



E-Newsletter of the Forest Guild

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October 2011

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LAKE STATES AND NORTHEAST HOLD EXCELLENT REGIONAL MEETINGS

UPDATE FROM THE LAKE STATES

The Guild Gathers in Wisconsin's Driftless Area

by Peter Bundy



Across the Landscape is the electronic newsletter of the Forest Guild, Marcia Summers, editor. Email to marcia@forestguild.org or send your comments to: Marcia Summers, Editor
Forest Guild
PO Box 519
Santa Fe, NM 87504



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FOREST GUILD WELCOMES 19 NEW MEMBERS!

Professional Members
Rich Courtemanche
Aitkin, MN

More than forty professional Forest Guild members and interested resource managers from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa gathered on the bluffs overlooking the Wisconsin River to enjoy a day and a half regional Guild meeting in late September. Meeting attendees included foresters from the public and private sectors, plant and prairie ecologists, ornithologists, educators, and hydrologists. This diversity of interests and the resulting interdisciplinary dialogue were a striking reminder of the important role that the Guild plays in integrating resource management beyond the walls of traditional forestry.

Paul Ringgold
San Francisco, CA
Steven Sherwood
Canton, NY

Affiliate Members

Rebecca Brown
Sugar Hill, NH
**Foundation for Sustainable
Forests**
Spartansburg, PA
John Gunn
Brunswick, ME
Brad Hunter
Portland, OR
Gerry Mich
Appleton, WI

Student Members

Paige Allison
SE Missouri State University
Andrew Kekacs
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Jonathan Loevner
Yale School of Forestry
Jeff Lombardo
University of Maine
Andrew Meier
Purdue University
Robert Morrissey
Purdue University
Nathaniel Osborne
NC State University
Jenna Schreiber
Duke University
Travis Swaim
Purdue University
Tim Wilson
University of Wisconsin,
Madison
Christopher Zellers
Purdue University

More photos from the Lake States and
NE regional meetings:



Lake view at Lake States regional
meeting.

Guild Executive Director Mike DeBonis welcomed us to the Wisconsin Badger Camp on Friday afternoon and introduced four fine sessions: the ecological history of southwest Wisconsin, the management of the lower Wisconsin River, an introduction to Cerulean warbler nesting habitat, and a new technique for measuring stand-relative density in the Lake States. In the evening, we listened to a very informative talk on the early work of Aldo Leopold in the Driftless Area (the unglaciated part of the upper Midwest), and then we all retreated to the ritual campfire for superb local microbrews and a celebrity visit by our own Fred Clark (who has left the confines of forestry for the political challenges of Madison, WI and beyond).



On Saturday, the classroom talk and campfire stories turned to the ground, and we were hosted by Guild members Brad Hutnik, Mark Mittelstadt, and Mike Mossman to three excellent tours of area forests and prairie remnants. Mark, a private consultant, shared the history of the 600-acre Badger Camp, complete with his efforts to reverse a high-graded past with more ecologically sustainable hardwood management. Mike took us to a couple of rich prairie remnants, where we were introduced to fascinating compass plants and butterfly milkweed. He then led a discussion on the challenges of balancing the ecology of prairie, oak savannah, and mesic hardwoods on public lands in the Driftless Area. Finally, Brad, one of the meeting organizers, immersed the group in oak management by touring a series of intermediate treatment areas. We saw crop tree release, shelterwood harvests, and a large-scale understory burn on three mesic oak sites. It was a full day with beautiful fall weather and a fitting way to reconnect with colleagues under the Guild banner.

UPDATE FROM THE NORTHEAST

Awakening the "Spark" at the Northeast Regional Meeting

by Amanda Mahaffey

I knew where to go to replenish my roots. As the sky slowly brightened on that rainy September drive to Fairlee, Vermont, I could already picture the Forest Guild's



Close up of ground cover on a site visit to a prairie remnant.



