

E-Newsletter of the Forest Guild

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July-September, 2010

Forest Guild Members:
Please take 10 minutes to fill out this survey
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W9BPVX2>



Across the Landscape is a bi-monthly newsletter of the Forest Guild Marcia Summers, editor.

The deadline for receiving articles or regional news items for the next issue of *ATL* is Friday, August 27, 2010.

Forest Wisdom #16 will focus on fire issues related to forest management. If you are interested in writing an article, please call Marcia Summers 505.983.8992 x 20 or email her **no later than Monday August 2, 2010.**

Email to marcia@forestguild.org or send your comments to: Marcia Summers, Editor Forest Guild PO Box 519 Santa Fe, NM 87504

Thanks to Zander Evans, Eytan Krasilovsky, and Katie Fernholz for providing photos.

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**FOREST GUILD
 WELCOMES 20
 NEW MEMBERS!**

**NATIONAL MEETING AT LAKE TAHOE
 "ONE OF THE BEST!"**

by Ross Morgan
 Forest Guild founding member

Diane and I were half way through Tim Egan's book, *The Big Burn*, when we left northern Vermont in mid-June to attend the national meeting of the Forest Guild in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. We met daughter Dawn and her hubby, Rick Morrill

(professional forester and Guild Board member) in Reno. It was a delight to go as a family and to see Guild members, some of whom I have known for fifteen years. For my ten years on the board, I had worked closely with Robert Hrubes and looked forward to seeing him. We reminisced about the early days and told each other stories we both already knew, about the people who had played pivotal roles. My favorite story



was about the time we were working on the "first duty principle," and it seemed too lofty to ask a member to quit work if the work conditions were not in accord with Guild ways. Fred White spoke up with his quiet wisdom, "A two-legged stool won't stand; time is the missing leg; and we need to be sure Guild members in difficult situations have plenty of time to change things, maybe a lifetime."

I also delighted in attending the well-planned presentations, which brings me back to Egan's book and its two intertwining stories, one of the catastrophic forest fires in 1910 that stretched along the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho and Montana and merged into a huge firestorm, completely destroying the small city of Wallace, Idaho, and killing many. The other is the detailed story of Gifford Pinchot and Teddy Roosevelt in the beginning years of the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) and the problems they faced in those early years

Professional Members

David Ganz
Oakland, CA
Rick Kelley
Manchester Center, VT
Jamie Kellum
Cambridge, MD

Supporting/Sustaining Members

Peter Arnold
Grass Valley, CA
Vicki Freeman
Newport OR
Sally Goble
Placitas, NM
Michael Hogan
Tahoe City, CA
John Johansen
Niskayuna, NY
Laurie Litman
Sacramento, CA
Christian Meuli
Edgewood, NM
Christie Pollet-Young
Point Richmond, CA
Vance Russell
Davis, CA

Student Members

Anna Campiformio
University of Connecticut
Heather Engelman
SUNY ESF
Anna Higgins
Northern Arizona University
Erik Keenan
University of New Hampshire
Kate Marquis
University of Mass-Amherst
Campbell Moore
Yale School of Forestry
John Segari
University of Minnesota
Mohammad R. Ullah
U. of Chittagong, Bangladesh

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

Bringing like-minded stewards together continues to spark Forest Guild meetings. The 2010 national meeting was no exception, delivering on its promise of great connections, stimulating content, and engaging discussions in the woods.

We want to ensure that future meetings continue to meet members' needs and interests, so we need your feedback! We have put together a short online survey that should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete.

For the continued success of our meetings, it's important that we explore ways to provide enough value to members to outweigh the expenses involved. So let us know what kind of gatherings you most want to attend! To fill out the survey go online to:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/W9BPVX2

with fire and public forest management. In the end, the two stories intertwine to show that "The Big Burn" had much to do with establishing authority for both the USFS and national forest policy.

