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A note from the Director

Welcome to 2020! It sounds like the setting for a science fiction movie not today's date. Though we live in a world with drones planting trees, tree ID with a smartphone, digital maps of everything, voice activated GPS directions, and more, the forest is still a place to connect with what's true in the world. It's reassuring to be with the hemlocks, maples, oaks, and birches rooted firmly in reality.



The Guild's solid foundation in what's real —the real challenges of meeting human and ecological needs in the woods — has brought dedicated, creative people together for 25 years and I'm thrilled with the growing staff who've been drawn by our mission to work for the Guild. The Guild's mission continues to resonate with the next generation of forest stewards. For example, we have 20 new student members from Allegheny College this month!

The power of the Guild's focus on what's real also explains the success of our annual appeal. Thank you so much for exceeding our goals as we enter our 25th year! This year we'll be putting our mission into action across the country as exemplified by this month's articles on [bottomland hardwoods](#), [the changing forests of New England](#), and [all sort of events](#)!

Thank you for celebrating the real world with us!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Zander".

NEWS FROM THE FOREST

Guild staff look forward to the year ahead

Written by Amanda Mahaffey and Colleen Robinson.

In December, Guild staff convened from all corners of the country for a two-day retreat designed to build staff cohesion and create the space for important, team-building conversations needed to set us up for success in 2020 and beyond. From Maine and New Mexico, North Carolina and Oregon, Wisconsin and Minnesota, we descended on the Loveland office to all meet face-to-face for the first time.



We began with the Guild tradition of an introduction circle. We shared our stories of how we each connected with the Guild. It was clear that the “spark” that inspires our members also inspired our staff to join the Guild team.

[Read More](#)

Forest Climate Adaptation Needs Assessment

Written by Amanda Mahaffey

As we grow our knowledge about climate change impacts, forest stewards increasingly seek resources for adapting forests to these changes. The Forest Stewards Guild (FSG) and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) listened to forest managers across New England to assess the current information and tools needed to ensure our forests' resiliency. This effort was led by Guild members Maria Janowiak (NIACS), Amanda Mahaffey (FSG), and Christopher Riely (Sweet Birch Consulting, LLC). Results of the work are published in a new report, *Moving the Needle: A Review of Needs to Increase Climate Adaptation in the Forests of New England*.

[Read More](#)

SYNTHESIS REPORT

MOVING THE NEEDLE
A REVIEW OF NEEDS TO
INCREASE CLIMATE
ADAPTATION IN THE FORESTS
OF NEW ENGLAND



Guild expands support for wildlife forestry in bottomlands

Written by Dakota Wagner and Zander Evans.

Bottomland and coastal wetland forests are a dominant feature in the US South, accounting for nearly 35 million acres—only half of their historic coverage. On top of that, one third of currently listed endangered species are dependent on wetlands, making the conservation of these forests a national priority. Most remaining bottomland hardwood forests are privately owned, making private forest landowners key stakeholders for enhancing or restoring bottomland forests across the South.



Two of our projects focus on enhancing natural stands of bottomland hardwood forests in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV) and Coastal Carolinas for the benefit of wildlife species and freshwater systems.

[Read More](#)

Celebrating the Guild's 25 years...

Happy birthday to the Guild! This year we celebrate 25 years of challenges and successes, community building and ecosystem re-building, awareness and innovative shifts in perspective. Our work, in the Guild offices and among our members and partners in the field, is not easy. It is fulfilling and it makes a difference on an ever-increasing scale. As we celebrate, we are also taking a sober look at what it takes to maintain and develop solutions and on-the-ground action to put the forests first. Soon, we will be asking for your help. This year, we have birthday dreams of featuring the stories that need to be told, growing our membership, and funding our efforts toward our collective vision. There will be so many ways for you to help and to celebrate with us. Please stay tuned and stay engaged. YOU are why we celebrate today and all year.



Remember to offer up reflections, photos, and other celebrations you may have to share on our [anniversary webpage](#)! Email colleen@forestguild.org.

MPC Update

The 2020 MPC is already working to prioritize and implement their work in this 25th anniversary year. Check out the January 2020 MPC Update, and please let your MPC know your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and gratitude.

Upcoming Events

Want Forest Stewards Guild members to know about an event? Have a 2019 Guild Gathering site or project idea? Let us know! Email colleen@forestguild.org.

January 22	Webinar (noon MT)	Strategic Wildfire Risk Planning: applications, lessons learned, and future directions
January 25	Leicester, NC	3rd Sandy Mush Forest Restoration Coalition Meeting and 1st Restoration Gathering
January 27	Webinar (1pm PT)	Strategies for increasing prescribed fire application on federal lands
January 28	Webinar (11a MT)	FSC Mitigation: Dead Wood and Forest Management
Jan 29-30	Cloquet, MN	Fire in Minnesota Ecosystems Workshop
February 5	Webinar (3pm CT)	USFS – Federal Planning and Capacity Building for Carbon
February 7	Webinar (11a ET)	Webinar - Lyme Disease Ecology
February 12	Orono, ME	Science and Practice Forum
February 13	Vernon, CT	Oak Resiliency in Southern New England
Feb 26 - 27	Corvallis, OR	Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State 2020 Conference
March 2 - 4	Albuquerque, NM	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Workshop
March 3	Webinar (series)	Forest Adaptation Webinar Series - #3: Climate Refugia
March 10	Webinar (2-4p MT)	Save the date: Incorporating bird needs into piñon-juniper woodland management
March 21 - Apr 3	Johnstown, NV	TREX, Nevada

