



YALE FORESTS NEWS

Brought to you by the Yale School Forests



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Mark S. Ashton

Director of School Forests, MF'85, Ph.D. '90

Joe Orefice

*Director of Forest & Agricultural Operations,
MF '09*



Photo by N. Olson.

The year behind

We continue to build momentum in all our programs and activities within the Yale School Forests. This past year we saw our wonderful new facilities being worn in with a nice feeling of renewal and rejuvenation. Of course, anticipated succession has occurred in our staffing all-the-while our extension and teaching activities are expanding. See the details below.

Our summer School Forest Apprenticeship (aka The Forest Crew) was stronger than ever, with 12 students in the 12-week program; but we had nearly double that in residents when including student researchers and the undergraduate field ecology program. Our summer Apprentice Foresters were busy marking 55.49 acres of regeneration harvests and 89.9 acres of thinning treatments. This accounted for over 333,000 board feet of timber to be

(Continued on page 2)

Of Spaghetti and Wooden Spoons

Summer Crew Report 2018

Rosa Goldman, Assistant Forest Manager, MF '19



Photo 1. Half of our apprentice foresters practicing "forest modeling" with their newest forest companion in the back, Princess Sophia. Photo by R. Goldman.

The brand-new Yale-Myers Forest 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 and undergraduate Field Ecology interns, the twelve members of Crew – Asha Bertsch, Julia Calderón Cendejas, 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. They were aided by camp cook Annie Arbuthnot, who performed superhuman kitchen feats several times a day to keep everyone more-than-happily fed. By the end of the summer, the new library furniture had been rearranged at least three times, everyone knew the daily

routines of camp dogs Penelope and Morgan, and the light switches still remained a mystery.

The first week of the summer, Crew broke up into two groups to alternately tackle Game of Logging and road maintenance. While half 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 got to work marking the boundaries of the Myers Division, scrambling up and down cliffs in upland reserves and familiarizing themselves with their division's plentiful rocky tills and mountain laurel thickets.

After some of the Crew flew west in late May for the Yale-TUM trip

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Photo 2. Our fearless leader, the good Doctor Ashton, leads crew to critique their first thinning of the summer. Photo by N. Olson.

(Continued from page 1)

sold in support of running the forest. Three of our Forest Crew members (Rosa Goldman, Matt Gallagher, and Frank Cervo) stayed on through the academic year as Assistant Forest Managers. For the third time, we also organized and led a three-week apprenticeship in the West working with alumni in California over winter break (Photo 3).

We started the summer at the beginning of June with our open house on research being done at the forest. Then in the following weeks we had a suite of day-long workshops taken both by students and landowners – dendrology, soils and geology, land use history and breeding bird habitat. Our summer forest seminars and environmental movie nights at the outdoor classroom organized by Marlyse and Jess were a big success with a regular crowd of around 75 people attending these events. As usual, in August MODs saw around 60 incoming masters students per week. This year was the first time, however, that the “chicken coop” seemed less appealing to the

MODsters than the new bunk rooms and a few well-placed “quiet get-away” tents.

This February our Quiet Corner Initiative hosted a first of its kind climate science presentation and discussion at the Union Town Hall; speakers included Professors Peter Raymond, Xuhui Lee, and Mark Bradford. Every chair was full at the event and the discussion was engaging.

It is bittersweet that we announce the dispersal of some of our charismatic megafauna:

Mary Tyrell retired in June of 2018 and while we are very happy for her, it is sad to see her go. Mary was a pillar of Yale’s forestry program and she also made significant improvements to the Yale Camp at Great Mountain Forest while it was under her directive. Mary’s career at Yale leaves a legacy of leadership working with private forest landowners and years of inspiring students to accomplish more than they imagined. We wish her all the best in retirement as we

look forward to connecting with her in the future.

One measure of the success of our post-graduate fellowship program is where our School Forest fellows go. Our Forest Manager Nick Olson (MF ’16) will be making his way out west this March where he has accepted a position managing a 55,000-acre ranch in Colorado. Nick has served an important role managing our forests and leading our crew of assistant forest managers and students. He will be missed here but we will surely be calling upon him on future collaborations between students and western land managers. We have to admit that we’re a tad bit jealous of the adventures that are sure to come for Nick as he settles in the Rocky Mountains.