I have been on forest fires, several under an acre and the largest around 30 acres. Yea, I am an Easterner, living in the "asbestos" forest, and frankly, have had little working understanding of the role of fire in the forest and even less about fire management. However, by the end of the Guild national meeting, I had learned a lot about fuel wood reduction, silviculture in Western forests, and more locally, the management of the Lake Tahoe Basin by the USFS and associated agencies and organizations. The presentations



and panel discussions that culminated in the Saturday field trip served as a working lesson in Western forest fires, a present-day laboratory providing a depth of understanding that it takes not

only sound policy and law to enable and fund good work, but also competent and dedicated people on the land, especially the USFS.

The Guild has always strived to bring the principles of sustainable forestry into practice with local demonstrations, and this meeting was a great example of the continuation of that tradition. Our Saturday field trip retraced the path of the Angora Fire, south of the lake, where a fire started on private property and 234 houses were burned, (often house igniting house); and then into the National Forest. I was impressed that in those areas where firewood reduction thinnings had been done, the forest remained.

The differences between the work in Lake Tahoe forests and my own forestry work in northern Vermont were often striking. At one stop during the field tour, it was explained how the fuel reduction treatments were actually accomplished. It seemed to be a thinning through the diameters that reduced the basal area, density, and ground fuels to keep the inevitable fire from becoming a crown fire. However, the economics were most striking. One fourteen-acre "urban lot" owned by the National Forest and surrounded by homes and businesses, was treated a few years ago at a cost of two to five thousand dollars per acre, and the standing volume of trees after the thinning was estimated to be eight to ten thousand board feet. There were no sawmills within a hundred miles, and the only product to market was chipping logs for fuel, ouch. That's so different from the typical situation we have in Vermont where small family-owned forests provide a living for local foresters, loggers, and sawmills.



From the beginning welcome by Mike DeBonis to the closing comments, I was

Please fill out the survey no later than August 18, 2010. If you have any questions, please call Mike DeBonis at 505-983-8992 x 14. Thank you so much for helping us out.



impressed with the quality of presentations and resulting discussions. Particularly informative sessions explained the work being done to develop carbon credit markets in California and the silviculture of the Western forests in reducing fuel loads in light of understanding the forest ecology. I was fascinated to hear from Guild members Jay Francis of Collins Pine and Bob Rynearson of Beatty and Associates about how they put their feet on the ground every day to carry out field practices in the Sierras.

Although east is east, and west is west, yet the Forest Guild unites us all in the pursuit of good forestry. In finishing Eagan's book on the flight home, I could not help but think that Gifford Pinchot would have been glad that the Forest Guild was founded, and I'll bet he'd be pleased to be a member after reading our principles and mission and attending our national meeting at Lake Tahoe. I only wish the entire membership could have been there; gosh, I haven't been a part of such wild thinking since a group of foresters thought they could start an organization that would change the face of forestry... and did!

LEARNING THE GUILD WAY: FIRST HAND, ON-THE-GROUND



Every summer, youth from rural Northern New Mexico communities are hired to work in the Forest Guild's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The YCC crew pictured above is from Cuba, New Mexico, one of six crews working on national forest lands throughout the state. For more information on the Guild's unique YCC program, visit www.forestguild.org/ycc.html.

FOREST GUILD MEETINGS

REGISTER NOW FOR GUILD PNW REGIONAL MEETING IN SEPT!

Thinking and Rethinking Silviculture - the Case for Complexity

by Jean Shaffer, Forest Guild PNW Regional Coordinator

The Zena Forest, just west of Salem, Oregon, will be the site of the Forest Guild's Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting Friday night through Sunday morning, September 10-12, 2010 hosted by Guild professional member Sarah Deumling. Sarah manages the Zena Forest, a Forest Guild Model Forest that has been FSC-certified since 1998. Its nearly 1,500 acres of

multi-aged, mixed species is dominated by Douglas-fir, Oregon white oak, and bigleaf maple.

Guest keynote speakers will be Klaus Puettman, Professor of Forest Ecology at Oregon State University and author of *A Critique of Silviculture - The Case for Complexity* and Bobby Cochran, Executive Director of The Willamette Partnership (ecosystem services).

