

QUIET CORNER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE YALE SCHOOL FORESTS

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 Forestry & Environmental Studies. Thank you to our alumni and the rest of the Yale community for their support.

A note from the QUIET CORNER INITIATIVE MANAGER

Greetings!

We are pleased to announce that the School Forests has decided to fund a full-time QCI manager in an effort to expand the impact of QCI. I was excited to step into that role in June after graduating from FES with an MFS degree. As a student, my research focus was here at the Yale-Myers forest, exploring how forests regenerate following timber harvesting. I came to FES from a career as a consulting forester with a focus on western Connecticut and the Berkshires of Massachusetts, and have a forestry degree from the University of New Hampshire. I chose to return to school so that I could expand my career in forestry to one with a stronger emphasis on outreach and education, and I'm very excited to strengthen and increase what QCI has to offer.

Updates from the Forest:

This past summer at Yale-Myers marked the first summer season with full use of the new camp buildings, as well as the new research lab. The Yale-Myers Forest Camp housed one of its largest groups on record, with 12 students on forest crew, a team of 8 undergraduate field ecology interns, as well as staff, Ph.D., and Masters student researchers from FES. We also hosted five research seminars, four environmental films, and four summer workshops, wrapping up with a game bird management workshop in conjunction with CT DEEP, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and The National Wild Turkey Federation. This fall also marked our 5th annual Harvest Festival (see some photos below!).

Check out the save the dates section below to see what we have lined up for the winter and spring!

Jess Wikle
Quiet Corner Initiative Manager
Yale School Forests

An Introduction from Joseph Orefice, Ph.D.

OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF FOREST & AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

Greetings residents and friends of Connecticut's Quiet Corner. I am excited to have joined the Yale School Forests and Faculty as of August. I am also thrilled to be joining all of you as a resident of Connecticut's Quiet Corner.

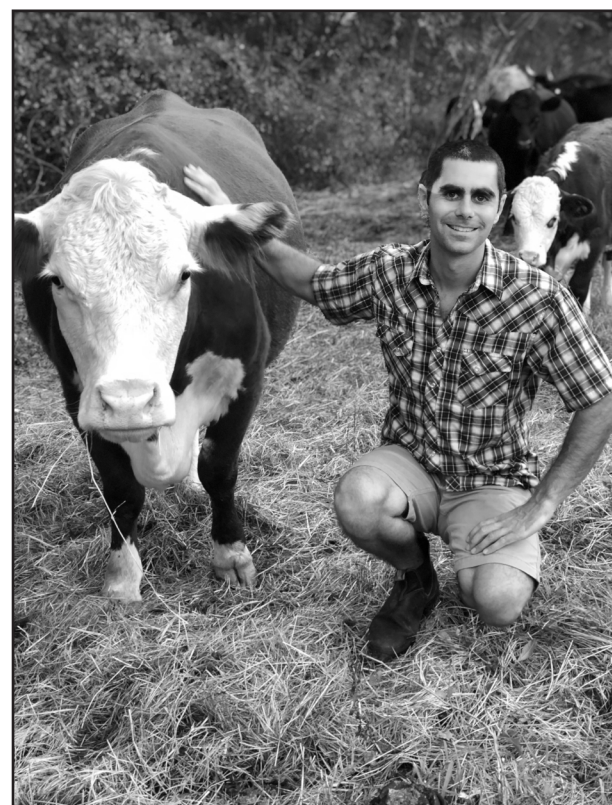
My position with Yale is new and my directive is to oversee operations on our school forests while also providing forestry and agricultural related education opportunities for our students, and neighbors in the Quiet Corner. I think there is incredible value in providing students with a world-class curriculum that dovetails with practical experience. My teaching philosophy has been that the best education occurs when students are able to apply what they've learned. The Quiet Corner Initiative is a shining example of this philosophy as is the summer immersion of Yale students into our school forest management and research. While my new role includes the day-to-day administration of many of our school forest programs, it is the teaching and community extension component that I find most rewarding.

I come to the area most recently from the Adirondack Mountains of New York where I wore many hats. For the better part of a decade I was on the forestry faculty of Paul Smith's College, and I am proud to recall that many of our top students came from this area of Connecticut. Most recently I served as the Director of Cornell's Uihlein Maple Research Forest and Northern New York Maple Specialist in Lake Placid, NY. I conducted research and extension efforts related to all aspects of maple and birch syrup production while running Cornell's 6,000 tap commercial sugarbush.

