



THE EcoFORESTER

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES “AKA” NATURAL BENEFITS EDITION

Regeneration And Succession At EcoForesters

By: Rob Lamb *Board President*

At EcoForesters, we are focused on natural regeneration and succession in forests. The core of our mission is about keeping forests as forests, and that necessitates forests being able to naturally regenerate themselves. We are actively fighting back against forces, such as unsustainable management and invasive species, that interfere with this natural process. Our foresters focus on facilitating what forests have evolved for millennia to do, spread their seed and regenerate. Ultimately, forest regeneration leads to the process of succession. The black locust tree that grew fast and tall in full sun may eventually get shaded by the slower growing oaks that once grew beneath its canopy.



Andy, Lang, and Armin talking invasive control

Given our mission’s work, it is fitting that EcoForesters as an organization is mirroring this natural process. When I founded EcoForesters in 2015, we started with just three employees, four board members and a handful of clients. Today we have grown to serve hundreds of landowners representing thousands of acres, with a robust staff of ten, and a vibrant and diverse board of nine. Until our most recent board meeting in February, I had served as both executive director and board president for EcoForesters. Today I am proud to announce that Andy Tait and Lang Hornthal have taken the reins from me and will serve as co-executive directors for EcoForesters while I will continue to serve as board president. Just like in forests, this successional change at EcoForesters is not sudden. It is a natural part of our organizational growth and strategic planning.

EcoForesters now has two strong oaks to anchor organizational growth, with Andy leading our forestry work and Lang leading development and outreach programs. As for myself, as board president I’m just digging deeper roots. In addition to my board role, my focus will be on developing a partnership program for like minded consulting foresters so that EcoForesters can expand its impact and geographic reach.

When working properly, forest ecological processes of regeneration and succession provide for diversity and resilience in our forests, thereby sustaining all the ecological services forests provide: clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat to name a few. (Fittingly, ecosystem services is the topic of this newsletter.) Similarly, EcoForesters has grown to be more diverse and resilient, with our services to forests and landowners ever-growing. Thank you for your support of EcoForesters growth, and join me in welcoming Lang and Andy to their new roles and responsibilities.

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Forestry Requires Some Urgency

By: Andy Tait Co-Executive Director

Since becoming EcoForesters' founding Forestry director in 2015 I have been intimately involved in our organizational evolution. Now, I'm excited to naturally progress into the role of Co-Executive Director as well. I will still be the Forestry director and keep running the day-to-day operations of our growing organization.

Ecological Forestry inherently considers all the values of a forest – from water, and wildlife habitat, to carbon sequestration and timber – and strives to improve them. Similarly, as Co-ED, I will value all of EcoForesters' resources, especially our human resources (staff, board, clients, donors, and partners), to see the organization do its utmost to fulfill our mission into the future.

In the words of Gifford Pinchot, the first American forester, "Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of [resources] for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time." This is the job of a forester stewarding woodlands, but it is also the job of a leader in any organization. I will work to see that quote become true for my work both as a forester and as Co-ED.

In life, many times, I feel that I am forced to deal with what is important and urgent. The challenge is addressing everything that is important, even if it is not pressing. My family is always important even when it is not acting urgent (though my young boys often act like they cannot wait).

Forests, however, do not demand our attention urgently. Things unfold over years, decades, even centuries in the woods. Forests are beautiful and we take that for granted. However, through my experience and training I realize that forests are now urgently needing our help.

We live in an anthropocentric era. Global climate change has impacted nature even where no human has ever set foot. Non-native invasive species continue to spread and degrade natural communities. Human demand for natural resources is still growing. Forests are a renewable natural resource if managed sustainably; and if managed in an ecologically beneficial way can be improved while providing the needed natural resources too. Conversely, without our active stewardship, forests and all their natural benefits – water, wildlife, air, recreation, aesthetics, carbon sequestration, and wood products – will continue to degrade.

My dad said he used to manage by "benign neglect" and that the woods would just take care of themselves; but doing nothing is neglect, not benign anymore. There was a time when nature could heal itself. Even after the massive clearcutting around the turn of the 20th century, our forest regrew into the impressive (though not as diverse and high-quality) forests we see and love today.

