



YALE FORESTS



About YALE FORESTS

The Yale Forests are a network of 10,770 acres of forestland in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont. One of the nation's oldest sustainably managed forest systems, the Yale Forests are owned by Yale University and stewarded by the faculty, staff, and students of The Forest School at The Yale School of the Environment. They provide opportunities for education, research, professional development, and community building, particularly the 7,840-acre Yale-Myers Forest in northeastern Connecticut.

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Joe Orefice, Director of Forest and Agricultural Operations, '09 MF

Dr. Mark S. Ashton, Faculty Director, '85 MF

The Year Behind

People: Shaylyn Austin '23 MF wrapped up her fellowship as Forest Manager and moved on to new adventures—traveling the US with her beloved Stogie her beloved dog before settling down. Owen Klein '25 MF stepped into the role after spending half of a year inventorying longleaf pine with Tall Timbers... in the heat and humidity of a Florida summer. He hit the ground running with sugaring, forest crew applications, and planning the May field trip to the Pacific Northwest—the annual joint field trip between TUM and Yale. Bernard Nyanzu '24 MF has continued as a postgraduate fellow working on the ADAPT project, and this year he was accepted into Yale's PhD program, where he will work on forest farming aspects of the ADAPT project under Professors Mark Ashton and Joe Orefice. Cayce Morrison '26 MEM has stepped into the ADAPT postgraduate fellowship role.

Forest Management: Silvicultural operations at the Yale Forests over the past year focused on pre-salvaging red pine from the Yale Toumey Forest. After over a century of growing red pine planted by early Yale forestry students, we have reached a point where the trees are mature and being affected by red pine scale. Red pine scale (*Matsucoccus resinosae*), native to parts of Asia, has been slowly making its way through the northeastern United States since the 1940s. It was first reported in New Hampshire in 2012 and we found signs of it at Yale Toumey Forest in 2022.

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Students Organize Fire Training at Yale-Myers Forest



Classmates cheer as Chris Rizzo '27 MF practices using a fire hose.

James Douthwaite, '27 MF

This spring, students from the Yale School of the Environment (YSE) gathered at Yale-Myers Forest from April 10–12 for a hybrid wildland fire training focused on foundational fire behavior, suppression, and field skills. The training combined online coursework with an in-person weekend at the forest, where students reviewed fire concepts, talked through different approaches to fire management, and spent time outside practicing hands on skills and working through field scenarios.

The training was organized by YSE students James Douthwaite '27 MF and Paige Wagar '27 MF/JD, with support from forest staff, Michelle Downey, and Professor Marlyse Duguid. Participants completed S-130, S-190, L-180, ICS-100, and IS-700 courses before arriving to Yale-Myers for the in-person portion of the weekend. The field day was facilitated by staff and instructed by Matt Carroll '10 MF, the New England Zone Fire Management Officer with the National Park Service, alongside CT DEEP fire personnel.

Throughout the weekend, students practiced line construction, discussed fire behavior and safety, and worked together under field conditions. For many participants, it was their first involvement in wildland fire training and

seeing what fire management operations look like outside of a classroom setting. Students had the chance to participate in a prescribed burn on Sunday at the Red Front Lot, where they were observed and assisted with different parts of the operation while seeing how prescribed fire is applied on the landscape.

This training led to conversations about the broader role fire can play in land management and restoration. Students discussed how prescribed and cultural fire are being used to restore fire adapted ecosystems, reduce fuel buildup, and manage landscapes that historically depended on regular fire. The event brought together students with interests ranging from forestry and ecology to conservation and policy, which reflected the many different fields connected to fire management work.

The 16 students who participated in the weekend training showed how much interest there is in fire and hands-on forestry education at Yale. Combining coursework with field experience gave students a chance to connect classroom concepts to real situations and better understand both the challenges and benefits involved in fire management today. The training was organized as part of broader planning efforts for the Wildfire, Forest Resilience, and Cultural Burning Experiential Learning Trip that will take place in October 2026.