I also left behind my first farm in the Adirondacks. It was there that I researched and practiced agroforestry, most specifically silvopasture, in addition to producing high tunnel vegetables. However, it was far from where my siblings and parents live in Harwinton, CT, and the additional pull of my alma mater (Yale Master of Forestry 2009) brought me home. This past July, I pulled up what roots I could, loaded the most docile animals in my

beef cattle herd, sold the farm, and moved to Connecticut. The cows are now happily grazing on 133 acres of land I purchased in Union; while my partner, Lindsay, and I are working hard to get our new farm up and running. We are building a working farm from the ground up that specializes in grass-fed beef, agroforestry, delicious vegetables, and maple syrup. On-farm research and education is a passion of mine, and I am confident that Hidden Blossom Farm will be a resource for agroforestry innovation and education right here in the Quiet Corner: www.hiddenblossomfarm.com.

The heart of the Quiet Corner is the people in the community and the heart of Yale University is our students; I could not be happier to join our team in connecting these two groups. The Quiet Corner Initiative has nearly a decade of history linking the people and resources of our working landscape, and I hope my background in practical forestry and agriculture will serve an important niche in the years to come. My contact e-mail is joseph.orefice@yale.edu, and I would welcome input from the community on how my new role and the Yale School Forests can best support Connecticut's Quiet Corner.



THE QCI NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

The Yale School Forests
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CONTENT BY

Jess Wikle, Quiet Corner Initiative Manager, MFS '18;
Joseph Orefice, Ph.D., MF '09;
Laura Green, Naturalist Program Fellow & Research
Coordinator, MF '18;
Kimi Zamuda, MESc '19;
Rosa Goldman, MF '19.

LAYOUT BY

Yale School Forests

The Yale School Forests
Quiet Corner Initiative
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New Haven, CT 06511



Research Spotlight: Birds & Forest Management

Laura Green, MF '18, Naturalist Program Fellow & Research Coordinator

Consider the *peent* of a woodcock calling from the edge of an old field, or the flash of a woodpecker as it swoops from tree to tree. Plants and birds are intimately linked, with vegetation determining where suitable nesting habitat is found, what food – both plant and animal – is available, and where birds can seek protection from predators. This suite of services broadly determines where on the landscape a given species of birds can forage or breed. What role does forest management play in creating this landscape? For the last ten years, researchers working at Yale-Myers Forest have been asking that very question.

In 2009, a group led by Dr. Eben Goodale published a paper based on work at YMF that showed a relationship between different types of forest management and bird species diversity and abundance. One of the management treatments they investigated was the shelterwood harvest. Shelterwoods are a regeneration treatment which removes part of the overstory to create growing space for tree species that need some protection to get established, followed later by a removal of most or all of the remaining canopy in order to let those newly established trees take off. Goodale's

2009 paper found that shelterwoods hosted a greater diversity of bird species than either canopy thinning treatments, or the mature forest.

To further investigate this, in 2016 a new group of researchers published work looking at birds across shelterwoods of varying ages to ask how bird diversity changed over time. The paper, led by Dr. Marlyse Duguid and Hale Morrell, then an F&ES student, found different bird species occupied shelterwoods at different times since harvest. When they arrived at a shelterwood depended on when their preferred habitat – from dense shrubs to open ground under complete canopy – was available. In the same year, F&ES student Juliana Hanle returned to the same shelterwoods Duguid and Morrell had studied to ask a new question: are these differences in bird occupancy related to the physical structure and composition of forest vegetation? The resulting paper, which is currently being reviewed for publication, found that a diversity of plants in the forest understory, as well as a diverse and significant retention of canopy trees, increases bird diversity and abundance in these harvests.

For birds like the prairie warbler and eastern towhee, which need low, shrubby habitat to breed, the past hundred years of reforestation in New England have posed a challenge. These species, which rely on early successional habitat, have seen their populations decline as the forest has closed in across the region. Forest management that creates a more diverse landscape in terms of forest age and structure, with patches of young forest, helps ensure that these species will continue to have a place to breed. Based on the research of scientists working at YMF and in other temperate forests, shelterwoods can create the more open habitat needed by these species, while also retaining canopy structure that allows species typically found in mature forest to persist.