But now, nature needs our help. Nothing "magical" is going to happen to restore our forests unless we do something. Forests are no longer capable of self-correction, unless you are talking in evolutionary time scales – millions of years – during most of which the forest will continue to degrade unless humans have a positive impact and at least mitigate some of the issues we have created.

So, join me in caring for our forests now so we will have them for our – and our children's – future. And I will ensure that EcoForesters is well stewarded to help in this long-term endeavor.



Invasive species need immediate action

Thank You For Your Service!

EcoForesters is fortunate to have a talented Board of Directors to help guide our future. Our recent strategic planning process is a great example of how leadership within the organization helps sustain our growth while strengthening our mission. We are sad to say goodbye to two Board members whose terms are up. **Haley Mann** is an ardent supporter of EcoForesters whose enthusiasm and willingness to help will be missed. **Calvin Koonce's** landowner perspectives and financial background kept us on a straight course.

Haley and Calvin, thank you for your commitment to EcoForesters. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for EcoForester's Board of Directors, please contact us!

Listening to Landowners and Nature

By: Lang Hornthal Co-Executive Director

When I first started my position as Communications and Development Director, my wife reminded me that my first 6 months should be considered a listening tour. As someone that is used to jumping in with two feet, her advice felt a little foreign. But as in most cases with my spouse, she was undoubtedly correct!

With a business and marketing background, I was keen to understand what we were “selling” and what the public’s understanding was of the need for our product. My listening tour included staff, clients, donors, partners, friends and family as I sought the proper story that best described the importance of our mission to conserve and restore Appalachian forests. It was the culmination of last year’s strategic planning and the addition of four words to our mission; through education and stewardship, that provided me with clarity. The heart of our mission is sharing forestry knowledge and helping landowners overcome barriers to forest stewardship.

I’ve learned that foresters are keen on adaptive management. Techniques and prescriptions must be adjusted based on observations of past management practices and current forest conditions. Similarly, we must adapt in how we share knowledge in order to account for modern times and a changing landowner base. If done correctly, we will learn from our landowners as much as they learn from us.

Listening to landowners helps us identify where they struggle to maintain forest health. We have learned that funding and access to resources are the most common deterrent. This is why we are creating funding streams for stewardship activities and using different communication techniques to create projects that bring resources to landowners for easier access. We think that landowners are listening.

Forestry unfolds over decades while our attention is mostly held by the here and now. Our job is to show how proper planning today positively impacts those things we hold important and why action is needed sooner than later. This issue does just that by highlighting how the natural benefits forests provide impact the economic development, quality of life and conservation values in the Appalachians. Natural benefits must be protected through active stewardship.

I encourage you to reach out to me and other staff if this newsletter resonates with you. Our work continues both in the forest and in our communities. We are listening.



Krishun and Andy listening in Sandy Mush

Sandy Mush Project Slowed but Gaining Steam

One of the bigger disappointments of 2020 was our inability to hold landowner tours and meet in person with Sandy Mush partners. Nonetheless, we found ways to assist landowners with their forest stewardship using videos and one on one conversations. Hundreds of acres have been treated for non-native invasive species to date and additional learning workshops are planned around non-timber forest products and stewardship funding.

Speaking of funding, we are pleased that Year 3 of our project has been generously supported by Brad and Shelli Stanback. Their support has been instrumental to the project and created incentives for landowner stewardship. Funding will allow invasive control on both SAHC (Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy) and Sandy Mush Game Lands to continue, as well as opportunities for prescribed burning and forest restoration. We look forward to more in person gatherings and landowner training in 2021.

Please contact us if you have any questions about this community forestry project or have interest in bringing a project to your community.



Krishun going over maps with Sandy Mush landowners and preparing her field notes.



Overcoming Barriers to Funding Forest Stewardship

FOREST Fund Created In Support Of Local Land Trusts

What are the natural features which make a township handsome? A river, with its waterfalls and meadows, a lake, a hill, a cliff or rocks, a forest, and ancient trees standing singly. Such things are beautiful; they have a high use which dollars and cents never represent – Henry David Thoreau

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC) has awarded \$30,000 to EcoForesters as a match incentive that will help fund forest stewardship on permanently protected lands. Partners from six industry sectors that benefit from the value forests bring our region have generously matched the CFWNC contribution to fully fund the Forest Restoration and Stewardship (FOREST) Fund. The FOREST Fund will provide local land trusts matching grants for forest stewardship.