New regeneration at the forest:

Jess Wikle (MFS ’18) joined our staff in summer of 2018 in a post-graduate fellowship as the Quiet Corner Initiative Manager. Jess came to F&ES with a strong forestry background working with private



Photo 3. The Western Forest Crew easily fits in a goose pen, a large cavity in a redwood tree. Richard Campbell - MF '07, previous Yale School Forest Manager, and pictured on the left - helped organize the trip.

landowners and her expertise in all things forestry has served as a real asset. Her fellowship builds on her skills by leading Yale's outreach in the Quiet Corner, mentoring current students, and playing a critical role in teaching in courses and leading field trips. Jess will be leading the upcoming southern forestry field trip with Mike Ferrucci this March, and overseeing the first ever two-week Southern Apprentice Forester program for four of our students that has been nicely organized by Nick.

Also on board is Laura Green (MF '18) who joined the staff at the same time as Jess, again as a post-graduate fellow. Laura is working with Marlyse in helping to oversee and coordinate all the research that is going on at the forest. A very difficult job indeed given the fact that trying to get researchers to do anything together is a little like herding cats. However, under Marlyse's guidance she is busy insuring that researchers are all working well and the results of their work is being disseminated to the general public, to our students, and to decision-makers. Laura is also helping Marlyse with the undergraduate field ecology program and working with Jess in updating the demonstration areas around the forest.

We are in the process of gathering applications to hire a new post-graduate forest manager. We

anticipate the next forester manager to start in July 2019. In the meantime, we (Mark and Joe) will be taking on much of the day-to-day forest management with the help of our student assistant forest managers.

Lastly, on behalf of my co-author, it is a pleasure to be writing this for the first time with Joseph Orefice, PhD (MF '09). Joe started with Yale in August 2018 in a new position as Director of Forest & Agricultural Operations. He joins Marlyse and me in administering the many aspects of our School Forests. The objectives of his new position are to oversee the operational aspects of managing our forest resources and maintaining our facilities; all the while providing a mentorship role for our students interested in forestry and agriculture. He is teaching a core course for our MF students in forest management and, as a side-bar, a very popular course on maple syrup (from tree to table!). We hope that he will incrementally increase his teaching over the next few years. In the future, Joe hopes to engage students in agriculture and agroforestry by providing more opportunities through teaching and demonstration.

***T**he year ahead:*

The year ahead looks to be as exciting as the year behind. We continue to

have record interest in our summer forest apprenticeship program, requiring us to be selective in terms of available positions. In May, Joe and Jess will be leading students to Bavaria in collaboration with our Technical University of Munich colleagues. This is the off-year where students are exposed to a week-long field experience in exercises and demonstrations around managing forests of the Bavarian Alps.

Researchers are beginning to buzz around Yale-Myers forest as the winter turns to spring and the amphibians begin their annual courtship. We have made acceptance offers for summer Forest Crew and are looking forward to beginning the program this May. We have a great lineup of speakers for our summer lecture series and environmental movies for our Thursday night showings. We are also looking forward to hosting additional presentations and panel discussions in the towns around the forest to bring the science of our world to the people of our Quiet Corner.

The Yale Camp at Great Mountain Forest has a full schedule of user groups and is also scheduled for significant facilities improvements in 2019. Off-grid solar is being explored for the camp and we hope to provide more detail on this in the year to come.



Photo 4. Crew member, Mark Foster (MF '19), marks one of the boundaries in Myers Division. Photo by N. Olson.

(Continued from page 1)

to Colorado and New Mexico – and others opted instead for a much-needed rest – everyone reconvened at Yale Myers for a crash course in Quiet Corner geology, soils, dendrology, and history. They followed Dr. Ashton in and out of soil pits and along stone walls, running to keep up and swatting mosquitoes along the way. When it then came time to inventory the Myers Division, the Crew devised an ambitious sampling plan with different protocols for early- and mid-successional stands. They spent a week measuring plots and transects across their division, and for the most part everyone managed to make it

out of the laurel and barberry in good spirits.

Finally cleared to hold paint guns in their hands, the Crew got their start marking a crown thinning that came to be known as *Where's Julia?* As they grew more comfortable handling paint, they split into smaller groups to tackle more thinnings and continued to name them after people, with names like *Ashton's A-1 Steak Sauce* and *Spaghetti Baggins* (inspired by an overabundance of spaghetti prepared early in the summer by one Crew member who will remain anonymous, combined with a fateful trip to The Shire).

