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## A note from the Director

It has been a tough year and yet here at the Guild we have a lot to be thankful for. We're thankful for the work Guild stewards are doing every day in the woods. We're thankful for your support - your donations are crucial to the Guild's success. If you're able to, [please make a donation before the end of the year](#).

This issue highlights the [voice of a Guild student member, Anna Welch](#), a summary of the [Guild's work on wildfire](#), and a view from [the Pacific Northwest on Foresters for the Birds](#). Professional Guild members should make sure to [vote in the MPC election](#). There are lots of [jobs](#) and [notes](#) - including new climate policy and the Guild received an FSC award!

Thank you and please keep yourself safe this winter,

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



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### NEWS FROM THE FOREST

## Getting to know Guild student member Anna Welch

*Editor's note: thank you to Anna for the interview, photos, and artwork. The Guild highly values supporting the next generation of forest stewards. Hearing from student members about their experiences, concerns, perspectives, and predictions is helpful.*

My name is Anna Welch. I study at the University of Connecticut in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. I am pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Natural Resources and the Environment with a concentration in Sustainable Forest Resources and a minor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. I joined the Guild to share and nurture my passion for the woods with the help of a broad network of likeminded individuals. In sum: I cannot get enough of trees and the outdoors!



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## Responding to the challenge posed by wildfire

*Written by Zander Evans*

Wildfire is arguably the biggest forest stewardship challenge for communities, landowners, and managers in a large swath of the country. The wildfires of 2020 have burned over 8.7 million acres and damaged nearly 17,700 structures – underscoring the devastating human impact. As smoke blanketed

communities this summer, several people asked what the Guild is doing to step up to the crisis. In fact, the Guild's work on reducing the negative impacts of wildfire on ecosystems and communities goes back decades.

[Read More](#)



## Feathers, Sweaters, and Better Weather,

the Big Picture of Bird Migration

*Written by Gregor Yanega*

I invite you to consider migration, and how it is simultaneously subtle, regular, and large in scale. Somehow the reliability of migration, whether we are looking or not, is comforting. Yet, migration brings into focus the gulf between the near field and the long view, the proximate and ultimate causes operating on different scales. Over time, small, immediate decisions become consolidated into behaviors that are the grist of evolution and specific to each species. An anticipation of what might be does as much for the short-term and long-term survival of humans as knowing when to migrate, and where to stop, has mattered to populations and species of birds. However, we have more agency than birds do in how we respond to the anticipation of what might be.



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## Celebrating our first 25 years...

If you ordered one or more 25th anniversary Guild t-shirts, they should arrive in the mail soon! T-shirts have already started to ship out to the addresses on individual orders.

Check out our [25th anniversary webpage!](#) We'd love to share your stories, quotes, photos, ideas, and more. Please email [membership@forestguild.org](mailto:membership@forestguild.org) to submit thoughts and contributions to this page.

## MPC Update

Election season is here! [Current Professional and Retired Professional members](#) are eligible to vote for [next year's Guild Membership and Policy Council representatives](#). If you have not voted yet, please look for an email from us dated November 6, 2020 about elections and click on the link to **complete your ballot survey by the December 6 deadline**. Also, **make a note for yourself that you have voted when you are done**. Votes are anonymous, so we cannot check later to confirm for you whether or not you voted. If you did not receive your ballot email, please contact [membership@forestguild.org](mailto:membership@forestguild.org) right away so we can get you what you need to vote. We will also send a reminder email on Monday, November 23.

## Upcoming Events

Want Forest Stewards Guild members to know about an event? Have a 2020 webinar or project idea? Let us know! Email [colleen@forestguild.org](mailto:colleen@forestguild.org). Also, check out our [new webinar library](#) of recorded webinars you may have missed!

