

E-Newsletter of the Forest Guild

[March/April 2009](#)

**Register now for the Forest Guild Northeast Regional Meeting
April 24 & 25, 2009, in Northwood, NH
www.forestguild.org/NEmeeting09.html**



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

Comments, suggestions, and
questions are welcome.
We also accept guest op-eds
and letters relating to articles
published in *Forest Wisdom*
and *Across the Landscape*.
Email to marcia@forestguild.org
or send to:
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Forest Guild
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Santa Fe, NM 87504

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FOREST GUILD WELCOMES 27 NEW MEMBERS

Professional Members

Jonathan Arnold, Mineral, CA
Allison Forrester, Point Reyes Station,
CA
Tristan Huff, Myrtle Point, OR
John Karakash, Durham, NC
Nicholas Kent, Forestville, CA
Ben Machin, Corinth, VT
Kyle Meister, Oakland, CA

SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING

Join the Forest Guild for our
third Northeast Regional
Meeting. This two-day
meeting will explore how
foresters, allied
professionals, and
supporters can practice and
promote excellent forestry in
challenging times. The
meeting will include



nationally recognized speakers, detailed discussion sessions,
and field tours that demonstrate excellent forestry in practice.
As always, there will be ample opportunities to connect and
reconnect with colleagues and friends!

Day One will feature first-rate speakers and concurrent
roundtable discussions.

Keynote speaker Robert S. Seymour, the Curtis Hutchins
Professor of Forest Resources at the University of Maine, will
speak on the timely topic, "Darwin's Forestry: Is our
profession advancing scientifically, or merely reacting with
opportunism?" Many prominent issues in forestry today-
natural disturbance-based silviculture, sequestered carbon as
a marketable forest product, and the precipitous demise of
industrial forestry in the United States, to name a few-were
totally unforeseen when baby boomers went to forestry
school in the 1970s. Questions Dr. Seymour will explore
include: Which ideas and axioms from 30 years ago are still
valid, and which should be discarded in order to keep pace
with the rapid growth in knowledge of, and demands on, our
forests? Where are the shining examples of stewardship that
transcend these developments, and what new ideas should
foresters embrace to ensure a vibrant and relevant
profession?

Other scheduled presenters and a brief synopsis of their
topics include:

Lloyd Irland on "The Economic Picture for Excellent Forestry."
How does excellent forestry look when viewed through an
economic lens? What are the principal strengths and

Cassandra Moseley, Eugene, OR
Ben Urquhart, Belmont, MA

Supporting/Sustaining Members

David Carr, Jr., Charlottesville, VA
Larry Ferguson, Lugoff, SC
Chris Guiterman, Orono, ME
Matt Kilty, Amherst, MA
Suellen Strale, Chimayo, NM
Martin Walter, Boulder, CO

Student Members

Erin Banwell, Humboldt State University
Cody Barrett, SUNY-ESF Ranger School
Ryan Brown, Colorado State University
Chip Bryars, University of the South, Sewanee
Ryan Carey, University of Maine
Paige Heron, Warren Wilson College
Addison Kasmarek, University of Vermont
Schirin Oeding, Sterling College
David Palange, Duke University
Justin Sarette, Sterling College
Graham Sivak, Warren Wilson College
Brett Watson, Humboldt State University

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GUILD PHOTO CONTEST

We have received some great submissions to the Forest Guild Photo Contest, but we want to give everyone enough time to submit photos. We are extending the deadline to **April 1st**. You can enter all kinds of forest photos including people in the forest, logging, cruising, inventory work, wildlife from bugs to bears, trees, streams, fires, blowdowns, drought, and landscapes. For more information, go to www.forestguild.org/photo.pdf.

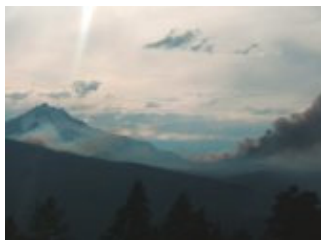


photo contest entry by Garrett Meigs

weaknesses? Will the growing markets for biomass and the potential markets for carbon sequestration provide new economic incentives to practice long-term forest management?

Professor Mark Ducey on "Biomass: What's Out There?" There is a wave of interest and potential demand for biomass. However, what is the state of the resource, and what is the sustainable supply? Dr. Ducey will consider regional inventory data and describe tips and techniques for inventory at the individual landowner and project scale.

Ben Machin and Keith Ross on "Aggregating Family Forests for Conservation and Excellent Forestry." The number of family forest owners keeps getting larger while the average acres per ownership shrinks. How can we help these landowners take advantage of new markets and land protection opportunities? The presenters will discuss aggregation of ownerships under FSC certification and conservation easement funding options.

