

Welcome to New Members

Please welcome our new members for March and April.

Professional Members

Duane Means, New Castle, VA.
Forester-Owner, Arrow Forestry.

Brent Oblinger, Saranac Lake, NY. Field Forester, Upland Forestry.

Kristen Puryear, Augusta, ME. Ecologist, Maine Natural Areas Program.

Charly Ray, Ashland, WI. General Manager, Living Forest Cooperative.

Wim Van Loon, Putney, VT. Forester, Future Generations Forestry.

Student Member

John Foppert, Warren Wilson College, NC.

Affiliate Members

Peter Evans, NM.
John Mackin, CA.

Richard and Mary Porter, RI.
and
Forest Guild
Development Director
Marcia Summers, NM.

Members Approve Guidelines Changes

Votes are In
Over the past month, the Forest Guild professional membership voted overwhelmingly to approve changes proposed by the Membership and Policy Council to the Guild's first duty principles and to our membership and policy guidelines. The vote in favor was quite large—between 85 and 97 percent in favor of each of the proposed changes. 132 of our professional members returned their ballots to vote in the election.

The Membership and Policy Council voted unanimously to accept the results of the vote at its March 27, 2007 meeting and to make the changes effective as of that date.

Our members voted to change the Forest Guild's first duty principle so that it allows

Developing a Guild Strategic Plan Pathway to the Future

The Forest Guild's Business Plan, completed in 2005, was the result of work by many individuals leading up to and following the merging of the Forest Stewards Guild and the Forest Trust. The Business Plan identifies key tenets that define the Forest Guild, including our mission, case statement, core functions, program areas, structure, and philanthropic assets and needs. The Guild is successfully implementing many of the programs identified in our Business Plan.

However, the Guild's president, board members, and executive director recognize that the Business Plan now needs to be refined into a more fully-developed Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Guild Strategic Plan should:

- More clearly articulate goals and objectives for the Guild to pursue and measure our success against.
- Serve as the basis for program development, implementation, and evaluation.
- Enable us to better communicate our focus to our members, partners, supporters, and the public.

Our recent survey of professional members will serve as an important foundation for the Guild's Strategic Plan. We also invite all our members to provide input directly into this planning process.

If you are interested in participating, please visit the Guild [member's only website](#) where you can access a copy of the Guild's 11/2005 draft Business Plan, along with questions related to refining the plan. If you are not a registered user you can obtain a user name and password through the site, or retrieve a lost password. If you are not an internet user, please contact the Forest Guild Santa Fe office at (505) 983-8992 to have the planning documents faxed or mailed to you.

The Forest Guild Board of Directors will meet in June to take up the plan revision process. While your input as a member or supporter is welcome anytime, to be considered in this strategic planning process, your input must be received at the Santa Fe office by May 25, 2007. Please contact Executive Director [Howard Gross](#) if you have any questions. Thanks to all members in advance for contributing time and energy to the work of the Guild!

A Changing Climate for Forests Global Markets for Carbon Hitting Home for Forest Owners

When Carl Rove and the singer Cheryl Crow had a dust-up at a recent White House Correspondents' Association dinner, you might have assumed the topic of disagreement to have been something like say, the war in Iraq, or the recent troubles at the Justice Department. It was nothing that pedestrian however. Instead they were disagreeing, physically even, over the causes and impacts of what is arguably the world's biggest problem - global climate change. When an issue reaches the pages of People Magazine, it's perhaps a sign that it's gone (or gone beyond) mainstream.

And with the attention of the science community, (at least most) policy makers, industry and the public now increasingly fixed on ways to mitigate human-caused climate change, forests are suddenly taking on a whole new respectability.

With a structure and targets for carbon emission reductions now set by the Kyoto Protocol to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), free market approaches to reducing global carbon are now going mainstream, even if not quite as photogenically as Mr. Rove and Ms. Crow.

One example is the growing market for carbon credits. Carbon credit schemes can be fantastically complicated, but they all basically reward activities that are deemed to accumulate and store atmospheric carbon. In forestry, early emphasis has been on afforestation of open lands, with premiums paid for the type of yield that will sink carbon at the most rapid rate. As carbon credit schemes evolve, however, recognition is growing that well-managed established forests are very effective carbon reservoirs in their own right whose stewardship can also be justifiably rewarded.