A lively discussion ensues...



Lake States tour continues in the woods.



Discussion at the NE meeting.

Northeast Regional Meeting: reunions with friends, deep conversations, insightful presentations, and unforgettable lessons learned from expert forest stewards gathered in the woods.

A pleasant surprise met me as I entered the main hall at Camp Ohana: new faces. These were new members whose names and philosophies were familiar to me from their membership applications, students and recent graduates who looked as fresh as I'd felt eight years ago as a new Guild member, and happily, all folks who I looked forward to meeting. It was going to be a great conference.

After a heartfelt welcome by Executive Director Mike DeBonis, Ross Morgan kicked off the morning talks with a historical perspective of Nachhaltigkeit, or "sustaintion," what our business as foresters is all about. Rick Morrill broadened that theme with a reminder of the complexities of silviculture; i.e. what may appear as black-and-white decision-making is actually loaded with tantalizing and frustrating Technicolor.



Harkening back to Aldo Leopold, Steve Blackmer led us to pause and reconnect with our calling to achieve excellent forestry in the woods.

The day carried on with technical talks on carbon, climate change, and biomass harvesting. Questions for these speakers grew into discussion circles that stretched into the dinner hour. The air was alive with passionate interchanges on the role of science in practice, the need for foresters to better communicate our profession to average citizens, and the role of the Forest Guild in shaping our nation's landscape.

While slowly soaking in this wealth of knowledge, I used every break and meal to plant myself in front of a new person and hear what experiences he or she had to share and what perspective this brought to the Forest Guild. As a member of both the Membership Committee and Board of Directors, I thirsted to know my Guild colleagues better. What do our members do? What makes them feel at home with the Forest Guild? What issues do they face in their professional careers? What tools and strategies can the Guild provide to aid them in their work? How would they like to see the Guild grow in the next five years?

After the evening had ended (rather late for some) with beer around a campfire, Friday morning dawned with oatmeal and the promise of blue skies over Vermont and New Hampshire. Our stalwart school busload of foresters headed for the hills. Jeff Smith had lined up two contrasting morning stops. The first incorporated a whole tree harvest and an area treated according to the Guild's biomass retention and harvesting guidelines.



Traditional after-the-meeting gathering at the NE meeting.



The second stop brought us face-to-face with a common issue: a lack of interest on the landowner's part in investing in the future of their forest through a written management plan. Our field day concluded with a tour of Erhard Frost's woodlot and the well-managed present and future forest therein. My mind was full to bursting by the day's end.



Group trekking to a field site as part of the NE meeting.

I am grateful to all the planners of this year's Northeast Regional Meeting for bringing us together. Every gathering of the Guild is a source of replenishment, inspiration, and "sustainment" for me. I look forward to these meetings to stay connected with fellow forest stewards and our common mission to continually put the forest first in forest management.

PROFILE OF GUILD FORESTER DARCIE MAHONEY

Editor's Note: ATL recently talked with Forest Guild professional member Darcie Mahoney. Darcie is a founding member who lives in Elk, CA and works as a consulting forester.

Q. What inspired you to become a forester? If it was an individual, how did they inspire you?

A. Actually, I was initially employed by a government enforcement agency which enforced against the terrible (I think) logging practices of the day (we're talking 35 years ago--things are light years better now in California!). I thought logging was awful and I wanted to infiltrate the business and change the world, so I became a forester. Then I realized I had more to learn than I had to offer. .. thus humbly began my education process. I've had a few terrific on-the-ground mentors--a couple of whom are Guild foresters (Craig Blencowe, Jim Able), and then there are the many "spiritual" mentors that many other Guild members have been to me (too many to mention, but hopefully they know who they are).

