

Welcome to New**Members**

Please welcome our first new professional member for 2007.

Jeffrey Busse, Warroad, MN Forester, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

We asked Jeff why he joined the Forest Guild:

"I joined the Guild with the hopes of gaining a greater ability to move society's land ethic more towards honoring those true values of natural ecosystems, as well as our subsequent management of those lands, through the development of a community of responsible professionals and the aggregation of our experiences. Our public lands are everyone's responsibility, and my commitment is to help shape and mold our management of them in a way that respects their integrity. I look forward to growing my understanding and appreciation of forest ecosystems through my relationship with the Guild and its members."

-Jeff Busse

A Guild Model Forest at Work - Crummies Creek Tree Farm, Arnoldsburg, WV

Russ Richardson

Our long standing goal with Crummies Creek Tree Farm is to balance our portfolio by managing for and deriving income from as wide a variety of sources as possible. In addition to annual timber sales on our 965 acres, Crummies Creek produces non-timber commodities including black Cohosh, American ginseng, Goldenseal and log moss. And we like to tell others about what we are doing by regularly holding forest management programs and demonstrations.

Photo #1 : Mesic hardwood forest at Crummies Creek in late winter.

In June 2006 we hosted over 80 professionals and landowners with a field workshop on invasive plants and forest health. We addressed topics ranging from emerald ash borers and gypsy moth to noxious plants, and destructive insects and lethal diseases looming on the horizon. Participants included botanists, biologists, ecologists, private consulting foresters, industrial procurement foresters, WV State foresters, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and University researchers, WV Farm Bureau representatives and private property owners.

At Crummies Creek, our interest in invasive species as an aspect of forest health came about through our attempts to plant and enhance the populations of native medicinal plants found in the Crummies Creek woodlands. We've found tremendous income potential and interest from our clients in managing non-timber commodities, however this work has also focused our attention on the ground, where non-native plants threaten to compromise our new found opportunities. In addition to eliminating many important understory plants from our native woodlands, invasive species like Japanese stiltgrass, garlic mustard, Asian honeysuckle and Chinese tree of heaven are now becoming recognized for their negative impact on hardwood regeneration.

Photo #2: Japanese stiltgrass on a Crummies Creek cove site one year after logging.

Model Forest Program Redesign - 2007 Model Year to Bring a New Look

Much as an auto maker needs to redesign its cars from time to time, any successful non-profit needs to continually re-evaluate and adapt the programs it offers. The Guild is not immune to this need, and one of our most popular offerings, the Model Forest program, is due for a redesign. Of course, in light of the difficulties faced today by our domestic auto makers, it's clear that the forestry

A species that has caused particular impact for us in West Virginia and at Crummies Creek is Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). We've undertaken extensive control efforts to stifle stiltgrass at Crummies Creek, and we are cooperators with research studies conducted by West Virginia University Extension, the US Forest Service, and Ohio University. At our field day, US Forest Service Researcher, Dr. Cindy Huebner spoke on what has been learned about how Japanese stiltgrass spreads and unusual traits of stiltgrass that help in its ability to produce seed and spread over the landscape.

In our panel discussion we learned that nationally, very little is known about the extent of private land impacted by invasive plants. Unfortunately invasive plants are still a largely under studied issue that has until now not been a priority for funding or research. At Crummies Creek we are looking for every opportunity to raise awareness about this important threat to our forests.

equivalent of ever bigger engines and more cupholders may NOT be the correct strategy for successfully adapting even an initially successful program. While our plans for re-design are still formative, you need look no further than the story of Crummies Creek Tree Farm in this issue to learn of an "alternative fueled" Guild Model Forest. As Russ Richardson and his work at Crummies Creek demonstrates, Model Forests can contribute to almost every aspect of our mission as an organization.

The Model Forest Program is a voluntary designation of forest properties managed by Forest Guild Members that demonstrate excellent forest management. Model Forests are inspected, reviewed and approved by Guild members who volunteer to serve as local reviewers, or serve as members of the standing Model Forest Committee.

Model Forest properties showcase Excellent Forestry and the work of Guild members and the owners who manage them through field days, workshops and other events. Model Forests have exposed many hundreds of landowners, policy makers and future Guild members to our work. Currently 22 properties throughout the northeast, southeast and Pacific Coast of the US are designated Guild Model Forests. However, as many of our members and supporters have recognized, the Model Forest program has only begun to realize its potential.

Our 2007 "redesign" is intended to bring this already successful program to a significantly higher level of visibility and effectiveness and re-engage our membership around the value and benefits of the program. Between now and September 2007, a Model Forest Task Force including members Linwood Gill, Ehrhard Frost, Bruce Spencer, Katie Fernholz, Howard Gross and Fred Clark will be working to clarify the

Photo #3: Black Cohosh roots harvested from Crummies Creek Tree Farm

Meanwhile we expect our next program in June 2007 to be the first of its kind to actually be held in the woods! The June program will focus, in the field of course, on amphibians, reptiles, bats and nongame wildlife habitat and management. Our efforts at Crummies Creek to enhance wildlife habitat are being used as part of the demonstrations, but everything we do at Crummies Creek is open for improvement. As the word "model" implies, we are a work in progress.

