

# Inception Point

*Written by Robert Perschel*

In the early 1990's after addressing the Defining Sustainable Forestry Conference in Washington, D.C. I had an animated conversation with a lanky guy who talked about starting a new professional forestry organization. He introduced himself as Henry Carey from New Mexico. It made immediate sense to me. I had just finished an extended consulting engagement with the Society of American Foresters as they re-examined the organization's code of ethics. Progress was achieved in the new code of ethics, but I was troubled that the core ethical responsibility still focused on the landowner and not on the land itself. Henry talked about organizing a network of foresters who lived their lives and careers according to the principle of caring for the land. He thought these land-minded foresters were out there. I hoped he was right. A few years later when Henry and Steve Harrington hosted discussions that led to launching the Guild, I signed on immediately.

The rest is history, as they say, and I'm looking forward to hearing more from founding members and their thoughts about how the Guild started and where it has taken us over the last 25 years. I have the actual flipchart from the Biltmore meeting when we first wrote the name *Forest Guild*. Yes, I saved it. I thought it was a big deal then and I feel even more so now. The future is beckoning, and the Guild is taking action.