Q. Have you ever run into an ethical dilemma as a forester? If so, how did you resolve it?

A. Yes, of course! Ultimately, I have to choose to do the right thing for the land--or at least to "do no harm."

Q. What kinds of projects would you like to focus on during the next ten years?

A. I love "dirt" forestry (laying out sales, marking timber, logging supervision), and working with clients who have a long-term view and love of the land, so I would like to continue doing that as long as I never again have to be involved in the crazy timber harvest paperwork process that California has!

Q. What beliefs, goals, and inspirations keep you working as a forester every day?

A. Let's face it: working in the woods is good for the soul.

Q. What is a favorite quote or saying about forestry that you would share?

A. My favorite quote would apply to any job, I guess, and that is: "If you love what you do, you'll never work another day in your life!"

Q. What challenges do you face in practicing Guild-style forestry?

A. After all these years, it is at times still difficult to be "heard." It surprises me that with all the lip-service that exists about sustainable forestry that so few people really want to practice it. I guess it's just human nature to want it all and to want it now. The immediate bottom line often trumps thinking about the future.

Q. Why are you a Guild member?

A. I love being with a fabulous group of foresters who want to do what's best for the land. It's really great to get that kind of support for practices that are sometimes difficult to espouse within the larger forest industry. (I have to mention that this group of foresters is also fun to party with at the annual meetings!)

Q. Share a favorite anecdote/story about being a forester.

A. This story may have been mentioned before, but I love it. I found it in a great book called *Positive Impact Forestry--A Sustainable Approach to Managing Woodland*, by Thom McEvoy (2004 Island Press). It recounts one of the most famous true stories of managing forests for future generations as told by anthropologist and philosopher Gregory Bateson. New College, Oxford was established in late 14th century, its great dining hall being built with huge oak beams to form the roof. Sometime during the 19th century, some busy entomologist went up into the roof of the dining hall with a penknife and poked at the beams and found that they were full of beetles. This was reported to the College Council, which met the news with some dismay. Beams this large were now very hard, if not impossible to come by. "Where would they get beams of that calibre?" they worried. In response to this worry and the need to replace the beams, the College Forester relayed information that had been passed down through the foresters for generations that when the College was built, a grove of oak trees had been planted to mature and, when needed, to be used to replace the oak beams in the dining hall when they become beetly, because "oak beams always become beetly in the end." Bateson's comment was "A nice story. That's the way to run a culture."

REGISTER NOW FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING

Forest Restoration: Challenges in the Upland Forests of the Southeast

October 20-21, 2011 at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee

Forest restoration techniques are widely applied on public lands throughout the country, but the adoption of these techniques on private lands is not widespread, especially in the Southeastern U.S. where non-industrial private landowners own and manage the majority of the forested landscapes. The Forest Guild's Southeast Regional Meeting will focus on multiple issues related to forest restoration in the Southeast and will include a field visit to view and discuss how one private landowner has approached restoration in an upland oak/hickory forest.

Topics currently on the agenda include:

- A brief history of forest management at Sewanee by Ken Smith and Nate Wilson;
- American chestnut restoration by Stacy Clark, U.S. Forest Service;

- Challenging the tenets of restoration by Justin Hart, University of Alabama;
- New Mexico's Collaborative Forest Restoration Program: 11 years of successful community involvement in forest management by Walter Dunn, U.S. Forest Service;
- Why some restoration projects in National Forests are challenged by Sarah Francisco, Southern Environmental Law Center;
- Cooperative efforts to restore high elevation forests in West Virginia by Amy Cimarolli, The Nature Conservancy;
- Collaboration in the Bankhead National Forest by Mark Kolinski, WildSouth;
- Experiences with fire and oak regeneration on Kentucky's Cumberland Plateau by Mary Arthur, University of Kentucky;
- Old growth, fire histories, and climate on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau by Patrick Vestal, University of the South; and
- Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Southeast by Bob Perschel, Forest Guild.

There will also be field site visits to small-scale projects on the university's property re: fire and thinning to propagate oak, native grasses and hill cane.