Yale Forests 2026 Annual Report (continued from page 1)

In light of this pest, we decided to harvest a significant portion of the remaining red pine at the Yale Toumey Forest, and will continue to do so over the next year. We marketed the wood both as sawlogs to a local mill and as telephone poles to E&F Wood of Eastford, CT, who are located just down the road from our Yale-Myers Forest. Red pine sawlogs didn't net us much value but the telephone poles brought in revenue similar to quality hardwoods. On 37 acres we harvested 147 thousand board feet of sawtimber and 823 tons of poles. We left a few red pines with good crowns in the plantation areas to give them a chance, plus we left ample stocking of white pine to seed in.



A forwarder brings processed red pine logs to the landing at Yale Toumey Forest.

Photo by Shaylyn Austin

Hardwood log markets in Connecticut are challenging this year due to significant uncertainty in global markets and local logging costs. In light of this, and coupled with revenue from red pine, we decided to defer timber harvests on our Yale-Myers Forest until next year.

On another note: we had a nailbiter of a maple syrup season that turned out well in the end. Normally we anticipate collecting sap in the month of February, but a long, hard winter kept temperatures below freezing for that month. We entered March, and our first sap run on March 3rd, expecting a short season and low production. However, March gave us a bit of luck and excellent sugaring weather. Laura Green and Owen Klein get much of the credit for sugar production this year as the majority of our 139 gallons of syrup were produced when Joe was away on the Southern Forestry Field Trip. All in all, we are happy with our production rate on the 412 red and sugar maples we tapped.

Extension and Education: In addition to our typical suite of classes visiting the forest, and of course the Ecosystem Measurements Module led by Professor Mark Bradford, we also hosted a number of unique events this past year. Joe brought a group of eager students to visit the Luggala Estate in Ireland. The owners were excited to have the ideas of Yale forestry students as they consider how to

restore forests in a breathtakingly beautiful landscape. Students were excited to learn about the ecosystems of Ireland, the forest management challenges related to invasive species and past land use, and of course they liked the food and drink.

The school marked its 125th anniversary and we hosted a number of alumni at Yale-Myers Forest in celebration of that and specific class reunions. At the same time, the Society of American Foresters National Convention was held in Hartford, CT. Students and researchers connected with the forests presented at the meeting, and faculty hosted field tours. Mark Ashton hosted a silviculture instructors tour at Yale Toumey Forest and a tour on oak-hardwood silviculture at Yale-Myers for SAF, and Professors Joseph Orefice and Marlyse Duguid hosted an agroforestry tour also for SAF convention goers. These tours were well received and the agroforestry tour quickly sold out. We brought attendees to forest farming sites at Yale-Myers Forest and to local farms to see silvopasture and sugaring. Our final stop, at Art Talmadge's Cranberry Hill Farm, included a maple syrup tasting.

Our partnership with the Technical University Munich (TUM) continues and we were glad to host them on a trip to the Pacific Northwest this May. We connected with many alumni on the tour. Tom James '08 MF '16 PhD supplied oysters and a family tree farm tour, Jay McLaughlin '02 MF brought bluegrass and community forestry, Phil Rigdon '02 MF shared local salmon and inspirational indigenous land stewardship of the Yakama Nation, and Tony Mecum '15 MF showed off work on green spaces and trees in Portland. Sophie Beckham '02 MF and Kelly Droege '02 MF hosted an alumni event for students and Jake Barker '24 MF shared his work with Oregon State University forestry extension.

Research and Extension Forester Laura Green '18 MF led a number of extension efforts this past year, including presenting on "A Century in the Woods: Forest Management and Research at Yale-Toumey Forest" for the Monadnock Region Natural History Conference. She also brought in a record number of applicants for the Ingalls summer research program, which focuses on immersing undergraduate students in research at Yale Forests.

Research: The ADAPT agroforestry project has kept us all busy at Yale Forests. This past year we've established two experimental linear gaps, one forest farming site, one forest enrichment planting site, and a fully replicated silvopasture experiment. This

project, coupled with the forest farming research led by Professor Marlyse Duguid, the alley cropping experiment installed by Joe last year, and the maple sugarbush, have made Yale-Myers Forest a go-to place for agroforestry knowledge. A number of interesting papers originating from Yale Forests research were published this past year. Please see the research section of the newsletter for these.