FOREST Fund logo by [Leslie Reynalte](#)

This fund creates a vehicle for maintaining permanently protected lands. Through forestry, education, and training, the FOREST Fund will double the stewardship land trusts can perform and help them plan for the future. By training staff and volunteers in identification and control methods, this initiative will assure that protected forests are not overrun with invasive plants. These efforts will keep conservation values on the landscape for future generations to come.

Why We Must Value Nature

The current economic system does not give trees a monetary value until they are harvested. As a result, this makes it easier relating to the value of wood used to build a home or appreciating the toilet paper market after last year's pandemic fueled buying spree. But what about plentiful, clean water or wildlife habitat? Many businesses rely on the benefits and attraction forests have to offer. Forests are arguably the golden goose to the region's economic development and prosperity, which is why forest stewardship is so important.

Value Through Forest Stewardship

Forested watersheds and clean water make the successful brewing scene possible. If you value wildlife, you should value forests. If outdoor experiences are a part of your life, then forests are your playground. Presumably, we would like our children and grandchildren to have the same experiences, which is why everyone should support forest stewardship.

Restoring forests makes them stronger and better prepared to withstand the more common weather events that bring disturbance, like drought and flooding, and the onslaught of invasive species. We can no longer manage forests by benign neglect, nor by outdated methods.

EcoForesters is committed to leading in forest stewardship funding and finding innovative ways that help land-owners battle invasive species and plan for the future. Our region is depending on it.

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Thank you partners for helping put a value on nature. For more information on the FOREST Fund, Contact - lang@ecoforesters.org



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Forest Service Research Supports Forest Management to Sustain Ecosystem Services

By: Lars Pomara

Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station

Benefits provided to people by natural ecosystems are abundant in the southern Appalachians, from necessities like clean drinking water to sustainably harvested forest products and the region's nature-based tourism industry. They also include biodiversity conservation, the sense of place found in forested landscapes, and many other benefits.

Ecological assessment is a key tool for understanding the role of private and public lands in providing ecosystem services to society and ensuring their sustainability. A wide variety of ecological assessments are produced by the USDA Forest Service, including scientists at the Southern Research Station. But assessments and the tools they provide are not always well known beyond the Forest Service and state agency partners—even though providing information for private forest landowners and managers is a core goal.

Assessments measure and map the capacity of landscapes to supply ecosystem services, the flow of those services to increasing human populations, and the vulnerability of ecosystem services to various stressors. The Forests to Faucets program is one example of an assessment tool focused on the vulnerability of a single service—the role of forests in providing clean water—to a variety of stressors. Situating a forest property in its local watershed using this tool can provide insight into the value of the forest for conserving water quality downstream.

Some important stressors such as forest loss to urbanization, and forest changes caused by invasive species, climate change, and tree diseases pose increasing risks to ecosystem services. The National Insect and Disease Forest Risk Assess-

ment is an example of a tool focused on a specific threat providing local forest information across the US. However, ecosystems face multiple threats at the same time, and those threats put stress on multiple ecosystem services. Major efforts such as the Southern Forest Outlook synthesize cutting-edge forest science to understand these relationships and their consequences for the future. One reality highlighted by this program is that economic changes, such as changes in demand for timber products, can impact various ecosystem services by reducing the economic value of keeping private working lands forested.

Assessments are at their best when they are focused on the values of stakeholders and the challenges faced by land managers. Some assessments highlight engagement with partners, and this can point to ecosystem services that may otherwise go unnoticed. One example is the Assessment of Nontimber Forest Products in the United States Under Changing Conditions. This document details the use, sustainability, and economics of forest resources used for food, medicines, and crafts by indigenous people and other rural populations. Tribal partners are often crucial in such assessments. The Keeping Forests program has resulted from engagement between state forest resource agencies, the Forest Service, and a broad consortium of other partners in the South. The program includes assessment, and goes further by highlighting opportunities throughout the southern region for working with local landowners to keep working forests as forests so that they can continue to provide a wide variety of ecosystem services.