To register or for more information, contact Nicole Nunley at anunley@sewanee.edu or 931-598-1953. Or [click here](#) to fill out the registration form on the Guild website.



At left, Burning piles as part of oak regeneration at Sewanee.

DISCOVERING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCTION CUPS AND HOCKEY STICKS... AND SO MUCH MORE

by Carla Roybal

Tomás, a Forest Guild Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew member, carefully plucks a needle from the tree he has just measured. He inspects the point where it attaches to the branch to determine whether it is a white fir or Douglas fir.

"It's a suction cup, not a hockey stick- so it's a live white fir, 12.6 DBH," he reports before heading with his diameter tape to the next adult tree in the plot. Meanwhile, his companion moves in with a telescoping stadia rod to measure to the bottom of the canopy. Simultaneously, other members of the crew rove up and down the rest of the three hundred-foot transect,

wielding frames for evaluating ground cover composition, sighting tubes for canopy, and a flurry of clip boards with data sheets.

That particular day, this YCC crew was helping conduct monitoring on a Collaborative Forest Restoration Project (CFRP) site in San Miguel County in northern New Mexico. These project grants are designed to restore forests to healthier, fire-restored conditions while promoting education and fostering economic development in the nearby communities who depend on the forest.



Carla with some of the YCC crew members.

The YCC crew has the important job of helping the Forest Guild compile an ecologically accurate picture of the area both before it is thinned and after the treatment is completed. Some of the experienced members have been witnesses to the changes on the landscape as the multi-year project has progressed. Many of the sites will eventually have a prescribed burn.

At the beginning of the summer, YCC crew members are offered college credit through Northern New Mexico College for education they receive through the U.S. Forest Service and Forest Guild. The amount they learn about vegetation monitoring methods and forest ecology is rather dizzying. All the calculations build on high school math skills. There's the trigonometry of measuring the height of a tree with a measuring tape and a clinometer, and the geometry behind knowing how the circumference measure of a tree trunk can be translated into the diameter. In fact, most forestry professionals don't learn these skills until field methods courses in college. So the suite of skills these students learn are marketable even at their age and help to ignite an interest in natural resource fields.

Additionally, we ask these young adults to understand why they are spending time measuring trees and counting twigs. For this, the students use critical thinking that piggy-backs all natural history observation. For example, on one monitoring excursion in a dense ponderosa pine forest, the Las Vegas crew and I stumbled upon an old stump with a beautiful cat face. I stopped to explain the significance of this artifact to Leslie and Justin, two of the crewmembers.

I described how the tree formed one of these notches every time it experienced a fire and the bark began to heal over the wound. Together we counted eight visible scars before the large, presumably post-settlement bulge of tissue. When Justin asked why there was such a large amount of wood without scars, we spent another few moments discussing the conditions that shaped the forest we were standing in.

Some crewmembers may view their monitoring experience as another day on the job. However, Tomas, Leslie, and Justin can attest that as they gain new skills and apply existing ones, they are also becoming better observers, problem solvers, and potential future natural resource professionals in northern New Mexico.

Editor's note: As a summer intern for the Forest Guild, Carla spent much of her time in the field with Forest

Guild YCC crew members. Carla is a senior studying plant ecology at Prescott College in Prescott, AZ.

ASSESSING THE INCOME POTENTIAL OF WORKING FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

by Dr. Jeffrey Stringer

The newly established Center for Forest and Wood Certification is working on a model project for Kentucky and surrounding states involving the development of a 905-acre FSC-certified family forest (under the center's group forest management certificate). The forestland is highly sought after and eligible for conservation easement funding in Kentucky, in part because it has a stream containing federal threatened and endangered (T&E) bivalves and a cliff line with a T&E plant species.