The Year Ahead

The year ahead is promising. On the research end of things, we are excited to be bringing in data related to the ADAPT sites we've worked so hard to install. These many data sets will engage students as well as researchers in advancing our knowledge of agroforestry and ecology. Joe's "Safe Sugar for All" maple research on PFAS and lead contamination in maple syrup, led by Emily Sigman '21 MF/MA, is slated to wrap up this year and we are looking forward to sharing results.

Forest crew will mark more timber at Yale-Myers and Yale Toumey in the year ahead. We expect to hold red pine sales at Toumey and to have a few hardwood timber sales at Yale-Myers. Forest crew is working in the Turkey Hill division this year so we expect more hardwood than softwood based on that division's forest type.

Members of the class of 1980 have generously supported our Quiet Corner Initiative with funding to hold a set of forestry focused workshops over the next year. Many of these workshops will be at Yale-Myers Forest, but we are also excited to be planning one or two for the area around Yale Toumey Forest.

Field trips led by Yale Forests in the year ahead will include the fall forestry field trip to the Adirondacks. We expect students will also form a Western Forest Crew and maybe another Southern Forest Crew in early 2027. These mini-crews are an opportunity for our forestry students to learn and practice forestry in a different region of the United States for 2-3 weeks under the mentorship of our alumni. May 2027 will bring a number of us back to Bavaria for 7-10 days on our Yale-TUM collaboration.

Lastly, budgets are tight due to endowment tax and challenging hardwood log markets. We are not planning any major capital projects over the next year—maybe a new roof for the Yale Camp at Great Mountain Forest and a couple bridge repairs at Yale-Myers. We sincerely appreciate all of the support our alumni and community provide to the Yale Forests and hope you will continue to engage with us in the year to come.

2025 Yale Forest Crew Cruises into the Myers Division

Christopher Gunderson, Assistant Forest Manager, '26 MF

The 2025 Summer Forest Crew, led by Forest Manager **Shaylyn Austin '23 MF**, completed a successful field season of forest management. This year, the crew inventoried and developed silvicultural prescriptions for the Myers Division, which encompasses approximately 750 acres of the Yale-Myers Forest. The crew consisted of seven Master of Forestry students: **Cat De Lima Marcal '26 MF**, **Jacob Frame '26 MF/MBA**, **Christopher Gunderson '26 MF**, **Baboucarr Joof '25 MF**, **Will Kessler '26 MF**, **Tashi '25 MF**, and **Hannah Vase '25 MF/MAR**.

Across the Yale-Myers and Yale Toumey Forests, the crew gained hands-on experience in operational silviculture, boundary marking, site assessments, forest health evaluations, volume estimation, GIS mapping, and timber sale preparation. They marked two timber sales in the Myers Division – one thinning and one regeneration treatment. They also spent two weeks in the Swanze Division at Yale Toumey Forest in New Hampshire, where invasive red pine scale is impacting red pine plantations. To prevent loss of timber value, affected red pine was marked for pre-salvage harvest, continuing the work from the 2024 Forest Crew.

The crew worked through the usual challenges of gnats, mosquitoes, yellow jackets, ticks, and navigating through dense mountain laurel, but remained undeterred throughout the season. The apprenticeship supported ongoing forest management at the Yale Forests, providing the crew with hands-on experience in applied silviculture along with unforgettable memories.

For more on the crew's activities, see Hannah Vase's article, "[Reflections on 2025 Forest Crew](#)," published in [The Overstory](#).



Sale Name	Forest	Acreage	Volume (MBF)	Silvicultural Prescription(s)
Mark Me Twice, Shame on You	Yale-Myers	21	73	Crown Thinning
Secret Sauna Slush Fund	Yale-Myers	8	93	Patch Selection & Strip Shelterwood
Pipe Down, Franklin!	Yale-Toumey	37	344	Red Pine Pre-Salvage

Top: The 2025 Forest Crew.