These are only a few examples of how ecological assessment can help conservation stakeholders weigh different management options from an ecosystem services perspective. Online Forest Service resources are available to provide access to a wide variety of assessments, whether at the national level or with a regional focus. Resources like these help drive home the importance of landscape and regional context—any private land holding is surrounded by and connected to other private and public lands. Likewise, public lands such as state and national forests are embedded in broader privately owned landscapes. Benefits provided by natural ecosystems are experienced in common across those lands, as are stressors like changes in land use and climate. These connections make the sustainability of clean water, forest products, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and many other ecosystem services a shared responsibility and challenge.



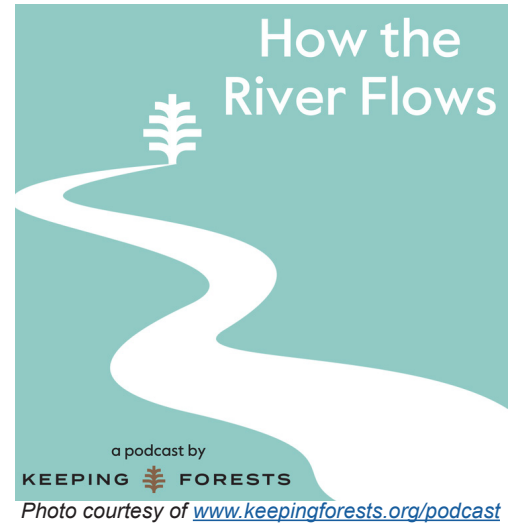
Ecological assessment depends on data from the field, such as streamflow and water quality information collected along forest streams. Long-term research sites including the Southern Research Station's Experimental Forests provide crucial information for managing ecosystem services. USDA Forest Service image.

Podcast Explores the Connection Between Water and Healthy Forests

Podcasts have become popular these days, so it is no surprise that there is one that is actually talking about ecosystem services. Keeping Forests is made up of forest advocates, conservation NGO's, and business leaders

Perhaps the biggest benefit humans get from healthy forests is water purification and storage. In the Southeast alone, over 50 million people get their drinking water from surface waters protected by state and federal forests. This important natural benefit is explored in a new podcast, "How the River Flows", produced by the forestry collaborative, Keeping Forests. Each episode provides a glimpse into how local communities are financing forest stewardship and innovation around providing a lasting, clean supply of water downstream.

Of particular interest is Episode 6, Economics of Source Water Protection. In it, Dr. Travis Warziniack and Dr. Justin Baker explore how ecosystem services support local economies and positively connect the built environment and nature. They also touch on the difficulties of valuing ecosystem services and the importance of investing in natural capital. Another important consideration is the use of partnerships to overcome the scale of landscape forestry. If you are looking for a good podcast and a deeper understanding of ecosystem services, we highly recommend checking it out.



Pisgah-Nantahala National Forests Management Plan to be Released This Fall

What a difference eight years make! In 2013, the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership (NPFPP) was formed by a variety of forest stakeholders to foster civic engagement and positive guidance in creating the best possible management plan revision for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. EcoForesters is proud to be a member of the NPFPP as we strive to create a lasting voice for innovative management and public investment in the public forests of North Carolina's mountains for the future.

About one year ago, our Partnership asked the Forest Service to create a Management Plan based on win-win solutions rather than polarizing alternatives. The detailed comments submitted to the agency were the culmination of sitting around the table with diverse stakeholders for many years and included a blueprint for restoring forests, protecting special places, and reducing user group conflict. It has been a long process to get to this point in the development of the new forest plan and the Forest Service has been transparent, patient, open-minded, and a good collaborative partner.

The Final Plan is anticipated in late summer or early fall, which will initiate a 60 day window for the public to review the documents and file objections. Following this 60 day period will be a 90-day period of resolution and response by the Forest Service after which they will issue their final decision and plan. This period will include opportunities for the public to weigh in and comment on the Plan. The NPFPP will be convening over the 60-day period to make sure that the plan, which will be in place for the next 20+ years, can accomplish the much needed restoration and conservation on the over one million acres of forests that are in our backyard.