We are working on the project with The Nature Conservancy to develop a case study model for the working forest conservation easement (WFCE) potential in our region. It will assess the income potential from multiple forest management and conservation strategies including:

1. Timber and non-timber revenues incorporating industry standards for sustainable timber and fiber yield (with and without management for T&E species).
2. Revenue projections using FSC standard provisions for family forests (with and without appropriate practices for the protection of T&E species).
3. Revenue projections following FSC standard provisions for family forests and maximum habitat protections recommended by state conservation and natural resource organizations.
4. Revenue projections without timber, fiber, or other sources of income requiring forest manipulation.



The data will be used to indicate how the different management options impact revenue generation. All appropriate sources of revenue will be considered including timber/fiber and non-timber opportunities. This information will be used to help generate appropriate conservation easement payments needed to adequately offset potential reductions in revenue that must be foregone to provide population and habitat attribute protection as required for conservation easements available in Kentucky.

The potential for developing a working forest model consistent with conservation easement requirements has been tentatively endorsed by the lead organization associated with granting conservation easements on private lands in Kentucky. This project is being completed to provide the necessary estimates and the operational framework for developing guidelines for working forests interested in conservation easements. We believe this model can be used to champion the cause for working forests as means of providing habitat attribute protection as well as maintaining timber options for landowners

contemplating involvement with conservation easements. Ultimately we believe that this work may provide improved options for forest owners, forest industry, and organizations focused on conserving populations and habitat attributes, as well as wins for the species and habitats at

risk.

For more information on the Center for Forest and Wood Certification, housed at the University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry Extension, go to www.forestcertificationcenter.org.

Jeffrey W. Stringer, PhD Professor, Hardwood Silviculture and Forest Operations
Department of Forestry
University of Kentucky
(V) 859-257-5994
stringer@uky.edu
UK Forestry Extension, www.ukforestry.org

MORE ON WORKING FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

by Sarah Deumling

The Committee for Family Forest Lands (CFFL), composed of family forestland owners, environmental and industry representatives, and several ex-officio members, advises the state of Oregon Board of Forestry on policy issues affecting family forest landowners. In our prioritization of issues, "keeping forestland in forest" inevitably rises to the top of our list. Numerous and intertwined reasons drive the parcelization and conversion of family forestland, most all of which relate in some way to financial viability. As a CFFL committee member, I have long thought that we need to think creatively of ways to establish a state conservation fund to purchase development rights or working forest conservation easements (WFCEs) from willing family forest landowners as a way to acknowledge their many and varied contributions to the quality of life in Oregon above and beyond the market value of timber.

Not yet having met with the enthusiasm I had hoped for, I have set out as a committee-of-one to investigate the creative ways other states may be dealing with these issues. With the help of Guild Director of Research Zander Evans and his all-Guild email request, I am collecting an ever-lengthening list of thoughtful ideas and more-or-less successful schemes. A big 'Thank You' to all of you who have responded to that email request. From Maine and Vermont to Minnesota and New Mexico, good things are happening. Broad stakeholder coalitions seem to be crucial in affecting change in this direction. Public perception and understanding will be important as well.

One question arises as to whether the designation "working forest" is useful or counter productive. A commercial forest, properly managed, can provide ecosystem values but a non-commercial forest is "working" at full capacity to protect water sources, clean the air, and provide habitat. Ongoing efforts to recognize, quantify, and monetize ecosystem services will play a part in this discussion.

Is "WFCE" even the right term? Guild members had quite a few comments about that:

- "Working" might be the wrong word to attach to these easements.
- Does this mean there are lazy forest conservation easements?
- Aren't all forests working to provide clean air and clean water?
- If you are intending to describe conservation easements for forests where timber harvesting is a major activity, than say it that way rather than leaving out the implication that some forests are better than others! It makes it very hard to raise the funds from both public and private sources.

