the Lakes States continues to increase. Here we highlight the key role the Guild played in developing Landscape Stewardship Plans for the Cannon River (940,000 acres) and Zumbro River (909,000 acres) watersheds in southeastern Minnesota.

Landscape Stewardship Plans (LSPs) bring together a variety of stakeholders to address resource-based issues of mutual concern in a landscape. LSPs are based on the recognition that many, if not all, our conservation and environmental challenges are interrelated. For example, additional perennial cover in an upland agricultural area can improve soil health while also reducing erosion on the forested hillside below it. Improved conditions in both areas will benefit the hydrology, water quality, and associated biodiversity in the stream below them. In developing these LSPs, the Guild and The Nature Conservancy worked with private landowners, city planners, and experts in hydrology, forests, and wildlife management to create a vision that recognizes how these efforts can reinforce each other. We identified areas where coordination will add the most benefit, making all our goals for the landscape easier to achieve. The LSP embraces an “all lands” approach that identifies shared objectives across public and private natural areas as well as urban and agricultural areas. The Guild’s focus is ‘Putting the Forest First.’ In so doing, our mission and expertise place us in a perfect position to help achieve broader goals across the landscape. The Guild will be developing a third LSP with The Nature Conservancy in early 2018; this time focusing on the Snake River Watershed in east central Minnesota. We are thrilled to be part of this critical work to create buy-in and provide stewardship guidance from which everyone can find their win.



to sensitive ecological systems such as bottomland forests. Other contributions the Guild is making include helping to appraise sourcing plans and practices, prioritize research needs, and develop trainings and outreach opportunities. With increased interest in bottomland hardwoods expected in coming years, the Guild is strategically positioned in the region to support high standards for bottomland management by convening assembly around the topic and creating meaningful discourse.



A bottomland hardwood forest in coastal North Carolina (Greenville).

In September 2017, the Guild was awarded a competitive grant to restore shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) ecosystems in the Cumberland Plateau region of Tennessee and Kentucky. Shortleaf pine currently occupies less than 10 percent of its historic range throughout the southeast and mid-Atlantic. Most of the remaining shortleaf pine forests are thought to be present on private landholdings. By partnering with Sewanee: The University of the South, Berea College, and Tennessee Wildlife Federation, this project takes a landscape-level approach to enhance and restore habitat for shortleaf pine and upland savanna forests by creating demonstration sites at Sewanee’s Domain Forest and the Berea College Forest. The Guild is also working closely with Tennessee Wildlife Federation to engage private forest landowners in the region by developing shortleaf habitat plans for landowners, organizing workshops and technical trainings, and distributing educational materials.

The Forest Stewards Guild’s Southeast Regional Meeting in the Triangle area of North Carolina was a huge success. Read more about this event on page 7.



Southeast

The Guild continues to grow in the southeast as we work to serve our members and implement projects that advance forest stewardship. The increasing threats to ecological functionality in bottomland forests in the southeast due to development, poor forest management (e.g. high-grading), and hydrological alterations prompted the Guild to produce a report in 2016 focused on ecological forestry principles in bottomland hardwood forests. Building on that momentum, the Guild continues to promote science and boots-on-the-ground expertise in decision-making for bottomland management. For instance, Guild members and staff participated in the Bottomland and Swamp Forest Symposium hosted this fall by the North Carolina Forest Service and North Carolina State University. The Guild is a participant in the Wetland Forest Initiative, a network of organizations and agencies that seek to promote abundant wetland forests for healthy human and natural communities. The Guild is also engaged in industry-led and third-party certification-driven focus groups for reducing risk



Pitcher plants and Venus fly traps are rare, protected plants that are examples of the species richness found in wetland forests in the Southeast Coastal Plain.



Southwest

For almost two decades, the Forest Stewards Youth Corps program has improved New Mexico's natural resources and provided affected communities with long-lasting ecological and socio-economic benefits. The program engages youth from rural, underserved, forest-based communities through summer employment and hands-on experience in stewardship activities on public lands. Strong partnerships among the Forest Stewards Guild, the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission, and the USDA Forest Service make it possible.



Youth Corps student determining tree age and climatic history from a tree core. Photo: Owen Ludwig.

The 2017 Youth Corps included 35 crew members, ages 15 to 19. These youth worked on conservation projects on National Forest system lands. While building and repairing fences and recreation trails, protecting water quality, installing erosion controls, preparing fire line for prescribed fire, marking timber, reducing fuel loads, monitoring wildlife and so much more, they developed a deeper appreciation of our natural heritage, learned the fundamentals of forest ecology, received on-the-job training, and earned a salary.

This work brings hope on so many fronts. True to the Guild's vision, this is ecologically-based forestry that simultaneously helps enhance the economy through job creation, recreation improvements, watershed protection, and the reduction of wildfire risk. The work is done through strong, collaborative partnerships because no one can do it alone. It also strengthens communities by bringing traditional knowledge, cutting-edge scientific research, and land management tools together to develop sustainable goals for the landscape with buy-in from the people living within it. Forests become more resilient and so do the communities who depend on them – human and otherwise. For example, part of improving the health of fire-adapted landscapes includes removing excess fuel due to overgrowth, invasive species encroachment, and fire suppression over time. Doing so reduces

the area's risk of high-intensity wildfire. Often, the excess fuels provide communities with the firewood that they depend on for heating. The crew's timber markings for harvests also lead to economic benefit.