Welcome New Members

Professional members

Neil Gifford, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission	Albany, NY
John Scanlon, MassWildlife	Barre, MA

Affiliate members

Dave Bubser, SCS Global Services	Northfield, MN
Terry and Brenda Owens	Gruetli Laager, TN

Student members

Rachael Ankney, Allegheny College	Meadville, PA
Mitchell Carrigan, Allegheny College	Meadville, PA
Ross Carter, Allegheny College	Columbus, OH
Alton Caylor, Allegheny College	New Castle, PA
Tianna Clay, Allegheny College	Meadville, PA
Jakob Drozd, Allegheny College	Vienna, VA
Francis Faiello, Allegheny College	Pittsburgh, PA
Sara Galley, Allegheny College	Pittsburgh, PA
Taylor Gates, Allegheny College	Pleasantville, PA
Samantha Hall, Allegheny College	Meadville, PA
Delaney Harrison-Peters, Allegheny College	Meadville, PA
Grace Hemmelgarn, Allegheny College	Williston, VT
Luke Kellett	Pasadena, MD
Bailey Kozalla, Allegheny College	Saegertown, PA
Megan Kresse, Allegheny College	Arlington, VA
Maggie Malley, Allegheny College	Meadville, PA
Ally Martin, Allegheny College	Olcott, NY
Isabella Petitta, Allegheny College	Cranberry Twp, PA
Ben Slack-Foust, Allegheny College	Saltsburg, PA
Steve Spotts, Allegheny College	Cranberry Twp, PA
Theresa Winter, College of Lake County	Lake Villa, IL

Stewards Circle Donors

Thank you to all of our [Stewards Circle donors](#) for supporting the Guild's work!

Mark Ashton	Union, CT
Baldwin, Blomstrom, Wilkinson, and Assoc, Inc	Arcata, CA
Bill Bradley	New York, NY
Carl Siemon Family Charitable Trust	Milton Mills, NH
Peter Evans	Albuquerque, NM
Fox Foundation	Princeton, NJ
Jameson French	Kingston, NH
Dylan Jenkins	Williamsport, PA
Louise Lamphere	Albuquerque, NM
Robert Perschel	Hudson, MA
SB Foundation	Lamy, NM
Jeffrey Smith	Thetford Center, VT

Organizational Sponsors

Thank you to our [organizational sponsors](#)! Your support is essential to fulfilling our mission of putting the forest first.



How to help

Watch for special opportunities to support the Guild and all our members throughout 2020! As always, you can always help in these ways: become an [organizational sponsor](#) or join our [Stewards Circle](#) today! In fact, a [donation](#) at any level directly supports our forests and the fulfillment of our December giving goals. We also welcome professional and affiliate [members](#) who advance the stewardship of forests across the landscape.

You can also support the Forest Stewards Guild by shopping on [Amazon Smile](#) for any holiday gifts you cannot buy locally. And, share our [GuideStar Profile](#) with anyone looking for an upstanding charity.

Notes

Thank you to all who have renewed membership with the Guild. If you haven't gotten to it yet, please renew today by mail or [online](#). If you need assistance, we are happy to help. Just email membership@forestguild.org.

Forester Bob Kangas has retired and is [honored](#) by the Guild's own Mark Jacobs for his work.

The Guild signed onto this Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition [Comment Letter on the Alaska Roadless Rule](#) in December of 2019.

Have notes you'd like to share with fellow Guild members? Contact Colleen Robinson, membership@forestguild.org.

Publications and Research

Support for regulatory and voluntary approaches to wildfire adaptation among unincorporated wildland-urban interface communities. Communities considered regulatory approaches only if associated standards or policies were specifically tailored to their community, channeled through a trusted organizing body, and organized by community leaders.

National assessment of BMPs. "According to the latest NASF report on forestry BMPs and their use nationwide, loggers and other forest practitioners use BMPs when and where they are needed 92 percent of the time."

A *new monitoring report* from The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute indicates that 80% of projects were predicted to support passive or active crown fire under severe conditions before treatments, and this was reduced to 36% following treatments.

Climate change unlikely to drive sugar maples north, according to *Soil abiotic and biotic properties constrain the establishment of a dominant temperate tree into boreal forests*, in the Journal of Ecology, 2020. "While global warming might have made it physiologically possible for sugar maple trees to grow in more northern areas, the soil conditions in these areas make a northern migration less likely."

Jobs

Be sure to check out the [job opportunities](#) in forest stewardship on the Forest Stewards Guild webpage! These include [graduate research assistantships](#) with MI-CARES, a [State Lands Silviculture Scientist](#) with WA DNR, a [District Forester](#) in NM, a [Squad Supervisor](#) in Denver, an [Extension Educator](#) in WI, an [Associate or Assistant Professor](#) at Yale, a [Manager of Forestry & Natural Resource Extension Fire Program](#) in OR, a [Strategic Communications Director](#) in CT, a [Forestry Office/Accounting Manager](#) in NH with Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd, a [Land Stewardship Coordinator](#) with the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and many more!

Forest Stewards Guild - <http://foreststewardsguild.org> - 505-983-8992 - membership@forestguild.org

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