In the meantime, partners continue to meet and look for ways to work together. We are making recommendations to the Forest Service around designing projects that can leverage resources and are compatible with our collective values. We believe that important ecological restoration can occur without degrading the values of other user groups within recreation, wildlife and conservation interests. By working together we can accomplish more and help the understaffed and underfunded Forest Service achieve their stewardship goals.

Our involvement in this process and commitment to ecological restoration is made possible through ongoing support from readers like you. Our landscape approach to forestry is strengthened by a collaborative Plan and we appreciate this historic opportunity to influence the stewardship of this important resource.



NPFPP projects team discussing a future timber sale.

Carbon Markets 101 for Small Landowners

An Interview with Carbon Consultant Jon Shaffer

EcoForesters' clients are increasingly interested in the value of their forests for carbon sequestration. Forest carbon markets and landowner access to them is complicated. To help us understand, we called upon EcoForesters' very own carbon expert, Jon Shaffer. Jon developed one of the first forest carbon offset projects under the California Air Resource Board (ARB) protocol in 2014. He has since worked on both carbon project development and project verification, specializing in Appalachian forests. EcoForesters president Rob Lamb recently called Jon to ask a few questions to help our clients understand forest carbon markets for smaller landowners.

Rob: Jon, first give our landowners a brief primer on carbon offset markets. What is a forest carbon offset and how does a landowner sell one?

Jon: An offset is a metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), the emission of which is reduced or alternatively removed from the atmosphere, and is purchased by a company to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions. Forest carbon offsets in particular result from changes in forest management (often reductions in harvesting) so that a forest sequesters larger amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it would under a business as usual scenario. The only regulated market is in California, where the state has put a cap on carbon emissions on many industries, and where companies can buy forest offsets from anywhere in the U.S. to reduce up to 8% of their emissions. There are also voluntary markets where any company that desires to reduce their carbon footprint can pay landowners to sequester more carbon.

Rob: I understand that to date only landowners with thousands of acres have had access to carbon offset markets. Why is that?

Jon: The biggest barrier is the cost of project development. There are huge economies of scale with high fixed costs, including verification costs, forest growth modeling costs, and forest inventory costs being similar regardless of project size. Additionally, projects tend to not generate much revenue per acre to compete with timber values, especially on small acreages. In the California ARB market, a landowner in the Southern Appalachians with an above average level of carbon stored in their forests might receive an initial payment of \$100-\$200 per acre and then \$10 to \$20 per acre thereafter for annual carbon sequestration. Voluntary market projects often pay 25%-75% less. With the fixed costs at several hundred thousand dollars or more to establish and administer the projects, a landowner must have thousands of acres to make it work.

Rob: Do you anticipate access to carbon offset markets to increase for smaller landowners?

Jon: Though there have been attempts to make the California ARB program more accessible to small landowners, for the most part they have met with very limited success. In my opinion the best hope to increase access for small landowners in the near future rests in the voluntary market. One that looks potentially promising to me is The Nature Conservancy's Family Forest Program in Pennsylvania, a pilot program with voluntary corporate sponsors. Landowners with as few as 30 acres can enter the program, at what appears to be no cost and with only a 20 year commitment. Because of TNC's name recognition, they are able to sell forest carbon offsets at a decent price on the voluntary market. Another brand new voluntary program that may have potential is the NCAPX administered by SilviaTerra which requires only a one year

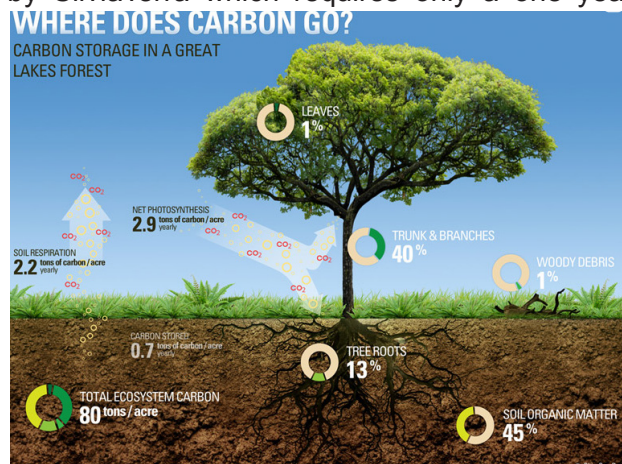


Photo courtesy of <https://rgsgeog.wordpress.com/>

commitment to retain carbon stocks by deferring harvesting. The state of the voluntary carbon market is quite dynamic at the moment with a number of organizations attempting to design forest carbon offset programs to make projects more feasible for smaller landowners.