More than 700 rural youth have been through our program, many of whom have continued to higher education and careers with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Crew members can earn college credit in forestry management through a partnership with Santa Fe Community College.

This program has long-term effects in and out of the forest. In 2017, a former Corps crew member who studies land use history at the University of New Mexico returned to the project as a trainer. Another crew member became a crew leader in her first year of college in a veterinary sciences program. In total, seventy college credits were distributed to assist with high school graduation and higher education advancement in the 2017 Corps alone.

In polarizing times, the Forest Stewards Youth Corps provides invaluable benefits. As we continue to learn through research in the fields of environmental education, health care, and social behavior, a program like this garners social benefits well beyond the direct impact for natural and local resources. The projects facilitate development of a solid work ethic, leadership skills, understanding of USFS programs and disciplines, and an opportunity to work together with other youth of diverse backgrounds. There is something about coming together, learning hands-on outside, having to trouble shoot and problem solve issues you cannot tackle on your own, and doing so within an intensive schedule and immersive experience in nature, where you live and breathe the work and the brand-new community you find yourself within every day, that simply changes who you are for the better. Shy students become leaders. Self-conscious students discover and share their talents and find that others depend upon them. Defensive students find compassion in the discovery that they are an integral part of a team. All this within in an economically, ethnically, and socially-diverse group. What could be more important for youth to experience than a meaningful connection with their environment and each other?

In other region work, 48 people worked together in this year's Prescribed Fire Training Exchange, more than 700 elementary students in rural McKinley County received forestry and fire education, and Community Wildfire Protection Plans helped make many communities more resilient.



2017 Forest Stewards Youth Corps graduation.



Stewards Circle

Providing essential support for our work

Stewards Circle members give generously to help fulfill our mission. Thank you for being our leading circle of support in 2017.

John and Laura Addison, Santa Fe, NM	Geoff Jones, Stoddard, NH
Anya and Henry Bagley Charitable Trust, Santa Fe, NM	Charles Koch, Jaffrey, NH
Bill Bradley, New York, NY	Louis Lamphere, Albuquerque, NM
Sam Brown, Parkman, ME	Nancy Langston, Hancock, MI
Rob Bryan, Harpswell, ME	John Lee, Langley, WA
Peter Bundy, Minneapolis, MN	Steve Lindeman, Saltville, VA
Alan Calfee, Pawlet, VT	Benjamin Lumpkin, Evanston, IL
Henry Carey, Santa Fe, NM	David Marvin, Morrisville, VT
Elizabeth Celio, Oak Park, IL	Isabel McKay, Brooks, ME
John and Christi Clancy, Madison, WI	Timothy Metz, Garberville, CA
Andrew Clark, Portola Valley, CA	Jacob Minas, New York, NY
Fred Clark, Madison, WI	Susan Moore, Raleigh, NC
Mike DeBonis, Waterbury Ctr, VT	Charles Moreno, Center Strafford, NH
Paul DeLong, Madison, WI	Rick Morrill, Greensboro, VT
Steve Dettman, Portland, OR	Eunice Padley, Madison, WI
Mike Dombeck, Stevens Point, WI	Robert Perschel, Littleton, MA
Dan Donahue, Ashford, CT	Roger Plourde, Hubbardston, MA
Kay Drey, St. Louis, MO	Steve Ruddell, Durango, CO
Kevin Evans, Milan, NH	Steve Saeger, Boulder, CO
Peter Evans, Albuquerque, NM	Kristin Salisbury, Albuquerque, NM
Kathryn Fernholz, Minneapolis, MN	V. Alaric Sample, Washington, DC
Troy Firth, Spartansburg, PA	Robert Seymour, Orono, ME
Rob Galbraith, San Antonio, TX	Jeffrey Smith, Thetford Center, VT
Tom Gaman, Inverness, CA	Ken Smith, Sewanee, TN
Julia Geer and Dick Dreissigacker, Morrisville, VT	Mary Snieckus, Silver Spring, MD
Kent Gilges, Exeter, NH	Daniel Stepanauskas, Silver Lake, NH
Linwood Gill, Fort Bragg, CA	Trout Mountain Forestry, Portland, OR
Christina Grass, Round Pond, ME	Robert Turner, Bristol, VT
Paul Harper, Arcata, CA	Kaarsten Turner Dalby, Conifer, CO
Kathy Holian, Glorieta, NM	Richard Valigura, Sun Prairie, WI
Robert Hrubes, El Cerrito, CA	Brendan Whittaker, Brunswick, VT
Mike Jani, Santa Cruz, CA	
Dylan Jenkins, Williamsport, PA	

Organizational Sponsors



BASKAHEGAN COMPANY



MENDOCINO • HUMBOLDT
Redwood Companies



Parker Ten Mile Ranch

Guild Gatherings – sharing the vision

The Guild builds community around a dedication to ecologically, economically, and sustainably-based forest management. In 2017, some of these efforts took the form of Guild Gatherings. More than 250 people across the country networked and learned from professional members and partners closer to home. Guild Gatherings include traditional presentations, field tours, and time for comradery around the interests at hand. Professional members, supporters, and partners give Guild Gatherings life. They suggest the ideas, locations, projects and topics to highlight.