Middle left: Will Kessler installing Yale Forest roadside boundary signage.

Middle right: Baboucarr Joof resting against an old, abandoned vehicle during boundary work.

Bottom left: Hannah Vase marking timber with a paint gun.

Bottom right: Tashi measuring DBH and estimating sawlogs.

Maple syrup - a season, or a lifestyle?

Owen Klein, Forest Manager, '25 MF

Most people think of maple season as late winter and early spring, when the freezing nights and warm days create conditions conducive to sap flow in the trees, allowing syrup producers to collect the sap and boil it into syrup. But at the sugarbush at Yale-Myers Forest, our maple season goes well beyond the bounds of boiling.

For me, the season started in December, when we began installation of a dry line in the sugarbush. Running parallel and above the main line, a dry line allows us to pull a higher vacuum pressure further out in the sugarbush. Our dry line starts at the beginning of the line for our tubing, near the sap house, and goes across a swamp before connecting back into the main line. Installation was, at times, arduous, with freezing temperatures begetting cold fingers and toes and short daylight hours limiting work time.

Our hard work paid off, however, with the sugaring season we had. A bitter cold January delayed our tapping until mid-February. Even then, sap didn't flow for another couple weeks, as freezing temperatures kept the trees frozen. Our first boil came on March 3rd, when we finally had enough clean sap to "sweeten the pan." We were rewarded with a productive March; a couple stretches of warm days with no nights below freezing threatened to slow our operation, but our vacuum pump combined with the new dry line helped us persist through these. Our production season ended on March 30th when the sap turned "buddy," giving any future syrup an off flavor that I would describe as somewhat like molasses. We boiled 12 times in the 28 days of our season, making 139 gallons of syrup—our largest single-season total since establishing the sugarbush at Yale-Myers in 2022.



Cat De Lima Marcal '26 MF and Christopher Gunderson '26 MF walk through the snow past the newly installed dry line after a day of tapping trees. Photo by Owen Klein.



Will Kessler '26 MF tests the sugar content of the syrup as Owen Klein looks on. Photo by Nat Burr.

This was my first time engaging with any sort of maple syrup production. I didn't take the opportunity to do so as a student, and had a lot to learn about it. Starting in the winter familiarized me with most aspects of production, moving from sugarbush setup and maintenance to tapping trees to boiling syrup. Some of it came naturally—the reverse osmosis machine felt like second-nature to me, having worked with hydraulic systems before coming to Yale—while other things were intimidating and took time for me to pick up, like running the evaporator. I began to think about maple syrup constantly, and talk about it with everyone I met.

Even after taps are pulled, the season never truly ends. Already, we've spent days cleaning out the evaporator pans and sugar house. We brought one of the old kitchen fridges, which couldn't maintain its cool in the summer heat, down to the sugarhouse where it will be fine for use during the colder sugaring season for keeping concentrated sap from spoiling between boils. Upcoming through the summer and fall is splitting firewood for the evaporator, checking tubing to clear fallen tree limbs and replace any sections chewed by squirrels, and reinforcing and leveling the main line. We also plan to set up new storage for our releaser, which separates liquid sap from vacuumed air at the beginning of the main line tubing. And we have high hopes of building a new sugar house in future years, which will allow more space to move around in than our current trailer setup. There's always more to be done when it comes to making maple syrup.

Explore the world of maple sugaring through our online StoryMaps

[Silviculture for maple syrup production](#)

A practical guide to sugarbush management considerations

[Maple sap collection: From Tree to Tank](#)

A look into the process of collecting and transporting maple sap from a sugarbush

[Maple Syrup Production](#)

An introduction to efficient and modern syrup production methods

Thanks to the support of the USDA ACER Access and Development Program!