For meeting details, contact Sarah Deumling; 503 585-6380 or sdeumling@gmail.com. To register for the 2010 Guild NW meeting, contact Jean Shaffer at jeanforest@cco.net or 360-459-0946. Registration is free.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE EXPLORED CARBON BENEFIT/IMPLICATIONS OF WELL-MANAGED FORESTS

by Beth Jacqmain and Katie Fernholz

On June 9 and 10, the Aitkin County Land Department (MN), the Forest Guild, Dovetail Partners, and the USFS Northeast Area organized and co-sponsored "Working Forests & Carbon: Recognizing Another Benefit of Well-managed Forests" at the Long Lake Conservation Center near Palisade, Minnesota. The goal was to increase land managers' understanding of carbon credit standards, opportunities for carbon offset projects, and the implications for management. Efforts to develop forest-based carbon projects have been active in



Minnesota for more than two years, but projects have not been completed because standards continue to evolve and uncertainty lingers about how the requirements might impact Lake States forests, local land managers, and markets. Guild executive director Mike DeBonis praised the workshop for "providing participants with honest, real-world information about opportunities and complexities associated with carbon and managed forests."

The June 9 presenters included DeBonis who shared the latest information about the Guild's biomass retention and harvesting guidelines and the potential carbon implications. Dr. Jim Bowyer, Director of Dovetail Partners' Responsible Materials Program, addressed the unique and significant benefits of using wood instead of other building materials because of the opportunity to sequester carbon in long-lived wood products. Max DuBuisson, Business Development Manager for the Climate Action Reserve, outlined the Reserve's forestry offset protocols. American Carbon Registry's (ACR) chief technical officer Nicholas Martin explained ACR's carbon registry standards. Michael Saer, Business Development Analyst at Great River Energy discussed the latest on carbon policy from a Midwest energy provider's perspective. Mark Jacobs, Aitkin County Land Commissioner, wrapped up the day with an update on the "Northwoods Carbon Credit Partnership," a local forest carbon project. Copies of the meeting presentations may be found at: www.dovetailinc.org/content/working-forests-carbon.



The June 10th field tour included visits to local forests managed by Aitkin County to observe techniques that balance carbon storage objectives with a variety of other objectives such as producing wood products, providing a range of wildlife habitats, protecting water quality, and supporting recreation opportunities.

Forest Guild members who figured prominently in this workshop were Peter Bundy and Katie Fernholz, organizers; Mark Jacobs and Mike DeBonis, presenters; and Beth Jacqmain, field tour leader.

FOREST GUILD TO HOST TWO FOREST CARBON WEBINARS

by Dr. Zander Evans, Forest Guild Research Director

WEBINAR ON METHODOLOGY FOR IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT CARBON STORAGE PROJECTS

Hosted by Forest Guild and Ecotrust

Thursday, August 26, 2010, 2pm Pacific Daylight Time

[Ecotrust](#) has developed a methodology for launching forest carbon sequestration projects that can make it easier for forest managers to participate in the voluntary carbon market (VCM). Voluntary carbon offsets allow individuals and companies to compensate for their own greenhouse gas emissions by funding projects that reduce emissions. VCM is an unregulated market that operates outside mandatory emissions mechanisms such as the United Nations' Clean Development Mechanism or the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme. The Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) is a global standard for voluntary offset projects to ensure they have real environmental benefits. It operates a registry system to track credits from issuance to retirement.

Ecotrust's new methodology is the first Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use methodology to complete the VCS double approval process. The new methodology, entitled the Methodology for Improved Forest Management through Extension of Rotation Age, defines a common way for landowners to quantify additionality, i.e. the additional amounts of carbon they will store in forests as a result of more ecologically-friendly management practices. In this webinar, Steve Dettman, Forest Carbon Program Manager at Ecotrust, will explain the methodology and take questions from participants. Please join us for this great opportunity to learn about the voluntary carbon market.