Please let us know your ideas for future Guild Gatherings. What site, partner, or forest steward exemplifies great work that you'd like to see showcased? Consider sponsoring an event. Help us gather and learn together. Contact Colleen at colleen@forestguild.org or 608-333-0554.

Guild Gathering Highlights from 2017

In the southeast:

In the Southern Piedmont of North Carolina, we discussed opportunities to manage hardwood for species diversity, structural complexity, and resilience, where even-aged loblolly pine management remains the dominant form of silviculture. Tours:

- An irregular oak femelschlag at Duke University's Duke Forest,
- A shelter-burn technique for oak at the Cherokee Boy Scout Reservation, and
- An oak woodland restoration site at the North Carolina Umstead Research Station.



Attendees view a shelter-burn for oak, Cherokee Boy Scout Reservation, North Carolina 2017.

In the Pacific west:

Hyla Woods reflects Guild-style forestry by the Hayes family of Oregon. Here, longtime member Dr. Jerry Franklin shared details of his co-authored publication *Ecological Forest Management*.

Parker Ten Mile Ranch, Fort Bragg, California hosted a field tour and conversations about the management of micro-sites through silvicultural treatments designed to mimic small windfall disturbance events. The group discussed silvicultural options that emulate the natural disturbance regime and enhance older forest characteristics.

Collins Pine, California attendees left inspired and eager to learn more. Dinner and camping together made for an immersion experience and strong connections built in a short time. Tours of the Collins Almanor Forest, W.M. Beaty & Associates managed forests, and Lassen National Forest Service lands spurred conversations of:

- Biomass thinning as a pre-commercial thinning tool,
- The California Forest Practices Act stocking limitations on practicing multi-age management,
- Using the Stand Density Index to determine basal area retention,
- Drought mortality and changes in species composition, and
- Increased small tree stocking due to a century of fire suppression.



Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources Fire Ecologist Jed Meunier discusses fire history in red pines at Finnerud Pine Forest State Natural Area.

In the lake states:

At Wisconsin's Northern Highlands forest we focused on the future of old pine and oak forests. These products of 100 years of conservation efforts after the big cutovers of the 19th century are at a crossroads. Succession toward a future state, or restore previous conditions? Are we even asking the right questions? A bonfire with people who spent their

careers in this landscape finished our day. We toured:

- A white and red pine stand managed to maintain old-growth characteristics,
- Shelterwood and other techniques in 100-year-old red oaks,
- Hemlock forest maintenance and regeneration, and
- Sites with documented fire history, to discuss reintroducing fire.

In the northeast:

Thetford and Strafford, Vermont offered a look at northern hardwood silviculture. Ehrhard Frost and Steve Harrington led discussions of silvicultural options in a sugar bush, a Town Forest property, and recent timber sales in white pine-dominated stands.

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge showcased science-based, adaptive management in a working forest landscape. The Dartmouth Second College Land Grant featured a woodland model of environmentally-sound, private land stewardship. It reflects the ecology, landscape, and culture of northern New England forests. Tours included:

- Early- and late-successional management units,
- Discussions of suitability and planning processes, and
- Hardwood and softwood sites managed to retain ecological and natural tendencies, emphasizing the growth of long-rotation, high-quality forest products that contribute to the economy.

In the southwest:

The Guild's Board of Directors and staff from around the nation gathered for a retreat in Santa Fe to strategize for the future. Partners, supporters and members joined in for evening networking.

Concurrent with the Society of American Foresters Conference in Albuquerque, the Guild offered members and future supporters a chance to meet, learn from each other, and be inspired by stories of ecologically-based forest management, at a local establishment.



612 W. Main St., Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703


A Year of Hope!

The Guild puts the forest first. We do it for the forests, for their own right. We do it because we know everyone benefits from clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, and more that forests provide. It isn't just about forests, it is about understanding what a dedicated, ethical, responsible focus on the forest can mean for all.

But we could not do it alone. Putting our talents on the line to reap these benefits for all takes the dedication, clarity of purpose, and honored faith of our supporters. Together, we build the hope that keeps us strong.

Thank you, our members and supporters, for all you do for the benefit of forests and forest communities, and for your continued support in the new year. Together, we will continue to build bridges of hope in polarizing times, for forests and the communities that depend on them.

*From all of us at the Forest Stewards Guild,
We wish you a hopeful 2018!*



A Carolina Bay wetland in Singletary Lake State Park during the Bottomland and Swamp Forest Symposium by North Carolina Forest Service and North Carolina State University.