Guild members recommended the following resources on WFCEs:

- Keeping Maine's Forests: A Study of The Future of Maine's Forests

- <http://crsf.umaine.edu>
- Working Forest Conservation Easements in North Carolina
<http://www.ncforestry.org>
- Minnesota Forests for the Future
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestlegacy/index.html>
<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us>
- US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program
<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>
(a member in California has had success using state bond funds to create WFCEs with the Forest Legacy Program)
- Land Trust Alliance
<http://www.landtrustalliance.org>
- LTA's Working Forests Conservation Easements: A Process Guide for land trusts, landowners and public agencies
http://iweb.lta.org/Purchase/ProductDetail.aspx?Product_code=FORESTS
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program in Oregon
<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/hfrp/>
- Working Forest Conservation Easements: A Primer for Forest Landowners
www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Publications/PDFs/Other/Workingforest.pdf
- The Nature Conservancy's Working Woodlands program in Pennsylvania
<http://www.workingwoodlands.org/>
- California's Forest Conservation Program
<http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Forest>

If you know of other WFCE resources or would like to share other information please email sdeumling@gmail.com.

UVM GRAD STUDENTS GET THEIR BOOTS DUSTY IN NEW MEXICO... FINALLY!

by Eytan Krasilovsky



Almost two years in the making, University of Vermont (UVM) graduate students completed their summer field class in August in the Zuni mountains of west-central New Mexico. The field class was the result of a collaboration between the Forest Guild and UVM Professors Bill Keaton and Austin Troy to give their students first-hand experience and research opportunities in a week-long immersion into forest restoration and the related silviculture, biomass, environmental group perspectives, multiple jurisdiction approaches, and Tribal issues. The class familiarized themselves with the ecology and

history of the Southwest's frequent-fire forests, the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) in New Mexico, and the nation-wide Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Their group research efforts investigated and produced reports covering woody biomass for energy, a GIS-based approach to forest restoration site-suitability, the role of multi-stakeholder processes in forest management on public lands, and an analysis of fuels reduction strategies for the Zuni Mountain Landscape restoration project (www.forestguild.org/CibolaCFLRP.html).

The field week began on the porch of the Cottonwood Gulch mess hall (www.cottonwoodgulch.org) where I gave a brief talk illustrated by actual fire-scarred tree "cookies" from the Southwest. These specimens, some of which date back 500 years or more,

have easily identifiable fire scars which serve as foundational evidence for the frequent fire regimes that existed in ponderosa pine forests prior to large-scale European settlement. I then led the class on a hike across several vegetation zones on Cottonwood Gulch's property where the class, none of whom had experience with these forests, were introduced to their characteristics and ecology. We cored several trees to age the forests and even attempted to demystify the forest history of the ponderosa pine and piñon-juniper ecotone.

The week's various activities included a tour through the U.S. Forest Service Region 3's regional silviculture showcase which introduced the group to the agency's food-web approach to



ponderosa pine restoration that accounts for forest structure and the requirements of the Northern Goshawk, a keystone species in ponderosa pine. A local forest restoration business owner took time to talk with the group about the nuts-and-bolts of implementing mechanized forest restoration and then demonstrate thinning on an overgrown, homogenous, and fire-prone stand of ponderosa pine.

We also met with another small business owner who recycles clean wood waste, processes ponderosa pine into rough lumber, and manufactures commercial and residential wood pellets from waste wood. The group had a meaningful and frank discussion regarding the challenges and opportunities of working with the low-value wood that is removed from ponderosa pine restoration projects. The same day we drove to the Ramah Navajo Chapter for a gracious and fascinating talk by Tribal elders and managers. We were taken on a tour that illustrated the jurisdictional challenges of managing fire prone forests in the complicated ownership landscape within the Ramah Navajo Chapter's boundaries.

Finally, we toured the El Malpais National Monument including an old-growth ponderosa pine stand where live trees have been dated to at least the 1700s; and then to a 100-acre stand that was a poignant culmination to an intense week as it elicited strong opinions from all present due to the removal of a majority of the mid-size trees and the resulting significant decks of low-value ponderosa pine.