Concurrent afternoon sessions will allow extended discussion of the three morning topics with the presenters. Additional topics of interest will be offered including new technology for field foresters and a review of work on state and regional biomass standards.

Day Two will be in the woods with field tours. The morning tour will be at Saddleback Mountain, a 278-acre parcel owned and managed by the University of New Hampshire (UNH). UNH aims to build a continuous forest inventory program with an inventory plot every 2.5 acres. We will explore how to deal with large data input needs including the use of lasers, wide-angle cameras, subsamples, and handheld devices. We'll view a 2004 harvest that utilized single-tree and group-selection methods. We will also discuss how to best set up a smooth flow of information and technology between the field forester and academic and research facilities.

In the afternoon, we will see firsthand at the James Tree Farm what excellent forestry can accomplish with 25 years of management. This 372-acre property has been in the James family since 1782 and is a Forest Guild Model Forest managed by Charlie Moreno since 1984. We will see the results of 16 or more conventional and biomass harvests conducted to develop a multi-aged forest of superior timber volume (2.5 times its original volume) and quality that also delivers a host of other forest values. We will discuss the economics of this management style and how it can sequester carbon for offset markets.

You can view more information and register at www.forestguild.org/NEmeeting09.html or by calling Lois Manno at 505.983.8992 x 21. Early registration period ends March 22, 2009.

SAVE THE DATE!

Forest Guild 2009 Southeast Regional Meeting November 7-8, 2009

Join Forest Guild members and friends this November in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains on the beautiful campus of Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC (just east of Asheville, NC). The meeting will include field tours of the Warren Wilson College Forest and other notable area

forestry sites (to be announced) on Saturday, November 7 followed by a half-day classroom session on Sunday, November 8 featuring local speakers on the history and status of forestry in the region. A minimal registration fee (to be announced) will cover van rental, refreshments, etc. There will be a group dinner outing in Asheville on Saturday night as well as a pre-conference dinner gathering for early arrivers on Friday, November 6. Camping and lodging information and details will be announced soon!

Get involved! If you'd like to help in planning this meeting, please contact Forest Guild Southeast Region Coordinator Nate Wilson at jessandnatew@blomand.net.

COSTS OF FOREST RESTORATION IN THE SOUTHWEST

The Forest Guild's Southwest (SW) region has been working for many years on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands pursuing excellent forestry to benefit those forests and surrounding forest-reliant communities. We have also worked to positively affect agency policy at the local and regional levels. A large part of our work has been with the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP), www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp, whose program goals closely align with the SW region's goals. CFRP was established under The Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Title VI, Public Law 106-393) to provide cost-share grants for forest restoration projects on public land that are collaboratively designed and implemented by stakeholders.

The Forest Guild was one of many partners on a CFRP grant to the Conservation Fund for restoration work on the Santa Fe National Forest at the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains (in north-central New Mexico). The Rowe Mesa project restored forest structure to over 500 acres of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest that had been overtaken by piñon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and one seed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) in the absence of a historically low-intensity, high-frequency fire regime. The photo was taken after completion of the restoration project.



A recurring barrier to forest restoration on USFS lands has been the unknown cost of forest restoration. Accordingly, a recent socioeconomic monitoring report by Forest Guild staff member Eytan Krasilovsky, "Socioeconomic Monitoring on Rowe Mesa: A Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Grant," www.forestguild.org/publications/VGII_SEMonitoring_Report_Final.pdf, closely examines the direct and indirect costs of restoring forest structure to pre-fire-suppression conditions. In the report, costs of the restoration workforce, distance to work, workforce training, and value of wood products were investigated and synthesized into a cost-per-acre analysis.

The report's major findings were:

1. Wood removal costs can be significant-nearly equal to that of the thinning contractor costs.
2. The project gained a substantial in-kind contribution of labor through the free-use personal permit for fuelwood. If this service had been contracted, it would have been necessary to reduce the treated acreage by 50 percent.
3. New Mexicans rely heavily on fuelwood for home heating and are willing to collect fuelwood at a higher cost (\$288/cord) than the market price for similar cordwood (\$175/cord).
4. Unpaid travel and training time result in substantial unreimbursed costs to the worker.
5. Comprehensive per-acre costs of forest structure restoration remained competitive for similar work, even taking into account the costs of the environmental and cultural analysis, road remediation, unpaid travel costs, and wood removal costs.

These findings may also be of broader interest if the Forest Landscape Restoration Act (FLRA) is passed by Congress and signed by the President (it is part of S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land

Management Act of 2009, that the Senate passed in January but currently awaits action in the House of Representatives). Many forest practitioners could face barriers and issues similar to those encountered on the Rowe Mesa project. Information about the FLRA may be found at: www.forestguild.org/FLRA.html.