With thinnings behind them, the Crew turned to regeneration treatments, which were full of their fair share of twists and turns. While marking the first cut of a shelterwood called *Princess Sophia's Rainbow Fusilli*, the Crew stumbled upon a wandering woodland spirit, the eponymous Princess Sophia (Photo 1). She took up residence in the green van and enjoyed traveling with the Crew everywhere they went, though by the end of the summer her countenance was a bit deflated. Just across the street from Princess Sophia's homeland, the group-selection-system component of *What Would Jesus Mark* got its second entry, *Immeowculate Selection*.



Clockwise from left. Photo 5. Crew member Chris Martin shoulders fellow crew member Asha Bertsch to “erase” a mistakenly marked tree. Photo by F. Cervo. Photo 6. Yasha Magarik finds a new, more natural hard hat. Photo by R. Goldman. Photo 7. Can you spot the crew member in the Laurel? Photo by E. Miller.

The Crew made an important contribution here to the legacy of management on the School Forests by determining that “cat” is the ideal gap shape for optimum regeneration.

Nights and weekends at the forest were never dull – in fact, a growing number of summer residents acquired whittling knives and formed an informal spoon-carving club. Many trips were taken to Bigelow Hollow and We-Li-Kit, and countless books were brought back from Traveler’s Restaurant and subsequently donated to the camp library. The porcupine

population flourished, and those who lived in forest-facing rooms got to know their spiny friends’ nighttime munching habits. To cap it all off, a series of Quiet Corner Initiative seminars and films brought new perspectives and research to the students and local landowners in attendance.

When August arrived, it was time to say goodbye to Yale-Myers and make room for the incoming storm of MODs. The Crew was sad to split up into two teams, 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 and the Toumey VHS collection. The Berkshires crew sampled CFI plots and laid out an example harvest, spending their free time at the local lake and inventing innovative cooking techniques. After this time apart, the Crew was happy to reconvene on a rainy day in New Hampshire for their graduation ceremony, where they shed their nappies and began to look towards the future.

NEWS FROM THE FOREST MANAGER

Nick Olson, Forest Manager, MF'16

Hello to all our School Forests alumni, supporters, and friends! The calendar has turned again. Read along for a summary of the management activities at the School Forests.

At Yale-Myers

Buoyed by brand new facilities, twenty-eight full-time residents wasted no time breaking in camp. Within weeks, antler sheds, abandoned wasp nests, and knickknacks from Trash to Treasures adorned the fire place mantel; the outdoor auditorium transformed into an outdoor movie theater; and the camp lawn became a training ground for whiffle ball protégés. In the midst of such excitement, the crew managed to carry out their annual responsibilities.

2018 Forest Crew

The 2018 Forest Crew directed their attention to our northern most division, Myers. Named after the namesake of Yale-Myers Forest,

George Hewitt Myers, the Myers Division is 800-acres of steep, rocky terrain. Cascading creeks, heavy hemlock, and a healthy dose of mountain laurel make up the division. Many crew members swear that Myers is home to some of the densest mountain laurel on the forest, though I'm sure past crews may argue such a bold claim (Photo 7).

Twelve master's students comprised our 2018 Forest Crew, one of our largest crews to date. The crew marked 333.4 thousand board feet across 145.4 acres.

Where's Julia was the summer's first treatment. *Where's Julia* is a low-value, 48.4-acre crown thinning in a hardwood-hemlock stand upon which the crew could cut their teeth. Brimming with knowledge from their completed coursework, the team quickly learned the challenge of translating classroom lessons to practice. "Do we retain a 11-inch canopy oak that will be merchantable for the next treatment?" "Or what

about the 36-inch damaged oak with a massive crown next to it? Surely that's a good seed source and great for wildlife." "And if we cut the damaged oak with the large crown, how the heck do we get it to the ground without damaging the 11-inch oak!?"

Not deterred by the challenges posed, the crew grew in collective confidence and ability. They built on their experience marking four additional crown thinnings (Table 1).