Unintended Consequences of "Common Sense" Guild Weighs in on Oregon Measure 37

[Oregon Measure 37](#), approved by voters in November 2004, requires local government agencies to either waive current land-use regulations or pay property owners compensation for lost property value due to previously established land use regulations. What may have seemed like common sense to some voters at the time has turned out to be a nightmare for the public as over 6,400 claims have been filed to date seeking more than six billion dollars in compensation from local governments. According Oregon's Governor Ted Kulongoski, over 85% of these claims have been filed by speculators, developers, and corporations.

The Forest Guild recently joined a growing list of land use and environmental organizations advocating for reform of Measure 37. From our perspective, if the ability of Oregon's communities to define their futures through land-use planning is stripped away by Measure 37, then predictable, long-term management of Oregon's forests and the services and values from them that residents depend upon for a sustainable, healthy quality of life will be compromised.



The Guild's Oregon membership voted unanimously to approve a Guild position statement asking Oregon Governor Kulongoski and the State Assembly to issue a "time out" to temporarily suspend Measure 37, as well as any development that would occur as a result of land use waivers already approved under Measure 37. The Guild also urged the Oregon State Assembly to develop new legislation that more appropriately addresses the needs that drove passage of Measure 37, such as enabling the construction of a single home, without effectively gutting land use restrictions that help limit suburban sprawl, and fragmentation of farm and forestland. The letter sent to Oregon's elected leaders from Forest Guild Executive Director Howard Gross is available on the [Forest Guild website](#).

Vermont Members - Thinking About More Than Trees Expanding a Traditional Use Value Appraisal Program

Vermont's [Use Value Appraisal Program](#) (UVA) was established in 1977 to assist rural landowners in maintaining productive agricultural and forestland. Vermont Forest Guild members support the program, having seen first-hand how it has allowed landowners to retain family lands and continue to manage them well. Currently however all land in the program must be managed for timber, independent of its ecological significance, and Guild members have recognized that the UVA needs revision to include the protection of natural ecological systems. The current approach is not always rewarding land stewardship consistent with best practices, and may be keeping landowners out of the program.

In February Vermont Forest Guild members issued a Statement of Support for a Legislative Study of Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program. The Forest Guild UVA Working Group of Stacy Brown, Jayson Benoit, Nancy Patch, Carl Powder, Jamey Fidel and Ehrhard Frost drafted and reworked the statement based on Vermont member's input. The Guild position suggests the UVA program use forest health as the primary criteria for all activities, focusing on water, soil, biological diversity, carbon storage and forest vitality as key management strategies. It urges the Vermont legislature to conduct a thorough and substantive review of the UVA, its effectiveness in achieving the purposes of its enabling legislation, and to identify program areas in need of improvement. Forest Guild members are using this statement to encourage their legislators to take action. The position statement is being distributed to Vermont's House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. Hearings will take place over the next month and members of the Forest Guild, together with other partners in Vermont, will continue to support the effort

core purposes of the program, develop new program guidance, and enhance the working relationships between the Guild, Model Forest Owners and Model Forest Foresters. With our background planning completed, we will be ready to re-launch the program by Fall 2007. One measurable, if ambitious, goal is to at least double the number of Model Forest designations by the end of 2008.

We expect the Model Forest program to be an evolving effort, with increasingly broad benefits for the Guild and the public in advancing sustainable land stewardship. You can learn more about the current [Model Forest Program](#), and if you are interested in contributing to the redesign effort please contact Guild Membership Coordinator [Fred Clark](#).

through testimony and continued engagement.

See the [Forest Guild website](#) or contact Vermont State Coordinator Ehrhard Frost (802) 785-4749, or [Jamey Fidel](#) for more information.

Pacific Northwest Members Gather

Forest Guild Pacific Northwest members will meet in Corvallis, Oregon March 17 and 18, 2007. The event at Oregon State University's Peavy Arboretum will include field tours in the Corvallis Watershed, and presentations by Guild members Tom Giesen, Amy LaBarge, and Mike Hagen, and welcome from Guild Executive Director Howard Gross. For more information see the [program announcement](#), or contact PNW Coordinator [Jean Shafer](#).

Focus Species Forestry - Publication Available

Featured in the Autumn 2006 issue of *Northern Woodland*, forester and Forest Guild member, Rob Bryan has authored and recently published a manual titled *Focus Species Forestry - a Guide to Integrating Timber and Biodiversity Management in Maine*. Written as a resource for landowners, foresters and loggers, Bryan spells out a step-by-step process for using focus-species forestry to preserve healthy populations of native plants and animals while growing and cutting timber. To obtain a copy, call Maine Audubon at (207)781.2330 or order it on their website www.maineaudubon.org