SPOTLIGHT ON WASHINGTON STATE AND CALIFORNIA FOREST GUILD EVENTS

Vashon Island, Washington, Eco-forestry Tour

by Jean Shaffer, Forest Guild Pacific Northwest Region Coordinator

On Saturday, January 31, a Guild-sponsored field tour visited a very interesting sample of 35 private and public forestlands managed by the Vashon Island Forest Stewards (VFS). Vashon Island is a ferry-commute bedroom community of Seattle. VFS was formed to manage private real estate and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and King County Parks and Recreation lands on the island. The unmanaged private forest lots are mainly dog-hair red alder (*Alnus rubra*) nearing the end of early seral stage, and the DNR land is Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), clearcut plantation management. It took years for VFS, via much eco-forestry educational outreach, to gain the islanders' trust and to manage the public lands. They have done an excellent job silviculturally and business-wise. It hasn't been easy. However, they have been able to successfully manage many small parcels by shoring up the small jobs and bundling them in with bigger public land jobs, which they refer to as anchor acres.

The field tour catered to two groups in attendance: those interested in ecological forestry, and those interested in how VFS has made a low-impact eco-forestry logging industry work in a small populace. Given the rate at which commercial forestlands are being converted to real estate, keeping the land on Vashon Island as healthy forests, making small jobs work out for both loggers and owners, and providing landowners with access to good foresters and good loggers are challenges that VFS is successfully meeting.

Successful Future Forests II Conference and Guild Field Tour in Ferndale, California



Recently, 17 Guild members joined with 120 others to attend the Future Forests II Conference in Ferndale, California, February 11-12. This event was cosponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension, Institute for Sustainable Forestry, Buckeye Conservancy, and Forest Guild. As an add-on to the conference, on February 13, the Guild sponsored a field trip to visit the Peter Bussman Forest and the Arcata Community Forest, both Guild Model Forests managed by Guild foresters; Almquist Lumber Company, a retail specialty lumberyard; and ERA Forest Products, LLC, a "boutique" mini-sawmill in Arcata. This three-day event provided a historical

and contemporary overview of the forest products market on the north coast of California, and ideas about how forest landowners can weather the current recession.

Future Forests II conference presenters (representing private and industrial forest landowners, foresters, lumber manufacturers and retailers, government and NGO representatives, and funders) offered a wide range of ideas and experiences relevant to the California redwood and Douglas-fir forest region. Topics included the global, national, and regional outlook for the timber industry, an assessment of traditional log market opportunities, resources and strategies for landowners to maintain working forests in today's markets, and resources and strategies for the region. If you'd like a more detailed perspective on the topics covered in the conference, please email Pacific West Region Director Kenneth Baldwin at kennethforestguild@gmail.com, and he can share with you the conference notes he compiled.

PROFILE OF A GUILD MODEL FOREST

Guild Model Forest Coordinator Eytan Krasilovsky Interviews Bussman Forest Manager Jim Able

Forest Guild professional member Jim Able has been the manager of the Bussman Model Forest

*(www.forestguild.org/bussman.html) in Blue Lake, California, since 1981. The forest is sustainably managed for profit as part of a joint forest, cattle, and range operation. This forest is dominated by the coastal redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Jim describes his approach to management as "form" thinning, the essence of which is "If you thinned no more than about one third of the volume during a ten-year period, you would replace the harvest volume plus in ten years. The focus is not on what tree to cut but what tree not to cut." Jim recently talked with Forest Guild model forest coordinator Eytan Krasilovsky about managing the Bussman Model Forest.*



Eytan: Can you elaborate on your selection system for harvests?

Jim: Our instructions from the landowner are to "cut whatever trees you think will leave enough to maintain or increase the growth." The selection system is not necessarily a selection per se. It begins as a "sanitation/salvage," meaning that forked trees, "bear damage" trees, defective trees, and trees with a high risk of blowdown are potential harvest trees. No matter what, no more than 40 percent (preferably 30 percent) is cut during the first entry. The next entry is about 7 to 10 years later, and again shoots for a 20 to 30 percent cut that focuses on the sanitation/salvage trees, then trees with poor form, poor growth performance, poor potential growth performance, and "loosening up" the redwood sprout clumps. The sprout clumps have up to ten trees around the old stump and need over time to be reduced to two or three. The third entry focuses on sprout clumps and the continued harvest of the poorer producing trees. Eventually, by the fourth or fifth entry, one is left with large, tall, well-formed trees, very few of which need to be cut.

At some point not yet reached, there will be so few trees that enough light will have reached the always present understory to release it. In some instances there is a need to clearcut, and this is accomplished through what we call "group selections," which are harvest areas of 2 1/2 acres or less that do not have 75 sq ft/acre basal area.