December 1	Webinar	<a href="#">Revealing historical fire regimes of the Cumberland Plateau through remnant fire-scarred shortleaf pines</a>
December 2	Webinar	<a href="#">Warming/Changing Winters. Science and Practice: Forest Climate Change in ME Series</a>

December 8 - 10	Online summit	<a href="#">Minnesota Forest Management and Wildlife Habitat Summit</a>
December 10	Webinar	<a href="#">Human Wildlife Interactions and Identifying Wildlife by Tracks, Marking, and Scat</a>
December 17	Webinar	<a href="#">Opening the Burn Window – Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series, #2</a>
January 6	Webinar	<a href="#">Forest Biodiversity and Species Shifts. Science and Practice: Forest Climate Change in ME Series.</a>
January 21	Webinar	<a href="#">Fire and a Changing Climate – Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series, #3</a>
February 18	Webinar	<a href="#">Timber Management and Prescribed Fire – Fueling Collaboration Panel Series, #4</a>
June 9 - 12, 2021	Luxembourg	<a href="#">ProSilva 30th anniversary meeting in Luxembourg (postponed from Oct 2020)</a>
<b>Rescheduled...TBD</b>	Corvallis, OR	Innovative Forestry Summit and 25th Anniversary Guild Gathering!
Aug 19 - 22, <b>2021</b>	Asheville, NC	<a href="#">Celebrating the roots of Guild forestry - 25th anniversary celebration!</a>
September 18, <b>2021</b>	Centerville, PA	<a href="#">Loving the Land Through Working Forests Conference</a>

## Welcome New Members

### Professional members

Steven Hubbard, Hubbard Forest Solutions, LLC	Madison, WI
Mary Stuever, New Mexico Forestry Division	Chama, NM

### Student members

Kelly French, University of Maine	Bangor, ME
Alison Luce, Oregon State University	Bend, OR
Abigail Mack, Oregon State University	Louisville, KY
Liam Smith, University of Vermont	Burlington, VT
Anna Welch, University of Connecticut	Storrs, CT
Otis Wood, University of Maine	Glenburn, ME

## Stewards Circle Donors

Nancy Dickenson	Santa Fe, NM
Richard Donovan	Jericho, VT
Mark Jacobs	McGregor, MN
Valerie Matonis, in tribute to Greg Matonis	Redwood City, CA

Thank you to all of our [Stewards Circle donors](#) for supporting the Guild's work! Stewards Circle donors and their regular support makes a huge difference!

## Organizational Sponsors

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





## How to help

**Membership:** Please be sure your membership is always up to date. We can help with [renewals](#) or status checks, and you can also view your membership status online by logging into your membership portal if you've set that up. [Renew today](#) through next June if you haven't already. Email [membership@forestguild.org](mailto:membership@forestguild.org) with questions. We welcome professional and affiliate [members](#) who advance the stewardship of forests. If you have a gift membership, or are not a member, please [join today!](#)

**Donation timing:** If you are a regular late-in-the-year donor, please consider donating in November rather than December. This helps us save on annual appeal communications near the end of the year and provides us with an extra sense of security. As always, you can become an [organizational sponsor](#) or join our [Stewards Circle](#) today! A [donation](#) at any level, at any time, directly supports our forests.

**During giving seasons:** 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 for your membership renewals for the 2020-2021 membership year, and for year-end donations!** If you have not yet renewed for July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, you recently received an email inviting you to do so (except student members), or you can [renew now](#).

**Our 2020 Annual Review is available now online**, along with the [autumn 2020 issue of the Forest Steward magazine](#). Enjoy these dives into a stellar year for the Guild, despite so many challenges.

**The Guild has won a Leadership Award from the Forest Stewardship Council!** Forest Stewardship Council, the world's most trusted forest certification system, announced its 10th Annual FSC Leadership Awards, recognizing uncommon excellence that advances responsible forest management and forest conservation. Forest Stewards Guild won for building an effective coalition of certified businesses and stakeholders to support the rollout of the FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment, improving conditions on the ground in key sourcing regions.

**We are happy to announce the Wildfire Wednesdays Live webinar series!** The Guild's Southwest region, along with partners at Santa Fe National Forest and others, are hosting a webinar roughly every other Wednesday for the next four months. Each one will have a specific topic focus. These will be broadcast via Facebook Live and incorporate Q&A from chats on Facebook. We will announce upcoming topics soon. For now, check out the Wildfire Wednesday Live videos from [October 7, 2020 for a background on the landscape and Coalition](#), and from October 21, 2020 for "[A history of fire and changing forests in the Santa Fe Fireshed](#)."

