

MPC Update

April 2020

Written by Shane Hetzler, MPC Chair

In the beginning of the year the MPC outlined areas of focus that we would explore in support of The Guild. These areas pertain to Forest First Economics, Climate Change and Carbon Policy, Membership and Communications, Student Engagement, Plantations Management, and the Model Forests Program, as well as other potential Emerging Issues like the federal government's Trillion Trees Initiative. Each MPC member leads a focus group charged with developing these topics and identifying ways to integrate them into the broader goals and values of our organization.

With the advent of the Coronavirus, the MPC (like all of us) has had to adapt to our new reality. For many of us, this includes limited bandwidth to focus on our MPC work as we manage impacts such as at-home childcare, changing workloads, personal safety issues, and economic uncertainty. Despite these challenges, the MPC has pivoted to help support the Guild and our membership.

We are doing so by participating in virtual Guild Gatherings, providing interviews to forestry students remotely, and even contributing to podcasts, just to name a few things. Additionally, we are looking at our focus areas for this year and examining how they have changed or are changing under COVID-19, to make our work even more relevant to Guild members. Where the pandemic has highlighted some of the inequality in our society, we are striving to continue to address how this inequality intersects with our efforts moving forward.

One of the greatest things about the Guild is the strength of our community. We encourage you to engage with the Guild remotely, using the opportunities coming up in the next couple of months, and by direct communication to each other and membership@forestguild.org. I know that I echo the broader MPC's sentiments when I wish you all resilience, perseverance, and good health. Until we can meet up in the woods again, please take care!