Research Spotlight: Breeding Birds in Managed Forests, and Testing the “Chronosequence”

Laura Green, Research and Extension Forester, '18 MF

Dr. Marlyse Duguid, Director of Research, '10 MF, '16 PhD

The question of habitat looms large for many forest landowners, foresters, and lovers of wildlife. Do our forests meet the needs of our many different wildlife species? And how do we go about answering that question, given how complex and ever-changing our forests are? A new publication by Marsh Hlavka ('23 BS, '25 MESc) with Professors Marlyse Duguid and Mark Ashton explores these questions, focusing on breeding birds at Yale-Myers Forest.

Marsh made use of an established ecology research “hack”: the chronosequence. A chronosequence is a research method substituting space-for-time, a series of sites at different stages of development that we can use to infer long-term change. In a chronosequence, researchers assume that a set of sites which share some general characteristics (e.g., a particular type of forest management practice) will progress along a similar pathway over time. The assumption is that ecological attributes—such as bird species diversity, or tree growth—will differ between sites of different ages in the same way that attribute would across time at a single site. The thinking goes: if we compare the birds at a site where the forest was regenerated this year to the birds at a site that experienced the same management thirty years ago, we can use the findings at the 30-year-old site as a proxy for how our newly regenerating stand will look in 2056. It's a useful method for ecological studies, but because of variation and shifts in climate and global patterns we don't know how much we can trust the results. And while chronosequences have primarily been used to study changes in vegetation, they have not been well validated for studying wildlife.

Marsh set out to test if the chronosequence worked for wildlife—specifically, breeding birds. At the same time, they also looked at how the age of a forest—based on the time since a regeneration harvest was implemented—impacted which birds were present. If you will indulge this author: two birds with one stone.

Marsh used an existing chronosequence at Yale-Myers Forest, spanning thirty years of forest growth. For comparison, they used sites of mature forest that have not been regenerated in at least 120 years. This chronosequence looks at the way that the forest develops after a particular

Research Year in Review

The summer field season is once again underway, and the woods, fields, and ponds of the Yale Forests are alive with research—along with birdsong, the occasional bear, and all the other trappings of life in our temperate deciduous forest biome. As of writing, there are forty active research projects at the Yale Forests, led by researchers from across Yale, CT DEEP, UConn, and others. New projects include drone flights to map vegetation and microtopography, wildlife surveys for turkeys and fishers, experimentation with native crops for forest farming systems, and a number of studies untangling the complicated world of soil ecology. Our Ingalls Field Ecology Internship program, which welcomes undergraduate students to spend the summer gaining hands-on experience with ecology research at Yale-Myers Forest, celebrates its tenth season with a wonderful group of nine interns.

Research conducted at the Yale Forests resulted in eleven new peer-reviewed publications in 2025 and 2026. If you'd like to see a full list of publications—along with links to read the papers in their entirety—you can find it on the [Yale Forests' Google Scholar page](#).

type of regeneration treatment is implemented: the irregular shelterwood. In a shelterwood regeneration system, most of the mature canopy trees are removed from a forest unit—or stand, as it's known in forestry—during a timber harvest, creating growing space for a new cohort of young trees. Some canopy trees are left in place to continue growing, providing a seed source for future generations, moderating light and temperature, and creating habitat for wildlife.

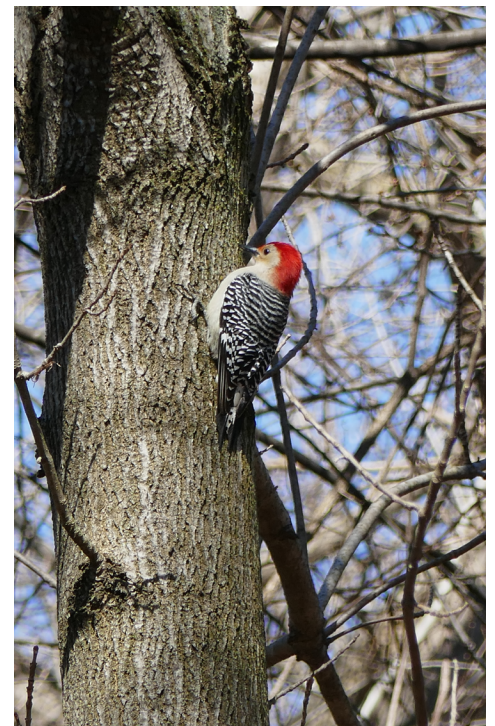
From March until July in 2022, Marsh trekked to 39 sites across Yale-Myers Forest to conduct point count surveys. Setting out before dawn, they visited each site and spent exactly twelve minutes listening for birdsong, identifying each bird species by ear during a carefully timed window to catch birds at their most vocal time during the breeding season. Importantly, this was the same method and the same sites used in three previous breeding bird surveys in [2006](#), [2014](#), and [2016](#). This allowed Marsh to compare the findings of the 2022 chronosequence surveys to those conducted in other years, putting the chronosequence itself under the metaphorical microscope.