Looking back now almost two months after the class, I am still impressed with the caliber of UVM students, their observations during the field week, and the analyses in their reports. I hope this class is something we can convene again and perhaps even invite graduate students from other universities.

REPRESENTING THE FOREST GUILD AT THE NATIONAL RURAL ASSEMBLY

by Eytan Krasilovsky

This summer I was fortunate enough to attend the National Rural Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota. My biggest regret is that I was unable to visit any forestland. Fortunately, I had a great view of the Mississippi River from the hotel.

The National Rural Assembly (<http://2011.ruralassembly.org/about>) is a forum where rural leaders and advocates from across the U.S. gather to learn about rural issues, craft policies and positions, and make connections with others to move common issues forward. Attendees are from diverse backgrounds such as rural electric coops, agriculture (large and small, conventional and organic), green energy, healthcare, and community economic development.

I was excited to represent the Guild at the National Rural Assembly for several reasons. First, the Guild is a signatory on the Rural Compact (<http://www.ruralassembly.org/rural->

[compact#sign](#)), joining with others in support of four broad-based principles that many Guild programs connect with: quality in education; stewardship of natural resources; health of our people; and investment in our communities. These principles align with the Forest Guild's education mandate, such as our decade-plus investment in our Youth Conservation Corps crews in the Southwest; our work promoting jobs, training, and sustained work in forest-dependent communities; and most directly with being good stewards of the forest.

Even the rural compact's description of their Stewardship of Natural Resources principle (ruralassembly.advantagelabs.com/principles/stewardship-natural-resources) would likely resound solidly with many Guild members:

"We all have a responsibility to protect the environment and develop and sustain our natural resources in ways that strengthen rural communities for the long haul. Good environmental practices and responsive public land management provide the opportunity to promote energy independence, grow healthy food in a sustainable manner, mitigate climate change, and develop stronger natural-resource-based economies."

While at the Assembly, I was able to learn about challenges and solutions from other practitioners around the nation, network with leaders in green energy and forested communities, and lend a voice with hundreds of others advocating for reasonable solutions to complex and contentious problems.

For more of a taste of what the 2011 National Rural Assembly was about, please visit the website via the links above. If you have 6 minutes and 47 seconds, click on this link (<http://vimeo.com/25742263>) to listen to Dylan Kruse from Sustainable Northwest fire up the audience with his "Truth to Power" talk promoting woody biomass as one solution to our nation's energy future.

PUBLICATIONS BRIEFLY NOTED

Please send any publications other Guild members may be interested in to Zander Evans. All of the following publications were previously mentioned on the Forest Guild's Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/forestguild>) and twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/forestguild>).

- **National Wood to Energy Roadmap** "Published with the help of funding from the Energy Foundation and the Better World Fund, the Roadmap recognizes that U.S. energy and carbon policy and national security concerns demand that the nation create a path towards the sustainable domestic production of our own energy. As such, the nation's forests need to be viewed as a strategic national resource, just as important as coal, oil, and natural gas, in helping to meet the nation's need for heat, electric power, transportation fuel, and bio-based products." <http://www.25x25.org>
- **Report to the President: Sustaining Environmental Capital: Protecting Society and the Economy** "The Federal Government should launch a series of efforts to assess thoroughly the condition of U.S. ecosystems and the social and economic value of the services those ecosystems provide, according to a new report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), an independent council of the nation's leading scientists and engineers. The report also recommends that the U.S. apply modern informatics technologies to the vast stores of biodiversity data already collected by various federal agencies in order to increase the usefulness of those data for decision- and policy-making." <http://www.whitehouse.gov>
- **How Fuel Treatments Saved Homes from the Wallow Fire** When the Wallow Fire tried to burn into the communities of Alpine and Greer AZ, this 'triple punch' helped to thwart

and stop this high-intensity crown fire before it reached homes: 1) Prior fuel treatments; 2) Quick and Effective Firefighter Suppression Actions; and 3) "Firewise" and defensible space pre-fire actions by homeowners.