**The Forest and Climate Working Group policy platform** provides guidance to lawmakers on how to increase the ability of forests and forest products to fight climate change, providing policy options to advance four main goals: 1) Maintain and expand forest cover, 2) Improve forest practices for carbon, adaptation, and resilience, 3) Advance markets for forest carbon, forest products, and skilled labor, 4) Enhance climate data and applied science

**The minutes from October's Southeast Region membership call** are available online.

**Researchers at Utah State University are investigating the link between aspen and fire behavior**, and they are [surveying people who have observed fire burn in aspen. Participate in the survey here.](#)

**Attention Professional members in northern states:** You are invited to participate in the [2020 Northern Forest Manager Survey](#), a research project led by Dr. Rachel Schattman (University of Maine), Dr. Tony D'Amato (University of Vermont), and Dr. Todd Ontl (NIACS). The purpose of the research is to understand forest managers' perceptions of changing environmental and forest health

conditions, management decisions, and challenges to adopting new practices. You must be at least 18 years of age or older to participate in the survey.

The results of this anonymous survey will be used by our colleagues and collaborators to inform future outreach and education around challenges faced by foresters today, and by extension create important professional development opportunities for forest managers. The results will also be used to inform state and federal regulators and policy makers about important issues foresters are facing, which could have implications for the long-term viability of the forestry sector in Northern states.

**Have notes you'd like to share with fellow Guild members?** Contact Colleen Robinson, [membership@forestguild.org](mailto:membership@forestguild.org).

## Publications and Research

***Trends in Abundance and Habitat Associations of Forest Birds.*** For more than two decades, the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service has adhered to the Migrant and Landbird Conservation Strategy to address conservation concerns arising from long-term population declines among many bird species. To accomplish this objective, the Forest Service has conducted a regionwide program designed to improve monitoring, research, and management of avian populations and their habitats. A team led by NE CASC principal investigators Thomas Bonnot and Frank Thompson has conducted the first comprehensive study analyzing the 26-year dataset generated by this program. Its results, which have been assembled in a new report, will help inform conservation and management efforts in the Southern Region.

***Future Forest Composition Under a Changing Climate and Adaptive Forest Management in Southeastern Vermont.*** The uncertainty around future impacts of global environmental change on forests has led to a heightened focus on developing alternative management approaches to sustain critical ecosystems. Coauthored by Guild member Anthony D'Amato, this article uses a spatially explicit forest landscape simulation model to examine and evaluate long-term effects of current and adaptive forest management under three projected climate scenarios within a Vermont forest. While it finds that land-use legacies and the inertia associated with long-term forest successional trajectories are likely to be the dominant influence on forest composition and density for the next 100 years, it also shows that climate will be a more prominent driver in these areas over the next 200 years.

## Jobs

Be sure to check out the [job opportunities](#) in forest stewardship on the Forest Stewards Guild webpage. They include a [Community Forest Health Technician](#), a [Community Disaster Recovery Coordinator](#), and an [Executive Director](#), all for Trees Forever in Iowa, an [Assistant Program Manager, Spatial Analyst and Decision Support Specialist](#) for Colorado State University in Fort Collins, [3 Forestry Team Leader positions](#) in Wisconsin, [3 Forest Conservation Directors](#) for the Ruffed Grouse Society, a [Lead Management Specialist](#) for North Florida Land Trust, a [Forest Restoration Partnership Manager](#) for TNC in Minnesota, a [Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship](#) in Oregon, an [Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager](#) in New Mexico, a [Crew Boss, Contract Specialist, and Business Operations Specialist](#) in New Mexico, [Conservation Forester](#) for TNC in New York, and several more!

Forest Stewards Guild - <http://foreststewardsguild.org> - 505-983-8992 - [membership@forestguild.org](mailto:membership@forestguild.org)

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