Equipped with two weeks of marking experience, the crew set off to regenerate our forest. They employed both even-aged and uneven-aged management. In the even-aged system, the crew marked the first cut of a 17-acre irregular shelterwood called *Princess Sophia's Rainbow Fusilli* (See Rosa Goldman's column on Page 1 for a description). *Princess Sophia's Rainbow Fusilli* included mesic slopes and dry ridge lines. The crew adeptly adjusted the spacing of their reserve trees along moisture gradients, leaving residual structure that would

Sale Name	Acres	Board Feet	Name Description	Sale Description
Ashton's A-1 Steaksauce	17.7		Ashton decided "A-1 steaksauce" worked as a synonym for excellence	Undulating slopes with pine and hemlock along slopes and high grade oak along ridge lines
Morgan's Latte and Briscuit	6.2		Named for one of our favorite crew dogs	A mesic-to-wet site that includes a healthy dose of ash, black cherry, and old-field pine
A Tribe Called Queen	11.8		Combines two of our favorite cassette tapes (we will happily accept your donations of old cassette tapes)	Abuts the first cut of a shelterwood marked in 2018. This thinning attempted to improve a stand that was high-graded in the 80's
Spaghetti Baggins	5.8		Named after one our hobbit-inspired crew members with an inclination for overestimating pasta	A small harvest adjoining Ashton's A-1 Steaksauce on a more fertile site including some sugar maple and oak

Table 1. Four of the thinnings marked the summer of 2018 and their descriptions.

encourage “all the kids to get on the bus.”

In the uneven-aged system, the crew planned the second entry for a group selection marked in 2004 called *What Would Jesus Mark*. The 2018 entry tallied 96.5 mbf in a 38.5-acre group selection. Crew members used drones to map out current gaps, future gaps, and roads. Delving into the latest research, crew members discovered that irregular shaped gaps with larger southern edges are generally best suited for regeneration. Using the creativity expected of Crew – this description matured into gaps that can only be described as the silhouettes of cats, resulting in the renaming of the sale - *Immeowculate Selection* (Photo 6).

At Yale-Toumey

The crew marked one sale at Yale-Toumey, a 29-acre crown thinning called *Of Mice and Mold*. Affectionately named after the Yale-Toumey lodging, *Of Mice and Mold* will extract 74.7 mbf of sawtimber and 64 cords of pulp and firewood. Rocky ridge lines and numerous seeps characterize the sale. The crew weaved skid roads around seeps and carved out healthy

wetland buffer to protect the more sensitive sites.

Mini-crews

We continue to develop two “mini-crews”: Western Forest Crew and Southern Forest Crew. These crews are experiential short courses designed for 2nd year students to learn and work in new ecosystems.

The 3rd annual Western Forest Crew took four students Northern California. We collaborated with Save the Redwoods League and past Forest Manager, Richard Campbell, to learn about redwood forests, their ecology, road decommissioning, and wildlife management. The trip culminated by designing a restoration treatment for a degraded Redwood Forest. It was no small task to develop a prescription knowing it would possibly be the last major treatment of the forest!

This March, the School Forests will undertake the inaugural Southern Forest Crew. Sponsored by Chris DiBonaventura (YC '77) and his mother, Sara Wilford, four students will work with the property manager and consulting forester on their historic quail plantation,

Boston Place. The crew will design a regeneration survey to help guide future management of longleaf pine and assist the property manager burning hundreds of acres across the property. We owe a huge thanks to Chris and Sara for their support developing this applied learning opportunity!

Farewell

This is my second and last column as Forest Manager. I accepted a position managing a conservation ranch on the border of Colorado and New Mexico. My new role will not look to dissimilar from my current – except that I’ll be trading metamorphic for volcanic rocks, brook for cutthroat trout, and the green 12-passenger van for a herd of horses. I’ve purchased *How to Think Like a Horse* in preparation, but I feel like wishes of good luck may serve me better. Either way, I cannot thank the School Forests, Mark, Joe, Marlyse, and all our supporters enough for the last 5 years as a student and fellow. Their support, mentorship, and guidance surpassed all expectations. I hope to see some of you in the mountains out West!

WWJM Gap-Map (Immaculate Selection)