The patterns of how breeding birds use our

forest found in in this study mirror what numerous others have found: there are both more birds and more species of birds in young regenerating forests, as compared to areas that were regenerated 30 years ago. The younger forests also had more diversity and abundance of birds than the 120+ year old forests. This is because younger forests have denser and more complex shrubby habitat, which supports many different bird species, such as eastern towhee. The irregular shelterwood seems to be a particularly effective tool to promote rich bird habitat, as it retains some mature canopy trees, which creates habitat for an even greater diversity of species. Ground-nesting birds, such as the venbird, are the exception to this trend; these birds are less numerous in young forests, and their numbers increase in older forests.

By comparing the findings of four bird surveys of the same sites across a sixteen-year period, this study had a way to test whether the chronosequence concept works for breeding birds. Good news—it does! They found that the trends in bird abundance and diversity at one site across the four different sampling years were consistent with what was found across the chronosequence in a single year, and what was found across the chronosequence in the four total years of sampling.

Read the full publication [here](#).



A red-bellied woodpecker. Photo by Avraham Penso.

ADAPT update: new experimental sites and monitoring

Bernard Nyanzu, Agroforestry Research Fellow, '24 MF

The ADAPT project continues to advance climate-smart agroforestry research across New England through the establishment and monitoring of innovative research and demonstration sites. ADAPT, Adaptive Agroforestry Principles & Teaching is a USDA-funded collaboration among Yale, the University of Hampshire, and Dartmouth, led at Yale Forests by Professors Mark Ashton, Professor Joe Orefice and post-graduate fellows Bernard Nyanzu and Cayce Morrison. The overall project is led by UNH's Professor Heidi Asbjornsen '92 MFS '98 PhD, Ryan Smith '22 MF, and Karam Sheban '20 MF '26 PhD.

Over the past year, the team has successfully established two Experimental Linear Gap (ELG) sites at Yale-Myers Forest. These replicated research sites are designed to examine how selected tree, shrub, and herbaceous agroforestry crops respond to varying light and soil moisture conditions across forest openings. The ELG design captures a broad range of microenvironmental conditions, providing valuable insight into species performance and productivity under different forest management scenarios.

The team is also developing a food forest research system designed by Dartmouth's Professor Theresa Ong and based on polyculture principles that integrate species with complementary ecological functions. The design incorporates



Cayce Morrison '26 MEM establishes protection for the newly planted trees in the silvopasture by addition.

Photo by Bernard Nyanzu.

plant traits such as nitrogen fixation, rooting depth, growth form, leaf habit, and pollinator support. This system is designed into multiple canopy layers including canopy, sub-canopy, shrub, and groundcover strata and will evaluate how varying levels of nitrogen-fixing species influence the survival, growth, biomass production, and yield of target crops, as well as broader ecosystem responses such as soil properties and microclimate conditions.

In the silvopasture component of the project, Professor Orefice and the team have successfully converted 7 acres of forest land at Hidden Blossom Farm, a project collaborator, into silvopasture and open pasture systems. These sites will be used to assess the effects of trees on microclimate, forage production and quality, soil health, carbon storage, and overall productivity. In addition, a pasture-to-silvopasture conversion has been established through the planting of selected fruit and crop trees, to evaluate tree establishment techniques and protection treatments in newly planted silvopasture systems.