http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/asnf/fuel_treatments_saved_homes

- **Simulating Fuel Treatment Effects in Dry Forests of the Western United States: Testing the Principles of a Fire-safe Forest** "We used the Fire and Fuels Extension to the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FFE-FVS) to simulate fuel treatment effects on stands in low- to mid-elevation dry forests (e.g., ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa* Dougl. ex. P. & C. Laws.) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) of the western United States. We evaluated treatment effects on predicted post-treatment fire behavior (fire type) and fire hazard (torching index). FFE-FVS predicts that thinning and surface fuel treatments reduced crown fire behavior relative to no treatment; a large proportion of stands were predicted to transition from active crown fire pre-treatment to surface fire post-treatment. Intense thinning treatments were predicted to be more effective than light thinning treatments. Prescribed fire was predicted to be the most effective surface fuel treatment, whereas FFE-FVS predicted no difference between no surface fuel treatment and extraction of fuels. This inability to discriminate the effects of certain fuel treatments illuminates the consequence of a documented limitation in how FFE-FVS incorporates fuel models and we suggest improvements. The concurrence of results from modeling and empirical studies provides quantitative support for "fire-safe" principles of forest fuel reduction (Agee and Skinner 2005. *For. Ecol. Manag.* 211: 83-96)."
<http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/38390>
- **Ash Management Guide for Private Forest Owners** "A new resource for family woodland owners in Minnesota who have ash trees on their land. This guide offers a thorough overview of the ash resource in Minnesota including: ash's history on the landscape; ash tree identification; information on the emerald ash borer (EAB); how to identify native plant communities on your property; wildlife impacted by ash; and other related implications of ash forests and EAB."
<http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu>
- **U.S. Billion-Ton Update: Biomass Supply for a Bioenergy and Bioproducts Industry** "The report identified sufficient biomass feedstock under baseline assumptions to meet near- and long-term bioenergy goals, such as displacing one-third of current transportation fuel demand. Under the high-yield scenario, more ambitious goals may be feasible. The updated report took into consideration environmental sustainability and it identified likely costs to access these resources."
<https://bioenergykdf.net/content/billiontonupdate>
- **Human Dimensions of Earthworm Invasion in the Adirondack State Park** "A recent study by Dara Seidl and Peter Klepeis of Colgate University in New York traces the ways in which humans are the principal agents of dispersal of exotic earthworms in the forests of Northern America. Their findings, published online in Springer's journal *Human Ecology* [M1], suggest that humans spread earthworms both inadvertently via horticulture and land disturbance, in the tires and underbodies of vehicles, but also knowingly through composting and careless disposal of fish bait. Non-native species of earthworms can have a detrimental effect on the flora and fauna of the forests. They can be responsible for accelerating the breakdown of the organic material on the surface of the forest floor, thereby reducing the habitat for the animals living there and possibly increasing soil erosion."
<http://www.springer.com>
- **A Policy Agenda for Conserving New England's Forests** "In a report released on September 7, 2011, 60 organizations urged lawmakers to help meet New England's economic challenges by investing in the region's forests. In the report, they outlined six critical federal policy opportunities to conserve forest resources and the environmental infrastructure they provide."

<http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/node/135>

- **A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of Risk Perception and Treatment Options as Related to Wildfires** "As the incidence of devastating fires rises, managing the risk posed by these fires has become critical. This report provides important information to examine the ways that different groups or disaster subcultures develop the mentalities or perceived realities that affect their views and responses concerning risk and disaster preparedness. A primary finding indicates that all of the groups that we interviewed expressed a strong desire for land managers to manage the public lands proactively in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. However, respondents expressed different preferences regarding the management approach that should be used. One important observation was that respondents in each of the three distinct respondent groups prioritized their preferred means of communication differently."
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr260.html

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