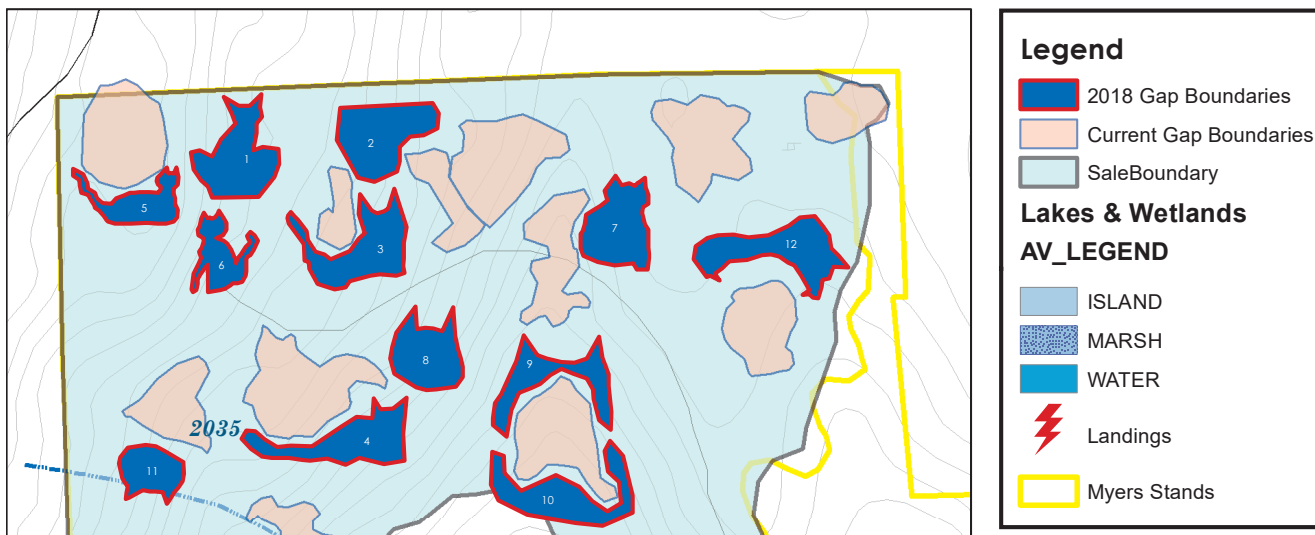


Photo 8. A map of Immeowculate Selection depicting 2004 gaps and proposed 2018 gaps. What do the blue gaps look like to you?



Photo 9. Researchers in the Summer Field Ecologists program show off tools of the trade . Photo by K. Kan.

RESEARCH NEWS AND NOTES

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

As always 2018 was a full and productive year for research at the Yale School Forests. We hosted some of our best attended seminars, some great publications hit the presses, and broke in our new research lab and facilities. We continue to expand research infrastructure and opportunities and are currently updating the website for everyone to follow along with our progress. Check us out at <https://forests.yale.edu/research>.

Kohlberg-Donohoe Research Fellowship

The Kohlberg-Donohoe Fellowship, which awards competitive grants for students to conduct research at any of the School Forest properties, entered its second year in 2018. This year, the fellowship was awarded to five master's and doctoral students. The 2018 Fellows set out to investigate a diverse array of questions: how do different types of land use impact mesocarnivore (think: foxes, raccoons, and bobcats) habitat (Kimi

Zamuda, MESC '19)(Photo 11); what differences can be found in the leaf structure and composition of red maple, depending on if it grew from seed, or resprouted from a stump (Laura Ostrowsky, MFS'19); does personality in grasshoppers and spiders impact their survival, and what and how they eat (Nathalie Sommer, MESC '19); how do wood frogs developing in vernal pools adapt to environmental changes such as earlier timing of tree leaf-out and warmer winter temperatures (A. Andis, PhD candidate); and what impact do earthworms and grasshoppers have on plant growth and soil nutrients in old farm fields (Rob Buchkowski, PhD '19)(Photo 10).

For more details from each fellow on their research, take a look at our new website: forests.yale.edu/research/students/Kohlberg-donohoe-research-fellowship/Kohlberg-donohoe-fellows

Summer Field Ecology Internship

In June, eight undergraduate students from Yale, Sewanee, and Brown arrived at Yale-Myers for our largest ever cohort of the Summer Field Ecology Internship (Photo 9). During their eight weeks at the forest, the group dug gently through leaf litter on the forest floor to measured tree seedlings for Professor Ashton. They set camera traps, measured red maple leaves, and watched spiders and grasshoppers tango with some of this year's Kohlberg-Donohoe Fellows. As the summer drew to a close, the group worked as a team to set up a new long-term research project, mapping and measuring every tree within a 1-hectare plot to track forest dynamics. From early mornings packing into the van for a day of identifying Solomon's seal –or, wait – is it twistedstalk?– in regenerating forest gaps, to late nights harmonizing around a guitar and determinedly carving spoons from firewood scraps, the 2018 Field Ecology Interns brought energy, grit,



(Top) Photo 10. Rob Buchkowski collects a worm from his study investigating the impact of earthworms and grasshoppers on plant growth and nutrients. (Bottom) Photo 11. Kimi Zamuda sets up a camera trap as part of her study on mesopredator habitat.