Building on earlier forest farming research, the team is also establishing a second enrichment planting experiment within a shelterwood stand characterized by drier ridge-and-valley soils. This study expands upon existing research examining how light availability, soil moisture, and root competition influence crop establishment and growth, while providing an opportunity to compare species performance across contrasting site conditions.

This summer, the ADAPT team will install environmental monitoring equipment across all experimental sites. Sensors measuring soil moisture, light availability, air temperature, and relative humidity will provide continuous data to help researchers better understand the environmental conditions driving crop performance and ecosystem responses within these agroforestry systems.

Letter from the Forest Manager

Owen Klein, Forest Manager, '25 MF

December was an unusual time for me to return to Yale. While most of the students were wrapping up for the semester, I was moving back to New Haven, getting ready to start as the Forest Manager. Having spent the summer and fall in Florida working at Tall Timbers Research Station, it was comforting to return to a more familiar environment.

My first few weeks on the job, I overlapped with outgoing Forest Manager Shaylyn Austin '23 MF. We spent December beginning installation of a dry line in the sugarbush, which carried over past the holidays. Winter at Yale-Myers is a quiet time. After the Christmas tree harvest in early December, groups coming to the forest are few and far between, and snow on the ground can make things seem even quieter.

I spent most of March at Yale-Myers for maple season, staying over in the Morse House. March is an enchanting month at the forest, as winter

thaws into spring. It starts with hearing birds around the camp in mid-March, followed by students coming up to stay at the forest on Professor Mark Ashton's silviculture class field trips at the end of the month. Seeing the forest come back to life in spring made me remember what it was like being up at Yale-Myers as a student, and got me excited for the months to come.

Being the Forest Manager is an interesting and somewhat unique role. As a Postgraduate Fellow, I'm somewhere between my past life of a student and a full-time staff member. Instead of engaging in programming like I would as a student, I spend much of my time working to create experiences for students, like organizing the annual Yale-TUM field trip—this year to the Pacific Northwest—and preparing for the summer forest crew. I've learned some hard lessons about logistics and management, and gained an appreciation for how much goes into making these things happen, but have been rewarded by seeing students fall in

love with the forests of Washington, Oregon, and ours here in Connecticut.

There's much to look forward to in the coming year—the remainder of summer with the forest crew, Harvest Festival in the fall, Western Crew in winter, and another maple season in the spring. Things move quickly here; the first six months have flown by in a blur of joy, and I'm sure the rest of my time will do the same.



All smiles in the sugarhouse. *Photo by David Klein.*

NEWS FROM THE QUIET CORNER

Laura Green, Research and Extension Forester, '18 MF & Owen Klein, Forest Manager, '25 MF

About the QUIET CORNER INITIATIVE

The Quiet Corner Initiative (QCI) supports local livelihoods, sustainable forest management, and rural economic development by building relationships between local landowners, conservation and forestry professionals, and the students and faculty of the Yale School of the Environment. Thank you to our alumni and the rest of the Yale community for their support.

Management Plans course – Fall 2025

Last fall, 11 master's students participated in Professor Ashton's management plans course. Working in small teams, they produced four comprehensive management plans for properties in Connecticut's Quiet Corner. Each plan obtains a wealth of information about the landowner's property, including social and land use history, biophysical and ecological properties, and forest health considerations. The plans also include management recommendations tailored to the goals and values of the landowner.

If you're interested in a management plan for your property, please contact Research and Extension Forester Laura Green, laura.green@yale.edu

Annual Harvest Festival – Sept. 2025

More than 300 Quiet Corner community members, Yale students, staff and faculty attended the Harvest Festival at Yale-Myers Forest last September. A local folk band entertained attendees as they enjoyed a variety of festive fall activities, including face painting, pumpkin carving, timber sports games, and apple cider making.



Nat Burr '26 MF and Toby Bokum-Fauth '26 MF take measurements for their management plan. Photo by Bishwabandhu Acharya.

