



Annual Review 2022

2022

Expanding forest stewardship
through collaborations.

*A stand of aspen near Santa Fe, New Mexico that
grew in the wake of a historic wildfire.*

ANNUAL REVIEW



Amanda Mahaffey welcomes hikers to a control plot in a fire adapted oak ecosystem in the Green Mountain National Forest. Photo by Lauren Howard

Positive impact through collaboration and our vision for stewardship

2022 has been a big year for the Guild. We are pushing forward with on the ground projects to make our forests healthier, research to guide future stewardship, collaboration to engage more people in land management, creative outreach to landowners, work to bring practical insights to forest policy, and support for members across the country. You – members and supporters of the Guild – made this happen! You drive us forward with your insights, contributions, examples, and inspiration.

In this issue you'll see examples of the work the Guild is doing across the country, but there is so much more that we couldn't fit into these pages. As our e-newsletter, *Across the Landscape*, has tracked throughout the year, the Guild has contributed to national policy discussions about how to scale up post-

fire reforestation, the potential for managed wildfire to foster resilience, and how a trustworthy carbon offset market can support stewardship. The Guild is actively engaged with the US Forest Service to help ensure the historic investments appropriated by Congress reach the woods effectively.

Please make sure you're connected so you stay up to date on the work of the Guild and partners. If you haven't renewed your membership – please do it today! To achieve our vision for forest stewardship, we need your steady support, membership, and sharing the word with others via <http://www.ForestStewardsGuild.org>. Thank you for your gifts and for being part of this community.

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View from Brockway Mountain near Copper Harbor Michigan where the Guild is working with the National Natural Landmarks Program.



Lake States

Our Lake States region has several collaborations to highlight this year. The Guild continues to work with the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape to increase prescribed fire awareness, interest, and capacity. In spring we supported this partnership by holding a one-day landowner Learn and Burn and a three-day training geared towards conservation professionals who work directly with landowners to plan stewardship.

The collaborative efforts of our partners in the Minnesota Forestry for Birds program have positioned us to add a Lake States staff person to coordinate the program.

Another highlight is the work we are doing with the National Park Service to identify areas for the National Natural Landmarks program. We are helping to identify places that represent outstanding geological and biological reference areas within the Superior Upland. These are great models for our efforts to enhance ecological silviculture that emulates natural disturbance processes.

Lastly, we want to thank our members and partners that made our annual Lake States Guild Gathering a success. This event was near New Glarus, Wisconsin and focused on the connection between Guild members and land trusts. We visited a 300+ acre property called the Spring Valley Tract and discussed the opportunities and challenges of funding and maintaining ecological restoration projects and community engagement. We explored how Guild-style forestry toward healthy natural communities can help with both. New members, soil and water specialists, foresters, prescribed fire experts, students, landowners, land trust staff and others joined, met each other, and enriched everyone's understanding by sharing from diverse perspectives.

We need you as members and supporters to host and sponsor learning events like this to keep our community strong and grounded in putting the forest first.





Northeast

This year in the Northeast, the Guild welcomed Maddie Eberly, Northeast Technician, in January and Maggie Mansfield, Northeast Region Manager, in July. They and Amanda Mahaffey, Deputy Director, work out of a new office in Hallowell, Maine.

In 2022, the culmination of three years of work on Increasing Oak Resiliency in Southern New England ended in southern Massachusetts. The project gathered foresters and land managers from multiple northeastern states to collaborate on promoting oak resiliency and climate-minded practices.

Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) continued to support women landowners and is writing a curriculum on chainsaw safety and education for use by women leaders across the country. Several WOW leaders spoke at the Women's Forest Congress this October on our work, and learned about the work of other women at national and global scales. More locally, we supported the first large gathering of the Women Foresters Collaborative, a group welcoming New England's women and gender nonconforming siblings from forestry and related fields.

During Pride month, we launched a new community building space, Seeing the Forest for the Queers, welcoming LGBTQIA+ forestry and natural resource professionals and students to connect while learning about and from one another.

In our work supporting the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, we hosted a New Jersey Fire Camp and talks on Southern Pine Beetle as well as Forest Carbon and Wildlife. And, this fall, we cohosted the first ever Maine TREX, a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange, bringing together fire professionals from across the United States and Canada.

As we turn our minds to 2023, we will continue to collaborate with partners at a national level while supporting local forest stewards in their work.



New Jersey Audubon's Kristen Meistrell carefully handles a rare pine snake during a NAFSE 'Fire Camp' field tour.



Southern New England foresters and land managers learn about oak management work at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson, Massachusetts.

Below: Women and nonbinary foresters and natural resource professionals gathered from across New England at the Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson, Maine.





Above: Oregon State University's Guild Student Chapter members help with a reforestation effort during an event at Mt. Hood. Left & center: Participants at NIFS 2022 enjoy an educational walk in the woods at University of Washington's Pack Forest. Right: NIFS attendees enjoy smores and great conversation about innovative forest stewardship at the evening campfire. Left and right photos by: Northwest Natural Resource Group. Center photo by Peter Hayes



Pacific West

The Northwest Innovative Forestry Summit (NIFS) came about through collaboration and will increase collaborative work going forward. By bringing together almost 70 forest stewards, landowners, and researchers in autumn, the in-person NIFS at University of Washington's Pack Forest built on last year's virtual Summit and the virtual NIFS series held in spring of 2022. Attendees were thoroughly engaged, and innovations clearly called for and appreciated are stronger connections, diversity, and understanding within the human aspect of forestry.