Photo 12. PhD Candidate Andis shares his research about vernal pools with QCI members, the Forest Crew, and the Field Ecology Interns. Photo by N. Olson.

NEWS FROM THE QUIET CORNER

Jess Wikle, MFS '18

2018 was another exciting year for the Quiet Corner Initiative.

We started off the year with a workshop on maple sugaring, hosted by QCI landowner Art Talmadge. While the winter weather didn't quite cooperate to see his operations in action, workshop attendees got to tour his facilities and learn how maple sugaring works. Early summer provided QCI with a staff change, as 2018 MFS graduate Jess Wikle stepped in as manager of QCI. See page 13 for her bio.

It was a busy summer for outreach at the forest. We began the season with back-to-back workshops offered in tandem to both our QCI landowners and forest crew. Dr. Ashton led a full day workshop on Land Use History, the field ecology labs introduced their research (Photo 12), and UConn alum and former YMF researcher Nick Russo led a bird walk through Boston Hollow, followed by a detailed presentation on bird identification.

The remaining summer workshops also provided opportunities for our crew and landowners to build technical skills. Clare Cain, trails stewardship director for the Connecticut Forest and Park Association joined us on a rainy Wednesday to go over particulars of trail siting and design, and some folks braved the elements to go out and practice what they learned on the Branch Brook Trail in the afternoon. Finally, with the help of DEEP wildlife biologist and FES alum

Mike Gregonis, we hosted a workshop on forest management for game birds, where we were joined by representatives from the Ruffed Grouse Society, National Wild Turkey Federation, as well as a local consulting forester who works closely with the two organizations. Attendees of this workshop learned about habitat characteristics that benefit these bird species, then visited timber sales that exhibit examples of both good and poor habitat for these species.

We also had a full schedule of summer seminars. We began with Doug Harris, of the Narragansett tribe, who discussed ceremonial stone landscapes in New England. Following topics included Impacts of white tailed deer and earthworms on forest understory communities by FES post-doctoral fellow Annise Dobson, Effects of legacy forest structure on regeneration in irregular shelterwoods by Jess Wikle, MFS '18, a talk and book signing with Ben Goldfarb (MEM '13), author of *Eager: The Surprising Life of Beavers*, and finally, Plant communities in forested wetlands by Laura Green, MF '18.

We continued the tradition of EFFY at QCI as well, with screenings of four environmental films: *Green Fire*; *Bluespace*; *Cheshire Ohio*, an *American Coal Story*; and *One Big Home*.

QCI's Harvest Festival grew again in attendance, and once more we were entertained by Yale's *Tangled Up In Blue*, as well as QCI landowner and beekeep-

er Rich Dezso and we entertained ourselves by pressing apples for cider and competing at the crosscut saw. It's been exciting to watch this event continue to grow and change through the years.

We wrapped up 2018 with an early December workshop on Winter Tree ID and Forest Ecology, led by Jess Wikle and Laura Green. Twenty-five landowners joined us on a brilliantly sunny winter day to learn about how to tell trees apart by buds and bark when there are no leaves present. We spend the day on the Branch Brook Trail, combining land use history and forest ecology with the tree identification.

In addition to our workshop and seminar activity, several courses engaged in the Quiet Corner Initiative throughout the year. In the spring semester, students in Forest Operations wrote harvest plans for three QCI landowners, including a town park in Eastford and Woodstock. Students in Forest Health spent a day in the field carrying out forest health assessments on the lands of 16 QCI members. The fall semester saw high enrollment in Management Plans for Protected Areas; 21 students wrote management plans for 9 landowners, spanning close to 700 acres. Since the course moved to the QCI region, students have written management plans for 43 landowners, covering nearly 4,000 acres in the area immediately surrounding Yale-Myers Forest.

AN INTRODUCTION FROM JOSEPH OREFICE, PH.D.

OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF FOREST AND AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS



Greetings alumni and friends of the Yale School Forests. I am excited to have joined the Yale School Forests and F&ES Faculty as of August 2018.

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, alumni, and neighbors in the Quiet Corner. Yale Camp at Great Mountain Forest is also under my direction and I am excited to support a place so intricately tied to Yale's past while ensuring its connection into the future. I am teaching courses in forest management and agroforestry as part of my new role at Yale, while also taking a leadership role on many aspects of the forestry program, such as field trips and student apprenticeships.