Pests to Watch Out For: Winter Moth

Winter moth is an inconspicuous insect, but the damage it does to our trees during outbreaks can be severe. The moth was introduced to the northeast in the 1990s and has become an invasive species in our region. Winter moth inchworms feed on the leaves of many broad-leaved trees, including native forest trees and fruit trees, causing extensive "Swiss cheese" damage to leaves and flower buds.

A winter moth outbreak has been growing in western Rhode Island for several years, and the pest was observed just over the state line in northeastern Connecticut late last year. Keep an eye out for extensive damage to maple, oak, and fruit tree leaves in the spring, and for swarming masses of brown moths flying during the day and evening around Thanksgiving time.

For more information about winter moth or to report sightings, visit [CT DEEP's website](https://www.ctdeep.org/)

Ginseng & Goldenseal in Connecticut: Ecological & Legal Considerations for Forest Farming

Forest farming offers an exciting strategy for cultivation of high-value herbs within a natural forest setting. However, some of these herb species are very rare in our state; American ginseng and goldenseal are both listed under Connecticut's Endangered Species Act. These rare species are protected by state law, adding complications for growers.

To help clarify what Connecticut farmers and forest landowners need to know about working with rare species, we developed a new resource with information on state policy, as well as federal and international regulations governing the harvest and sale of ginseng and goldenseal.

You can download the fact sheet and read more about the project [here](#).

If you want to dive deeper, join us at an upcoming workshop:

Saturday, July 18, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Yale-Myers Forest Camp, Eastford CT.
[Register online](#)

Friday, July 24, 2026, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Lockwood Farm, Hamden CT.
[Register online](#)

These workshops will cover the basics of forest farming and delve into the ecology and legal considerations for ginseng and goldenseal. They include a classroom presentation followed by a field walk. These are two workshops in a series of free events on the subject at locations across Connecticut. Each workshop will cover the same material; you only need attend one.

Upcoming Event: Yale Forests Field Research Day

Wednesday, July 15, 10am-3pm at Yale-Myers Forest Camp, Eastford CT

Come see field ecology and forestry research in action! We will meet with researchers studying trees, amphibians, water quality, and more across Yale-Myers Forest. This is an outdoor event; participants will walk up to ½ mile between field sites. [Register online](#) or by emailing Laura.Green@yale.edu

2026 Summer Seminar Research Series at Yale-Myers Forest

150 Centre Pike, Eastford, CT 06242

Join us for refreshments at 6 pm, seminar begins at 6:30 pm

Zoom option available

[July 8:](#) American Ginseng in the Northeast: Using Genetics to Understand a Rare and Treasured Plant, **Nat Burr, '26 MF**

[July 22:](#) Spider Webs and Climate Resilient Forests: A New Tool for Monitoring Biodiversity and Species of Concern, **Jeffrey T. Miller, PhD**

Save the Date: Harvest Festival 2026

Saturday, September 26

Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the QCI mailing list at qci.yale.edu



From all of us at Yale Forests, thank you for your support!

Mark S. Ashton, Faculty Director, '85 MF, '90 PhD

Joseph Orefice, Director of Forest and
Agricultural Operations, '09 MF

Marlyse Duguid, Director of Research, '10 MF, '16 PhD

Laura Green, Research and Extension Forester, '18 MF

George French, Yale-Myers Facilities Manager

Owen Klein, Forest Manager, '25 MF

Bernard Nyanzu, Agroforestry Research Fellow, '24 MF

Cayce Morrison, Agroforestry Research Fellow, '26 MEM



(clockwise, from top)

Camp bustles with activity during the annual Harvest Festival. *Photo by Cloe Poisson.*

Cayce Morrison '26 MEM displays a baled Christmas tree ready for transport. *Photo by Nat Burr.*

Avraham Penso '27 MF repairs maple tubing. *Photo by Shaylyn Austin.*

De-Graft Acquah '26 MF and Turner Frankosky '27 MF hang boundary signs along a roadside in the Turkey Hill Division of Yale-Myers Forest. *Photo by Owen Klein.*

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