You can register for the webinar at

http://www.forestguild.org/webinar_reg.html.

A press release from Ecotrust on the methodology is available at:

http://www.ecotrust.org/press/carbonmarkets_20100520.html.

The methodology itself is available at <http://v-c-s.org/VM0003.html>.

SOUTHWEST FIRE CONSORTIUM WEBINAR ON FOREST CARBON

Wednesday, July 28, 2010 Noon Mountain Daylight Time

The Forest Guild continues to host webinars as part of the Southwest Fire Consortium outreach. While focused on the Southwest, they are open to all Guild members. The SW Consortium will host a webinar on forest carbon Wednesday, July 28 at noon Mountain Daylight Time. Dr. Mike Ryan, USFS Research Forest Ecologist, will present a scientific synthesis that he and his colleagues recently published in the journal *Issues in Ecology* examining the forest carbon cycle. The synthesis covers the entire U.S., but Dr. Ryan will include a focus on the Southwest in this particular webinar. Forests play a key role in the carbon cycle, and their growth and harvested wood products currently offset 12-19 percent of U.S. fossil fuel emissions. The cycle of forest growth, death, and regeneration and the use of wood removed from the forest complicate efforts to understand and measure forest carbon pools and flows. Dr. Ryan's synthesis explains these processes and examines the science behind mechanisms proposed for increasing the amount of carbon stored in forests and using more wood to offset fossil fuel use. You can register at: http://www.forestguild.org/SW_webinar.html.

In June, Pete Fulé from Northern Arizona University presented an evidence-based systematic review of the effectiveness and effects of post-fire seeding treatments on soil stabilization and plant community recovery in forested ecosystems in the West. Dr. Fulé presented results from a review of USFS burned area reports that his team used to determine overall trends in post-fire seeding from 1970-2009. The webinar also covered the current perceptions of post-wildfire seeding decisions and activities based on interviews and telephone surveys of fire managers. You can see and hear a PowerPoint presentation of the webinar at:

<https://forestguild.mitel-nhwc.com/join/wfwwwkz>.

NEW DVD JUST RELEASED! A WORKING FOREST: ITS FUTURE WITH FIRE, PEOPLE, AND WILDLIFE

Bob Williams, a Forest Guild professional member from New Jersey, has recently completed a labor of love: a video that tells the story of forestry from his perspective as a forester committed to ecological forestry. "Our world's forests and forestry itself, are at a crossroads. As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, it is essential that the larger populous begin to understand the importance of the stewardship of our forest resources," Bob explained as a major reason for undertaking this project.



"A Working Forest: Its Future with Fire, People, and Wildlife" is a one-hour documentary that journeys from Florida to Washington state to interview teachers, ecologists, wildlife experts, landowners, conservationists, and professional foresters all of whom speak with conviction about the importance of forestry, restoration, and fire. The professional production, backed by music from Chuck Leavell, keyboardist for the Rolling Stones, raises this video beyond dry educational material to an engaging story that will capture the interest of everyone regardless of previous interest in ecological forestry and raise its profile as an essential part of a sustainable society.

For more information on the video please visit: <http://www.aworkingforest.com>.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES FROM THE NORTHEAST REGION