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 Yale School Forests are a shining example of this philosophy through our summer immersion of Yale students into our school forest

management and research and our Quiet Corner Initiative. While my new role includes the day-to-day administration of many of our school forest programs, it is the teaching, mentorship, 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, where I taught courses ranging from forest ecology and mensuration to sustainable agriculture, with sawmilling, logging, and competitive timber sports all in the middle. Paul Smith's College holds a special place in my heart as it supported me as an early career faculty member and provided me the opportunity to concurrently earn a Ph.D. in silvopasture from the University of New Hampshire.

Most recently, I served for the last two years as the Director of Cornell's Uihlein Maple Research Forest and Northern New York Maple Specialist in Lake Placid, NY. I directed research and extension efforts related to all aspects of maple and birch syrup production while operating Cornell's 6,000 tap commercial sugarbush. I'm afraid to say that I am now serving as a vector of the maple affliction within Yale F&ES because I am currently teaching Yale's first maple focused course. We've even scratched together our first batch of Yale-Myers syrup and hopefully much more to come on that endeavor...

I left behind my first farm in the Adirondacks, but not my passion for agriculture. It was on that farm where I researched and practiced agroforestry, most specifically

silvopasture, in addition to producing high tunnel vegetables and fresh figs. However, it was far from where my siblings and parents live in Harwinton, CT, and the additional pull of my alma mater (MF 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 adjacent to Yale-Myers Forest 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. On-farm research and outreach will begin this summer with a SARE grant I received to study strategies for regenerating trees in silvopasture and sugarbush systems.

The School Forests have a long history of 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. The heart of the Yale School Forests is the community of friends and alumni and I could not be more pleased than to play a larger role in that while working with a team of friends and colleagues that are truly world class. My contact e-mail is joseph.orefice@yale.edu and I would welcome input on how the Yale School Forests can best support our alumni, friends, and neighbors.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW POST-GRADUATE FELLOWS!



Quiet Corner Initiative Manager

Jess Wikle (MFS '18) became the Quiet Corner Initiative Manager in June of 2018. As a student at FES, her research focused on stand dynamics and forest regeneration in irregular shelterwoods; her interests also include forestry education and outreach.

Jess holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of New Hampshire. Prior to FES, she worked as a consulting forester across the state of CT and in the Berkshires of western MA, as well as working in youth environmental outreach.



Naturalist Program Fellow and Research Coordinator

Laura Green (MF '18) joined the School Forests team as the Naturalist Program Fellow in June of 2018. She coordinates research activity at the school forests, oversees a summer internship for students interested in field ecology, and supports natural

history education. Laura is a field botanist and is passionate about plant conservation in the Northeast. She grew up outside of Boston, MA, and previously worked in volunteer program management and urban forest restoration in New York City.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROFESSOR MARK ASHTON, M.F. '85 AND PH.D. '90

Mark Ashton's passion for the Yale School Forests and the forestry programs at Yale F&ES is unparalleled. We are very pleased to announce that Mark has been chosen to receive the New England Society of American Foresters' David M. Smith Award for his expansive work in teaching, research, and application of silviculture. This award is the pinnacle of awards within NESAF and it is incredibly fitting that Mark, a mentee of David Smith, is being recognized in 2019. We hope you will join us to congratulate Mark and thank him for his continued 30+ years of service to our school, our forests, and our people.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank and acknowledge donations and gifts from various friends and alumni for allowing us to engage the students with our neighbors and for providing both students and landowners with a learning environment focused on sustainable land management. Thank you to hundreds of alumni donors and friends, Fred Ernst, Chris DiBonaventura, Sara Wilford, the Class of 1980, and the USFS State and Private Grants Program.



Top: Assistant Forest Managers

Right Upper: A forest treasure found at Toumey

Right Lower: Students inoculate logs with mushrooms.

Left: A red oak seedling finds an unlikely seed bed.

Photos by C. Martin, C. Martin, N. Olson, and N. Olson

Summer and Fall Events 2019

SEMINARS*

June 12th June 26th July 10th July 24th

FILMS*

June 19th July 17th

HARVEST FESTIVAL

September 28th

REUNION WEEKEND

October 11th-13th

* Refreshments 7 pm, seminars and movies 7:30 pm. Speakers and movies to be announced.