Interested in learning more? Check out *Foresters for the Birds*, a program initially developed by Audubon Vermont, which provides information, field tours, and technical assistance on forest management for bird habitat in several New England states.

For links to the papers referenced, please email Laura (laura.green@yale.edu).

Fall 2018 Harvest Festival

Thank you to our Quiet Corner partners for making the Harvest Festival a success.



Student Research in the Quiet Corner

Kimi Zamuda's research at Yale Myers focuses on how land use, including timber and agricultural practices, impacts where certain animal species occur. Her research focuses specifically on mesopredator mammals which are typically mid-sized animals that fall in the middle of the food chain--both eating prey and being eaten by other animals. These include coyotes, bobcats, red foxes, raccoons and fishers. This research has direct application to habitat conservation and will, ideally, inform effective management practices within Yale Myers and beyond.

Kimi's research is conducted in collaboration with a number of private landowners in the Quiet Corner and illustrates the opportunity for F&ES students to work with local landowners to research the ecology and working lands of the region. Stay tuned for our Spring 2019 newsletter for more information on Kimi's research.



Get a Management Plan for *Your Land*

Consider working with Yale F&ES forestry students to have a management plan prepared for your property. The plans include ecological and historical assessments of the forests of your backyard, and can be tailored to each land owner's needs. Plans can include management recommendations addressing sustainable wood lot practices, silvopasture, or other ecological activities.

Getting a management plan is an opportunity to crystalize your land management and conservation goals, and have free professional-grade advice on ways to achieve them. It is also a chance for Yale F&ES foresters to put their educations into practice. This fall, Yale F&ES foresters are currently engaged in preparing management plans for nine separate landowners in the Quiet Corner.

INTERESTED, OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Quiet Corner Initiative Manager, Jess Wikle, at: jessica.wikle@yale.edu.

Forest Crew Summer 2018 Crew Recap

Rosa Goldman, MF '19

The new Yale-Myers Camp had its first summer season this year, and the extra-large Forest Crew, led by Forest Manager Nick Olson, was eager to break it in. Along with a wonderful bunch of researchers, stellar undergraduate Field Ecology interns, and the best camp cook Myers has ever seen, the twelve members of crew – Asha Bertsch, Julia Calderon, Frank Cervo, Oscar Crespo Pinillos, Mark Foster, Matt Gallagher, Rosa Goldman, Yasha Magarik, Chris Martin, Ethan Miller, Tes Myrie, and Caroline Scanlan – got to work making camp feel like home.

The summer began with Game of Logging and road maintenance. While half the group tried to keep their thumbs in line on the chainsaws, the other half got to work putting their mark on the finest waterbar-and-ditch system in the Quiet Corner. With that done, the crew began scrambling up and down cliffs to mark the boundaries of the ridgeline-dominated Myers Division. They got to know the interior of their division in a jam-packed week of inventory, squinting through angle gauges at impossibly thick mountain laurel and gathering data that would inform five crown thinnings and two regeneration treatments.

It wasn't all paint and biltmores, though. The crew joined QCI landowners for film

screenings, presentations on topics from oak regeneration to beavers, and workshops on game bird management and trail design. Come August, crew again split in two, with some headed to Yale Toumey Forest and some to a private property in the Berkshires. The Toumey crew worked in the Humane Society Division and grew very familiar with Keene's coffee shops. The Berkshires crew sampled permanent inventory plots, laid out an example harvest, and joked a lot about sandwiches. And at the end of the summer, they all returned to Yale Myers, where the new, lived-in camp still felt like home.



Camp residents show off their hand-carved spoons.

INTERESTED IN CONSERVING YOUR LAND?

QCI is exploring funding opportunities to support landowners in the region interested in protecting their land. For more information, contact Jess Wikle, QCI Manager: jessica.wikle@yale.edu.

----- SAVE THE DATE! -----
2019

JANUARY 26, 2019

Horse-Logging and Portable Sawmill Workshop

Join us for our popular biannual workshop where we'll have a demonstration highlighting horse-logging and the use of a portable sawmill.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Maple Sugaring

Wildlife

Climate Change

Check your inbox for updates on future workshops. E-mail quietcorner@yale.edu to sign up for our mailing list.

ADDRESS 

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Stay Connected

Contact QCI at: quietcorner@yale.edu

For more information about the Yale School Forests' Quiet Corner Initiative, please visit our website at: environment.yale.edu/forests

Or follow us on facebook at: "Yale School Forests"