

Career Call
questions, attendance, resources, and notes
May 14, 2020 Webinar at 1:00 p.m. PT, 2:00 MT, 3:00 CT, 4:00 ET

Questions students had for professionals and notes and video times for the answers

Skills building

1. What skills do you think are most important for new foresters? And ideas for places to gain these skills.
On video: Start of call to 11:40 and 38:30 – 43:05
In chat: Amanda Mahaffey: Communication with landowners, employers, state agencies, project partners.
Nancy Patch: The skill of listening. Also see resources section below.
2. What do you anticipate are the most stable sectors related to forestry in the next three years?
On video: 11:40 – 16:00 and more specific to carbon markets: 32:50 – 38:15
In chat: Nancy Patch: the naturalist sciences, the more you can know about the environment you are working in the better. Emerging work, carbon management, climate change mitigation, cross-laminated timber as a product.
3. Where do we most need new leadership in forestry?
On video: 21:45 – 27:00 and climate aspect 27:00 – 31:40 and carbon markets 32:50 – 38:15
In chat: see resources section below.

Pandemic impacts

4. How has COVID changed your operations/plans this season and beyond?
On video: 50:30 – 57:00
5. How does covid-19 affect the field and availability of employment opportunities? Any advice about taking positions outside of the field first and then trying to come back into the field later?
On video: 43:05 – 50:05 and specific to getting red cards = 1:09:06 – 1:12:00
In Chat: Court Ballinger – Student Conservation Association at <https://www.thesca.org/> and World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon.
Colleen Robinson: keep an eye on <http://foreststewardsguild.org/jobs> and subscribe to our Across The Landscape monthly e-newsletter if you aren't subscribed already.
Meg Matonis: To inquire about the Guild's Gravitas Peak Wildland Fire Module and on-call wildland fire opportunities, email our Fire Management Director, Dave Lasky (dave@forestguild.org).
6. Have you been talking with any state/federal planners about stimulus spending related to forest products industries?
On video: 16:00 – 21:45
In chat: Alexander Evans - what Austin suggests about stimulus money for forestry in these times makes sense but I haven't heard about any solid initiatives.

Specific questions

7. Is most of the work done by the forest stewardship council private or public government contracted work?
On video: 1:14:35 – 1:17:28
8. What have you seen as the most effective strategies to prevent forest cover loss in your region? And, what approaches could be more widely utilized?
On video: 1:04:56 – 1:09:05
In chat: Amanda Mahaffey: Forest Stewards Guild policy statement on Forest Conservation and Connectivity: https://foreststewardsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Policy_Conservation_and_Connectivity.pdf
9. Timberland is used as an investment for large insurance/pension funds. If I wanted to pursue a career managing timberland for large investors, what skills should I focus on in school to get my foot in the door working in this field?
On video: 1:12:25 – 1:14:30
10. Are there opportunities in urban forestry for food, fuel and fiber production? Are there community forestry jobs in cities or suburbs in the Northeast?
On video: 1:02:05 – 1:04:25
11. What new tech has been incorporated into forestry in the past 5-10 years? AND What kind of volunteer opportunities are there for Forest Stewards Guild? What is the best way to get involved?
On video: 57:00 – 1:02:05
In chat: keep an eye on <http://foreststewardsguild.org/jobs> and subscribe to our Across The Landscape monthly e-newsletter if you aren't subscribed already. The e-newsletter welcomes student article contributions too! Contact colleen@forestguild.org.

Questions that will be covered in a different format in the future (watch our [e-newsletter](#) and [student webpage!](#))

12. How do you think the field differs today compared to when you first started? How might it differ over the next 15 years?
13. What were the most valuable experiences to you in your career?

Questions for students to ponder or answer:

1. How do young professionals plan to address the pressures put on forests from fragmentation and development in the next couple of decades?
2. What role does carbon management (sequestration and storage) have on how we manage our forests; how is this different from traditional management?
3. What is a forester's role in keeping the planet ecosystem intact for future generations?