by Bob Perschel, Northeast Region Director

- The Guild's new report, *Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Northeast*, was published in early June. The report was accompanied by two associated reports, *The Ecology of Dead Wood* and *Biomass Harvesting Standards Revised*. In mid-May, before their release, a webinar was held to introduce the report to Guild members. Bob also presented the guidelines at the Forest Guild's national meeting in Lake Tahoe. The report has been eagerly received. The Forest Guild will present the guidelines at the Land Trust Alliance National Rally in Hartford, CT in October. Bob is looking for Guild members to participate in that presentation. Please contact him at bob@forestguild.org if you are interested.
- The Guild's work with the Manomet Massachusetts Biomass Sustainability and Carbon Study culminated in the public release of the final report in early June. Our primary role was Chapter 4, "Forest Sustainability and Biomass Harvesting in Massachusetts" in which we analyzed the impact that expanded use of biomass could have on forest health and used our Guidelines to suggest changes to Massachusetts best management practices. The study's analysis of the effect of biomass on atmospheric carbon in Chapter 6 has created a great deal of controversy in the region and nationwide. It indicates that burning biomass initially creates a "carbon debt" and although forests eventually pay off this debt and reap "carbon dividends," it can take varying amounts of time to do so. We intend to closely monitor and comment on how these results are used in forming policy.
- Bob Perschel attended the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. national meeting of Forest Investment Zone partners in June in Cincinnati, Ohio as a representative of the Northern Forest Investment Zone (NFIZ). He reported on our work with biomass harvesting guidelines and community wood energy and shared information with representatives from the Pacific Northwest and central Appalachians. The NFIZ partnership has confirmed the Mahoosuc Region of Maine and New Hampshire as the first pilot project area. This will help us continue and expand our work on community wood energy in the Bethel, Maine area.
- In Vermont, Forest Guild members Robert Turner, Ehrhard Frost, Ben Machin, Bill Keeton, and Jamey Fidel are part of the Vermont Biomass Energy Development Working Group and have introduced the Guild's guidelines into this process. David Brynn, Adam

Sherman, and Bob Perschel continue to work with the University of Vermont community wood energy project. The project recently received a grant to conduct a research-focused seminar on biomass energy in the spring of 2011 and to continue work on biomass procurement guidelines for Harwood Union High School.

- A number of Guild members joined Bob Perschel in June at the New England Wildlands and Woodlands Conference to hear more about their new initiative - an expansive vision of protected and working forestlands.
- In May several Guild members helped organize a successful field workshop, "Implementing Vernal Pool Habitat Management Guidelines in Maine."
- Important upcoming events:
 - July 27, Boston, MA** - Manomet Study Public meeting
 - July 28, Holyoke, MA** - Manomet Stud Public meeting
 - August 5, Boston, MA** - Northeast Biomass Conference and Expo
 - October 2-5, Hartford, CT** - Land Trust Alliance National Rally

CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANTS IN VERMONT'S MANAGED FORESTS

With the help of Guild foresters from across New England, Jack O'Wril, a recent Master of Forestry graduate from Yale, drafted a report, Controlling Invasive Plants in Vermont's Managed Forests. Jack reviewed the scientific literature and surveyed forester managers about their experiences with invasive plants. Then combining the best available science and place-based knowledge, Jack developed recommendations for dealing with invasive plants in Vermont including:

- Inventory the extent of the current invasion as part of the timber cruise.
- Determine which invasive species are likely to expand or invade after a harvest.
- Prioritize efforts based on the specific threat that each species poses and on the amount of resources required to control invasions.
- Consider varying silvicultural treatments to suppress invasive plants.
- Plan harvest operations in a way that minimizes the spread of invasive plant seeds and vegetation.



These recommendations are based in part on consensus from the literature that by opening up a canopy with a silvicultural treatment, the soil disturbance and added light to the forest floor will increase the risk of an exotic plant invasion or expansion.

Both a summary of Jack's work and the full report are available on the Guild's website:
www.forestguild.org/ecological_forestry/OWril_Forestry_invasives_BMPs.pdf
www.forestguild.org/ecological_forestry/OWril_Invasives.pdf

PUBLICATIONS BRIEFLY NOTED

Threats to Western Private Forests: A Framework for Conserving and Enhancing the Benefits from Private Working Forests in the Western U.S.

<http://wflcenter.org/forestthreats/>

In 2009, the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition's (WFLC) Threats to Western Private Forests strategic initiative engaged diverse stakeholders - family and large-scale forest

landowners, county commissioners, local and regional planning organizations, state forestry and wildlife agencies, federal land managers, tribes, universities, conservation districts, and nonprofit environmental organizations - to explore threats to the health and sustainability of private forests in the western U.S. The hours of hard work and facilitated discussion undertaken by these diverse representatives generated this report and the following recommendations:

- Reward landowners for their stewardship of ecosystem services.
- Promote diverse forest products markets and the utilization of woody biomass.
- Facilitate action through cross-ownership management and partnerships.