Having industrial carbon emitters paying out cash to forest owners would seem to be an idea that everybody should love. After all, who wouldn't like to be paid for planting trees? But like many ideas that seem benign in the abstract, the reality on the ground, especially at the sort of scale at which global markets operate, has initially revealed as many questions as answers. Is it possible to develop carbon credit trading schemes, potentially affecting many millions of acres around the world, that are credible, fair, democratic, environmentally sound, politically acceptable and cost-effective? The Guild is now gearing up to help address at least some of those questions.

One of the many concerns expressed by critics of carbon credit schemes involve decisions and incentives for land use. Well-managed grasslands for example, especially those dominated by warm-season grasses, sequester significant amounts of CO2 in their own right, although much of it is below soil where it is more difficult to

Another natural resource professionals to join our forester members in sharing and embracing the Guild's commitment to the forest. Also important is our members' overwhelming support for (1) recognizing cultural diversity and professional conduct as organizational values, and (2) welcoming a broader range of forest professionals into our membership -- namely those whose work occurs through on-the-ground management, policy, advocacy, or research.

Thanks for your commitment to the Guild and to those of you who took the time to vote.

Upcoming Guild Field Workshops in the Northeast Defining and Discussing Ecological Forestry

Friday June 15 2007

Dartmouth College Grant, North of Errol, NH. Host: Kevin Evans, Guild member and Dartmouth College forester.

View various timber harvesting practices. Discuss the timber - recreational interface, ecological inventory methods including snag and down woody material protocols. Meet at the entrance to the Grant.

Saturday June 30 2007

Grafton County Farm and Woodland, North Haverhill, NH. Tour guide: Northam Parr, Grafton County Extension Forester and Guild member.

This publicly owned forest of 426 acres has been intensively managed since 1982 by UNH Cooperative Extension Foresters. View a variety of silvicultural practices including forest stand improvement work, shelterwood and selection harvests and regeneration successes and failures. Meet at the Grafton County Extension Services Offices on the west side of Route 10 in North Haverhill, NH.

Friday July 27 2007

Sheldon Springs &

measure. Cash incentives for afforestation, if not moderated by responsible screening, could result (by some accounts this is already happening) in replacement of biologically diverse habitats such as grasslands and savannas with single-species monocultures, an especially troublesome prospect in regions where grazing livestock is an important component of traditional subsistence farming.

Another concern involves properly valuing the carbon-reservoir benefits of well-managed forests in traditionally forested landscapes. Practices such as extended rotations, establishing forest reserve areas, and silvicultural methods that preserve structural complexity and species diversity -- what for many members IS Guild-style forestry -- may have carbon-positive benefits, however the research needed to model carbon in those scenarios is still largely incomplete.

In one example of possibly unintended consequences, a recently published paper on climate modeling by atmospheric scientists at the [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#) concluded that forests in boreal regions generally make a net contribution to global warming, in spite of their ability to sequester carbon, due to their absorption of solar energy. How well understandings and new findings such as these will be incorporated into the growing business of carbon trading remains to be seen.

Forests are becoming a world-wide focal point for efforts to address climate change. The Guild's charge as an organization is to bring our unique expertise to the discussion of how best to value forests for the many environmental services they provide, in a way that respects the health of forests and forest dependant communities. At last for now, a more thorough evaluation of the ecological and social assumptions around carbon sequestration and climate change could be a prudent approach.

We invite all Guild members to join this discussion. Northeast region Director Bob Perschel will soon be heading up a new Guild project to address climate change issues affecting temperate forests. We'll be sharing our findings and proposed policy actions in the months ahead. Guild members are encouraged to e-mail [Bob](#) or call him at (508) 756-4625 for more information, or to contribute ideas for Guild involvement.

On the Road for the Guild

Howard Gross

An essential part of my first 100 days has been traveling to meet Forest Guild members, partners, and other supporters; experience member's forestry work firsthand; and gain a better understanding of the Guild's history, challenges, and opportunities in promoting sustainable forestry. Putting in long days on the road and in the skies, I was able to go to New York, each of the New England states, Oregon, and Washington, D.C.

In New York and New England, I visited with nearly 30 Guild members, including Guild state coordinators and board directors. Barrie Brusilla, Ehrhard Frost, Steve Pelletier, Andy Schultz, and Bruce Spencer graciously hosted member meetings and forest field tours. Thanks in part to adept scheduling by Guild Northeast Region Director Bob Perschel, my busy slate included meeting with FSC-certified forest land companies, foundation officers, and staff members of other non-profit organizations, including the New England Forestry Foundation, Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and Maine Audubon Society.