The NIFS included sessions to directly address quality conversation-sharing and inclusiveness, better understandings of the human communities on the landscape historically and today, personal reflections on our own biases and strengths, and how all of this impacts our results as we are putting the forest first.

Other sessions highlighted other Guild work in the region including Forestry for Oregon Birds. Two successful field events over the summer generated anticipation for the release of the Forestry for Oregon Birds field guide by the end of the year. Success in the Northwest and other regions

is prompting similar program development in Colorado.

The Guild's Oregon State University student chapter has been busy this year too, with a few big events to meet with natural resource professionals at Mt. Hood and at NIFS. Their enthusiasm for learning, and for doing forestry differently - holistically - puts them squarely in the next generation of Guild membership. We are thrilled to have their steady interest, ideas, and the needed support from their advisors, as is true with all Guild student chapters across the country.

Another key focus in the region is 'climate smart' forestry. Forests are widely recognized as a key piece of climate mitigation and a locus of adaptation, but we need to move from generalizations to specifics. The Guild is on the forefront of discussions about what climate smart looks like in the woods. We can draw on progress the Guild and Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science have made in the Northeast and consider what works in the Northwest. The conversation continues November 15th during a webinar titled Searching for Climate-Smarter Forestry in Oregon; Accelerating the Transition.





Southeast

2022 was a busy and productive year for this Guild region.

We continue to advance stewardship of bottomland hardwood forests in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley and Atlantic Coastal Plain through developing forest management plans for private forest landowners and working with partners to implement management treatments such as invasive species control and timber stand improvement work.

In the bottomland hardwood forests of the Carolinas, we worked with partners to finalize plans for two wildlife forestry demonstration sites. We plan to host a workshop with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for landowners at the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge demonstration site in November 2022. Work progressed on the Cumberland Plateau Shortleaf Pine Restoration project as partners continued to burn acres on public lands and private landowners implemented restoration treatments outlined in forest management plans written by Southeast staff. In the spring, we cohosted two Learn-and-Burns that were great successes and showed the need for additional opportunities for landowners and the public to learn about fire in the Southeast. Three more Learn-and-Burns are planned for the fall.

Looking ahead, we have a full plate of new projects with familiar themes. Mid-year we kicked off our Central Appalachian Stewardship project in West Virginia that focuses on bird-friendly forestry. We continue to assist mills with their Forest Stewardship Council mitigation work through hosting webinars, crafting educational materials, and doing work on the ground to help illuminate best practices and management considerations when sourcing or producing responsible wood products.



Trillium blooming in western North Carolina during a workshop about managing Appalachian cove forests.



Examining a stand of shortleaf pine at Savage Gulf State Natural Area.



Jason Miller, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, talks to a group about the shortleaf pine restoration project occurring on Savage Gulf State Natural Area.



The All Hands All Lands Burn Team and staff from Glorieta Adventure Camps and U-Turn take lunch next to a warming fire while burning slash piles during the winter months. Burning piles with snow on the ground is a safer way of reducing fuel before wildfire season.



The 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership on a field tour of a large, privately owned ranch that is included in the Rio Chama CFLR landscape.



Southwest

The Guild has always valued collaboration, but in 2022 in the Southwest, expanding through collaboration took on a whole new meaning. This year more than ever, we've prioritized building alignment with all shared stewardship and collaborative forestry projects and programs to nurture a multifaceted effort. The intent is to integrate the implementation, monitoring, and social components of each project to complement one another to reach goals and desired conditions at a landscape scale.

What this looks like on the ground is a drive to weave together projects, overlap funding to leverage resources, treat across boundaries on private, tribal, and public lands, and work collaboratively for shared desired future conditions to magnify our impact. In April 2022, Congress funded the Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) project, of which the Guild, along with partners, developed a proposal to implement science-based ecosystem restoration on a priority 3.8-million-acre forested landscape across four national forests and two states (CO and NM).

This project is adjacent to the SW Jemez CFLR in NM and the Southwest Colorado CFLR. The Coyote and Espanola Ranger District Forest Steward Youth Corps crews work in this footprint. The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed, the Rio Trampas Forest Council, Fire Adapted NM, and the Guild's All Hands All Lands Burn Team also operate in nearby or overlapping boundaries in this landscape. All these collaborative projects are nested in the concept of shared stewardship and have prioritized increasing forests' resilience to disturbances, proactively addressing wildfire, restoring watershed function, supporting rural communities, connecting with tribal, land grant, and acequia communities, and engaging youth in public land management.

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Stewards Circle donations are a key part of delivering on our mission. Thank you for the support that keeps us both innovative and steady.

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Putting the forest first in collaboration

The projects highlighted in this edition show how gathering, sharing ideas and resources, and collaborating on plans and implementation put us farther ahead in realizing ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry than what any of us can do alone. Thank you to all of you who engage, support the Guild and each other, and work daily to contribute to healthy, resilient forests and communities. Please keep it up and join us for the events below, and more, found at <http://www.foreststewardsguild.org/events>. Let us know about event ideas and sites you have too.

- Searching for Climate-Smarter Forestry in Oregon; Accelerating the Transition Webinar, November 15
- Forest Management with Salamanders in Mind Webinar, December 6
- Maine Forest Climate Change Webinar & Field Tour Series: Massabesic Experimental Forest Webinar December 14 and field tour December 16