Forest Sustainability in the Development of Wood Bioenergy in the U.S.

<http://www.pinchot.org/bioenergy>

This report summarizes the results of a two-year study of the challenges and opportunities for sustainable wood bioenergy. The study included one national and four regional workshops involving more than 280 experts and stakeholders across the U.S. and Canada. The report contains several key findings, conclusions, and recommendations:

- There is a need for more reliable and accurate methods for assessing how much biomass is available and sustainable over the long term.
- There is concern over the potential effects on forests from meeting existing and proposed mandates for bioenergy and biofuels.
- Adequate environmental safeguards are needed to address the more intensive type of wood harvesting that is often conducted for energy purposes.
- Policies to define the role of federal forests in biomass supply are inconsistent.
- Decision makers and stakeholders need to consider the full range of wood bioenergy and biofuel technology options before making facility siting decisions.
- There is a need to better align federal and state policies for financial incentives, tax credits, and targets for renewable energy production with existing policies aimed at ensuring the sustainable management of both public and private forests.

New Mexico Statewide Natural Resources Assessment

http://nmconservation.org/projects/nm_natural_resources_assessment/

The assessment was developed through a partnership between the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Forestry Division, the New Mexico chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Forest Guild, and nearly one hundred stakeholders and partners who provided the resource information, advice, and insight that guided the project. The data was organized around eight themes that were suggested in the 2008 Farm Bill and outlined in guidelines provided by the USFS: Biodiversity (Fish and Wildlife Habitat); Development Potential (Development Risk); Economic Potential; Forest Health (Risk); Fragmentation (Forest Fragmentation); Green Infrastructure; Water Quality and Supply; and Wildfire Risk.

Wood to Energy: A State of the Science and Technology

<http://www.wood2energy.org/StateofScience.htm>

A new report by the University of Tennessee Office of Bioenergy Programs and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. reviews the current state of research and development of technologies for utilizing wood for the production of energy. The peer-reviewed report characterizes industry process designs, stage of development or commercialization, and suitability for the marketplace. It also provides an analysis of market sustainability, including opportunities and barriers, of wood to energy production.

Sustainable Biomass Power Generation: A Regional Model for Western Montana

<http://mtcdc.org/images/stories/documents/biomass%20project%20final%2006-2-10highresolution.pdf>

Another study funded by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities Inc. links two critical value-chain partners, the utility and traditional forest products company, in energy production facilities investments. The study describes the potential for locally-produced energy, economic viability of vital wood production facilities, and restoration of the health of Montana's forests.

Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape

[http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/sites/default/files/Wildlands%20and%20Woodlands%](http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/sites/default/files/Wildlands%20and%20Woodlands%20)

[20New%20England.pdf](#)

After almost 200 years of natural reforestation, forest cover is declining in all six New England states. The Wildlands and Woodlands vision calls for a 50-year conservation effort to retain at least 70 percent of New England in forestland, permanently free from development. Ninety percent of forests would be "woodlands," conserved by willing landowners and sustainably managed for multiple uses, from recreation to wood products. The remaining ten percent would be "wildland" reserves, identified by local communities and shaped only by the natural environment.

Urban Wood Utilization and Industrial Clusters: A Twin Cities Case Study

<http://www.dovetailinc.org/files/DovetailUrbanTC0510.pdf>

This report focuses on an emerging urban wood-based industrial (business) cluster in the Minneapolis-St. Paul (Twin Cities) metropolitan area. Examples of Twin Cities' cluster-based wood utilization activities and corresponding cluster-building techniques are highlighted. Recommendations for advancing wood utilization activities on a community-wide basis are offered.

Please email any publications you think other Guild members would be interested in to [Zander Evans](#).

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