In Oregon, I partook in the Oregon/Washington Guild member's meeting held outside of Corvallis. The weekend meeting, attended by 25 members, was very well organized by Jean Shaffer and Tom Giesen. It included an opening circle, diverse presentations about forest management, a field tour of the Corvallis Watershed on Mary's Peak, and a dinner featuring a talk by Dr. Norm Johnson of Oregon State University. I also took the time in Oregon to visit forestland managed by Sarah Deumling and to meet with staff at our partner organization Sustainable Northwest.

In Washington, D.C., I represented the Guild as part of the "Westerners Week in Washington" organized by the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC). This coalition is comprised of communities and organizations (including the Guild) working on collaborative, place-based projects that recognize the link between the health of the land and the well-being of rural communities in the West. We gathered in our nation's capitol to advance issues of collective importance to RVCC, including appropriations for federal land management agencies and policies dealing with collaboration, community capacity building, best value contracting, performance measures, biomass, and private land issues. The trip provided me with an opportunity to meet with congressional staff, Forest Service employees, and colleagues. It also allowed me to meet with several Guild members, including former Executive Director Mary Sneickus.

Meeting face-to-face and in the woods provides a richer experience than communicating over the phone or e-mail. I want to express my gratitude to everyone who took the time -- and, in some cases, traveled great distances -- to meet with me and other members, and to share their thoughts about forestry and the Guild. The inspiration you provide deepens my commitment to lead this organization.

Bakersfield, VT.

Tour guide: Nancy Patch, Guild member, private Consulting Forester and principal of North Woods Forestry. The Sheldon Springs site consists of 451 acres of which 349 acres are productive forestland. The Bakersfield property is 789 acres with 592 acres in productive forest. We will view and discuss single tree and group selection and small patch cuts made over the last three years, regeneration challenges and compare traditional skidding by cable skidder and a bulldozer/forwarder system. Meet at west of Sheldon Springs at the mini-mart on the South side of Route 105.

Saturday July 28 2007

Brunswick Gardens
Forest land and Essex
Timber.

Morning Tour guides:
Brendan Whittaker Sr.,
Guild member, and
Brendan Whittaker Jr.
Tour the Whittaker
family forest to discuss
their approach to
spruce/fir management
over the last 50 years.
View Forest Stand
Improvement work and
low impact harvesting
techniques that have
utilized a farm tractor
and winch. Small
harvests have occurred
on an almost annual
basis since the 1960s.
We will eat lunch,
generously provided by
Essex Timber, at the
Whittaker Farm.

Afternoon tour guide:
Jim Wood, Guild
member, with North
Country Environmental
and Forestry.
Tour Essex Timberland
with an opportunity to
discuss the ownership
objectives of a TIMO and
the challenges of
managing former
industrial lands. Riparian
buffers and moose
browse impact on
regeneration will also be
discussed. Meet at
Brunswick
Gardens/Whittaker
homestead, 1788 VT
Route 102 in Brunswick,
VT.

General information

for all field tours: All
tours meet at the
designated sites at 9:00
AM sharp. All field tours
are held rain or shine;
dress appropriately.
Lunch is bring your own

Kevin Whitlock - New Pacific Region Director

Kevin Whitlock of Nevada City, CA, is the newest addition to the Forest Guild staff, serving as our Pacific West Regional Director. Asked about his decision to work for the Guild, Kevin said he was "delighted to find a group of professionals with the same basic principles. I am committed to the forest and its future, my customers and my community, their health, safety... and understand the need for environmental stewardship."

Currently a half-time position, it is our hope to grow the position to full-time by the beginning of 2008 and expand Kevin's geographic area of coverage to include Oregon and Washington. Kevin has begun reaching out to Guild members in California and will be involved in planning a CA Guild members' meeting to be held sometime this fall. In addition, he is picking up where his predecessor, Eric Holst, left off in conceptualizing a regulatory package that would provide incentives to landowners who engage in higher forestry standards.

Kevin is owner-operator of the consulting firm "Under the Trees," where he focuses on socially responsible resource management and safeguarding global environmental heritage. Kevin previously worked for CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection as a forester implementing the California Forest Improvement Plan. He has also traveled to Indonesia, Russia, Honduras, and Guinea on forestry assignments for Winrock International, and has worked as a senior forester for the Menasha Corporation. Kevin received a B.S. in Natural Resources Management and Forestry from Humboldt State University, and an MBA from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

except for the 28 July tour; please register for this tour so that the appropriate number of lunches can be available. Thanks again to Essex Timberlands for providing lunch.

For additional information: Contact Ehrhard Frost, NH and VT State Forest Guild Coordinator at (802) 785-4749.