Invitation:

Students, please let Colleen know if you are interested in writing an article for an issue of our monthly e-newsletter, for one of our print magazines, or in presenting via webinar to our members regarding your research or projects. Email colleen@forestguild.org.

Call attendance

Professional members on the call:

1. Nancy Patch: county forester in NW Vermont. A Guild member almost from the beginning and served 6 years on the Guild's Membership and Policy Council.
2. Dr. Shoana Humphries: I run a small consulting business in Berkeley, CA. I provide research, training, and other services to support small-scale forest management initiatives and forest enterprises. Most of my career has focused on forest certification and community forestry in the tropics (Latin America), but I am now shifting to more work in the US.
3. Tony D'Amato: Williston, VT.
4. Amanda Mahaffey: Brunswick, Maine. Forest Stewards Guild Deputy Director.
5. Kyle Burdick: Eastern Maine. I work for Baskahegan Company.
6. Meg Matonis: I work for the Forest Stewards Guild out of Loveland, Colorado. I have my PhD in forest ecology from Colorado State University, and I have experience working for state and federal forest agencies, in addition to my awesome current job with the Guild.
7. Leonora Pepper: I work for the Forest Stewards Guild in the Northeast.
8. Leigh Hoar III: Maine.
9. Zander Evans: Executive Director of the Forest Stewards Guild. Santa Fe, NM.
10. Colleen Robinson: Communications Coordinator for the Forest Stewards Guild. Madison, WI.

Some of the student members on the call:

1. David Phillips, Tuscaloosa AL. Master's in Geography.
2. Andrew Harris, Tuscaloosa AL. Major in Geography and minor in Geology.
3. Alden Gibbs, Environmental Science major.
4. Sierra Geer, Hoover, AL. Major in environmental science.
5. Madeline Kehler, Tuscaloosa, AL. Recent U of Alabama graduate, Environmental Science major.
6. Anna Catherine King, University of Alabama.
7. Kevin Vermillion, recent graduate from the University of Alabama. Environmental Science Major.
8. Austin Dziki, Yale School of Forestry. Master of Forestry, SAF Chapter President.
9. Schuyler Borden, New York/Connecticut. Graduating from Yale School of Forestry, Master of Forestry.
10. Eric Hagen, Recent graduate of the Field Naturalist master's program at the University of VT.
11. Jess Wickle, PhD student at the University of Vermont.
12. Hanusia Higgins, Master's student at the University of Vermont.
13. Elizabeth Jamison, MS student at UVM studying southern pine beetle in northeastern pitch pine barrens.
14. Court Ballinger, Corvallis OR. Forestry student.
15. Stuart Wilkin, University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation.
16. Lizzy Barnes, PhD Forest Science candidate at Michigan Technological University and I do contract forest management work (marking, cruising, plan writing) on the side.

Resources shared on the call:

New leadership needed and climate change:

Court Ballinger shared: <https://climatetrust.org/>, American Forest Foundation, and <https://www.longleafalliance.org/>

Amanda Mahaffey: A good resource for forest climate adaptation information: <https://forestadaptation.org/>.

This webinar offers some good info on managing forests for climate adaptation and carbon mitigation: <https://forestadaptation.org/learn/resource-finder/new-england-webinar-series-forest-carbon-management-and-climate-adaptation>

Shoana Humphries: article comparing C sequestration in differently managed forests <https://ecotrust.org/tipping-the-balance-to-more-carbon-storage/>

Resources for building communication skills and considering accessibility to forestry information among audiences:

Amanda Mahaffey: Webinar on communicating with landowners about oak forest resiliency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69TBpt-Xuzk>

Shoana Humphries shared: us.fsc.org for internships to learn more about how to talk to people about best practices in the industry.

At the Forest Stewards Guild website:

<http://foreststewardsguild.org/magazine>,

<http://foreststewardsguild.org/e-news>,

<http://foreststewardsguild.org/jobs>,

<http://foreststewardsguild.org/events>,

<http://foreststewardsguild.org/webinar-library>,

<http://foreststewardsguild.org/students>