The timber marking instructions are to leave enough trees capable of maintaining or increasing the growth. We also have a rule of thumb that there should ideally be around 200 sq ft/acre basal area or more. If the basal area falls below 150 sq ft/acre basal area, then a group clearcut should be seriously considered. We also do not log anything if harvesting is going to do more harm than good to the growth rate.

Eytan: You mention that inventory data shows a doubling of inventory and 50 percent increase in growth per acre. Please indicate why you think that is. What aspect of your management do you feel was the most important contributing factor to that achievement?

Jim: The property has more than doubled in inventory despite our harvesting over twice its original inventory. The main reason is that both growth and volume, as well as knowledge and experience, are used in our silvicultural method, "form" thinning. In addition, we have the almost limitless flexibility and trust of the landowner, which is most helpful. It is also beneficial to have the landowner become knowledgeable about what you are doing.

Eytan: Please elaborate on your relationship with the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the teacher's tour. What interests them about the forest that keeps them returning every year? Also, what about your collaboration with National Geographic?

Jim: Every year for more than 15 years, the SAF, University of California Extension, and various forestry associations conduct workshops throughout the state for teachers. They use the Bussman property as one of the stops for the teachers because it represents non-industrial forest landownership and is an example of a mature timber parcel. National Geographic used Bussman's property as a "prop" for a documentary film featuring forestry in the redwoods that is scheduled to be shown on the National Geographic channel in fall 2009.

Eytan: Given that the forest is managed for timber production as a business by Mr. Bussman, how do you see the forest faring during the current economic downturn? Will

there be changes to your management to adapt to this? Why or why not?

Jim: The property will suffer from the lack of demand for the logs, but there should be no change in management, as it continues to be poised to take advantage of an upswing in the market. We do not see a reason to change, because the management has been able to meet the financial demands and continue to increase in value. Generally speaking, we log five times a decade if the market is particularly good, but we won't cut during a downturn in log markets unless absolutely necessary.

RESEARCH UPDATE: CLIMATE CHANGE

by Zander Evans, Forest Guild Research Director



There are a number of recently published scientific papers that add to our current understanding of the impacts of climate change on forests. For example, the new issue of the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* (CJFR) included five articles on climate change in the Northeast and one on the Cumberland forests of Tennessee and Kentucky. Other recent scientific papers document the northward shift of tree species in the Eastern U.S. and increased background tree mortality in the West. Taken as a whole, these papers confirm and amplify much of the Guild's 2007 report, *Climate Change, Carbon and the Forests of the Northeast*.

The papers in CJFR look at the potential impacts on animals, biogeochemical cycling, insect pests, invasive plants, hydrology, and forest composition. The new information from these studies is evident in their specifics. For example, one study notes that hemlock woolly adelgid, forest tent caterpillar, beech bark disease, and oriental bittersweet are likely to expand their range. Similarly, armillaria root rot is likely to increase its impact because of climate change. Another study details the climate change risks for moose; these include increased heat stress, spread of ticks, and greater contact with the meningeal parasite carried by deer.

In general, the CJFR papers are based on climate predictions and complex interactions and are therefore hampered by uncertainty. Other research is documenting the changes that have already occurred because of a warming climate. To read the full research update on these articles, please visit the forest guild website.

(www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2009/ResearchUpdate_0902_climatechange.pdf).

PUBLICATIONS BRIEFLY NOTED

Economic Stimulus Proposal: The First Steps Toward Building a Rural Green Economy. Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, 2009. www.sustainablenorthwest.org/quick-links/resources/rvcc-issue-papers/RuralGreenEconomyInitiative.pdf.

Climate Change, Rural Communities and Landscapes. Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, 2009. www.sustainablenorthwest.org/quick-links/resources/Issue%20Paper-%20ClimateChange09.pdf.

Conservation Easements and Biodiversity in the Northern Forest Region. Jerry Jenkins, 2008. www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Publication_ConservationEasements_Jenkins.

Habitat Stewardship Series: Vernal Pools. University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, 2008. www.extension.unh.edu/resources/representation/Resource000417_Rep957.pdf.

Restoring Old Growth Characteristics. Anthony D'Amato and Paul Catanzaro. www.masswoods.net/pdf/Restoring_Old_Growth_Characteristics.pdf.

An Introduction to Forest Certification. North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. 2007. www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/pdf/WON/won42.pdf.

Maine Forestry Best Management Practices: Use and Effectiveness 2006-2007. Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service, 2008.

www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/pubs/pdf/bmp_annual_rpt/bmp_rpt_06_07.pdf.

Birds and Climate Change: Ecological Disruption in Motion. National Audubon Society, 2009.

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/bacc/index.html>.

We are also looking for suggestions for **books and other resource geared toward children** that focus on ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry. Please email zander@forestguild.org with any suggestions.



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