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## A note from the Director

Working everyday with Guild members, staff, and partners and their focus on real world solutions helps me stay optimistic. I'm looking forward to 2021 with optimism and excitement. I'm hopeful the vaccines will allow us to gather in person in forests and woodlots across the country. I'm excited about the great additions to the [Guild's Membership and Policy Council](#). I'm looking forward to the [Northwest Innovative Forestry Summit](#) that will be held at the end of March. I'm appreciative of the generous year-end donations that will help sustain our work in 2021. I'm inspired by the next generation of forest stewards and the landowners who are engaging in quality stewardship, often with the help of resources we provide.

Thank you for supporting the Guild and each in 2020 and I wish you all the best as we look forward to a new year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zander'.



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### NEWS FROM THE FOREST

## Welcoming Leonora back to the Guild team

*Written by Leonora Pepper*

This spring I returned to the Guild staff after a two-year hiatus living and working in Brazil. Despite an unusual homecoming amid the pandemic, it has been exciting to see our organization's ability to adapt in real time to continue providing strong initiative, collaboration, and program outcomes. I'm looking forward to an eventual return to working with colleagues in person, spending more time in the field, planning in-person events, and working more closely with members of our youth program.



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## Forestry for Maine Birds Program Offers New Videos

*This partnership feature by Sally Stockwell of Maine Audubon*

Are you interested in learning more about how you can help birds and other wildlife while managing your woodland? If so, check out the new Forestry for Maine Birds videos. The Forest Stewards Guild,

Maine Audubon, Maine Forest Service, and Maine Tree Farm have created a series of videos filmed in the woods that walk you through the essence of an in-person workshop. Topics include an introduction to Forestry for Maine Birds, why Maine is so important for birds, the habitat features birds need, a conversation with a Maine Forest Service forester and private consulting forester, and links to more resources and funding opportunities to help you manage your woodland “with birds in mind.”



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## Looking forward to 2021: Forest policy

*Written by Zander Evans*

The Guild works collaboratively with land stewards and communities in the woods and we take the same collaborative approach to policy. We work with like-minded organizations and coalitions to advance policies that promote excellence in forest stewardship and protect forests. The Guild’s policy work is guided by our Policy Statements, which are drafted by the Membership and Policy Council and voted on by professional members. For

example, our climate change policy statement guides our approach to engaging with the Forest and Climate Working Group (FCWG).



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## Celebrating our first 25 years...

Its been quite an anniversary year! Thank you for reflecting and celebrating with us in 2020. Most importantly, thank you for sticking with us, and helping to make this a stellar 25th birthday for the Guild despite external challenges. This community is strong and wise and compassionate and that is among the greatest celebrations of all.

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

Your newest [Membership and Policy Council](#) representatives for the 2021 - 2023 term were elected by Professional members early this month. Congratulations to Marianne Patinelli-Dubay, Mary Stuever, and Mark Jacobs (Mark is returning for a second term)! You can see their faces and brief comments on the MPC webpage now, and you'll be hearing more from your MPC in January about what's to come in the new year from this Council.

Thank you to all of our candidates for running, to all who nominated candidates, and to all who voted. Your engagement makes a broad, positive difference. Finally, thank you to John Gunn and Michael Leff, who will be stepping down from their MPC terms at the end of December. Your service is greatly appreciated!

## Upcoming Events

Want Forest Stewards Guild members to know about an event? Have a 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!

Thur Dec 2021	Online Course	<a href="#">An Introduction to the American Chestnut</a>
January 6	Webinar	<a href="#">Forest Biodiversity and Species Shifts. Science and Practice: Forest Climate Change in ME Series.</a>
January 13	Webinar	<a href="#">Woodland Owner Webinar Series: Farms and Forests</a>
January 21	Webinar	<a href="#">Fire and a Changing Climate – Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series, #3</a>
Jan 25 - Mar 15	Online Training	<a href="#">Adaptation Planning and Practices Training</a>
February 18	Webinar	<a href="#">Timber Management and Prescribed Fire – Fueling Collaboration Panel Series, #4</a>
<b>Mar 30-Apr 1</b>	Online Summit	<a href="#">Northwest Innovative Forestry Summit</a>
June 9 - 12	Luxembourg	<a href="#">ProSilva 30th anniversary meeting in Luxembourg (postponed from Oct 2020).</a>
Aug 19 - 22	Asheville, NC	<a href="#">Celebrating the roots of Guild forestry - 25th anniversary celebration!</a>
September 18	Centerville, PA	<a href="#">Loving the Land Through Working Forests Conference</a>

## Welcome New Members

### Professional members

Sarah Billig, Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood Companies	Lakeport, CA
Amanda Locke, NYC Department of Environmental Protection	New Milford, CT
Jim Manolis, The Nature Conservancy	Minneapolis, MN
Andrew Norman, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service	Jackson, WY

### Affiliate members

Eli Sagor, U of MN Sustainable Forestry Education Cooperative	Cloque, MN
Lee Sanders	Ragland, AL

### Student members

William Casola, North Carolina State University	Apex, NC
Jacob LaDue, University of Vermont	Pittsford, NY
Connor McCourt, University of Vermont	Colchester, CT
Madeline Oberempt, University of Vermont	Burlington, VT
Eliza Orne, University of Vermont	Burlington, VT
Lucas Rousseau, University Of Vermont	South Bend, IN
Alex Vokey, University of Vermont	Rockport, ME

## Stewards Circle Donors

Mark Ashton	New Haven, CT
Bill Bradley	Atlanta, GA
Peter Evans	Albuquerque, NM
Kathleen Holian	Glorieta, NM
Meghan Mullee	San Diego, CA
Ken Smith	Sewanee, TN
Peter Van Der Goes, Jr. (tribute to David Van Der Goes)	New York, NY

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!](#)

**Donations are always welcome (and needed):** [Donations](#) of any amount at any time transform into direct positive impact in our forests. As always, you can become an [organizational sponsor](#) or join our [Stewards Circle](#) today to help us with the "heavy lifting" of new projects and innovative support for forest stewards.

**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!** Your support is what makes what we do possible.

***COVID-19 Impacts on the Forest Sector: 2020 and Beyond.*** A new report from Dovetail Partners provides a hopeful perspective: "Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the forest sector has been recognized as essential. As a result, there is some increased awareness by consumers, policy makers and businesses of the importance of the sector for society's health and resiliency. The forest sector can respond to the impacts of the pandemic in constructive and innovative ways. Through these actions, the forest sector can become a bright light in challenging times and ensure the world is more resilient, secure, and better prepared."

**RVCC's annual policy meeting announcement.** Join the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition's 17th Annual Meeting this January. RVCC engages a diverse network of community leaders across the West to advance policy solutions and promote peer learning that aligns public and private land stewardship with community benefit. This year, RVCC is going virtual, hosting two panel events in January 2021 about: 'Learning From a Year of Crises' and 'Policy and Governance in the Year Ahead'. You can find out more about their 17th Annual Meeting, their panel events, and to RSVP on their website.

**If you have notes to share with our readers, please send them to [membership@forestguild.org](mailto:membership@forestguild.org).**

## Publications and Research

**Warmer and Drier Fire Seasons Contribute to Increases in Area Burned at High Severity.** Parks et al. 2020. Warmer and Drier Fire Seasons Contribute to Increases in Area Burned at High Severity in Western US Forests From 1985 to 2017, Geophysical Research Letters.

**Repeated prescribed fire in thinned ponderosa pine increases growth and resistance to other disturbances.** Westlind and Kerns. 2020. Repeated fall prescribed fire in previously thinned Pinus ponderosa increases growth and resistance to other disturbances. Forest Ecology and Management.

**The economic costs of planting, preserving, and managing the world's forests to mitigate climate change.** Austin, K.G., Baker, J.S., Sohngen, B.L. et al. The economic costs of planting, preserving, and managing the world's forests to mitigate climate change. Nat Commun 11, 5946 (2020).

**Do non-native plants contribute to insect declines?** The impact of introduced plants on native biodiversity has emerged as a hot-button issue in ecology. But recent research provides new evidence that the displacement of native plant communities is a key cause of a collapse in insect populations and is affecting birds as well.

## Jobs

Be sure to check out the [job opportunities](#) in forest stewardship on the Forest Stewards Guild webpage. They include a [Senior Firefighter](#) with the Guild in Colorado, an [Environmental Lands Management Technician](#) in Florida, a [Georgia Sentinel Landscape Pilot Project Coordinator](#), a [Forester](#) in Massachusetts, [Directorate Fellows](#) with USFWS, a [Graduate Research Assistantship](#) at Mississippi State, a [North Carolina Regional Staff Forester](#), a [Forest Program Associate with Audubon](#) in Pennsylvania, a [Ph.D. Research Assistanship](#) in North Carolina and many, many more!

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

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