Rob: Assuming a carbon offset market for smaller landowners develops, what would be the pros and cons for a landowner? What kind of returns might I see and what limitations are put on how I manage my land?

Jon: In the Family Forest Carbon Program with TNC, the big advantage is it is only a 20 year commitment and likely without upfront costs. In this program, a landowner could see returns of around \$100 to \$200 per acre over a 20 year period. This is \$5,000 to \$10,000 over 20 years for 50 acres. But this program is still in the pilot phase and you just don't know how it will shake out if and when it comes to the Southern Appalachians. It is very important to read the fine print and understand that things could change in future. In all of these projects, there are significant limitations on timber management and potential limitations on ecological management (especially management that creates a more open woodland or canopy gaps) that a landowner should carefully consider with their forester.

Rob: Outside of a carbon offset program, how should landowners that care about the environment manage their land to increase carbon sequestration?

Jon: Carbon sequestration is one of many benefits forests provide and it can sometimes be at odds with other forest benefits. A landowner and their forester have to discuss what their goals are; wildlife habitat, ecological conditions and carbon sequestration have to be balanced, especially in the southern Appalachians where you often want to get more oak regeneration which benefits from full sunlight and prescribed fire. Treatments that benefit oak can be at odds with completely maximizing carbon sequestration. This is one of many examples. Regardless, any landowner can help mitigate carbon loss by leaving large old growth and wolf trees growing in their forests, retaining large fallen trees, and treating their invasive species. In the long-term, invasives control can have a big impact on increasing carbon sequestration since invasives can halt forest regeneration and decrease the health and vigor of live trees. Any treatment that increases tree regeneration and maintains the maximum amount of live vigorous trees will increase carbon sequestration in the medium to long term.

EcoForesters is currently helping clients gain access to the different carbon markets available to them. If you are interested in learning more about how deferring a timber harvest or certain management prescriptions can provide landowners a financial incentive, please contact us at info@ecoforesters.org or 828-484-6842

What Does Your Donation Support?

This issue highlights how integral education and stewardship is to our mission. We have identified barriers to forest management and we are removing them. This is made possible by supporters like you who believe in ecological restoration and using innovation to adapt from past management practices. Our staff is creative, passionate, and dedicated to changing how landowners are engaged and the methods in which we assist them. Our adaptive practices are made possible through grant funding and individuals. Please consider a donation and join the growing number of EcoForesters.

To Make Your Tax Deductible Donation, Go To
www.ecoforesters.org

EcoForesters also accepts donations of land and asks you to consider us in your legacy planning.

EcoForesters Creates Much Needed Habitat for “Near Threatened” Golden-winged Warbler

By: Andy Tait

EcoForesters was engaged by the Southeast Trust for Parks & Land (STPAL) and their Wildlife Consultant, Vic Vansant, to create 16-acres of habitat for the golden-winged warbler (GWWA), a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” in the NC Wildlife Action Plan. STPAL’s nature preserve on the side of Bald Mountain in Yancey County NC was a great, high-elevation site for developing more high-quality habitat for this species of concern. GWWA’s population has declined 98% in the Appalachians in the past 45 years, primarily due to habitat loss. However, one was heard at this site in 2014 by regional Audubon Conservation Biologist Aimee Tomcho, which led to prioritizing this habitat expansion project, as GWWA often return to the same breeding sites year after year. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission’s (NCWRC) Wildlife Conservation Biologist, Clint Barden, helped advise and secure cost-share funding from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The neo-tropical GWWA winters in Central and South America but returns to the eastern US to breed every summer. For its breeding habitat, this bird relies on 5- to 25-acre patches of early successional habitat (ESH; i.e., young forests, meadows, and shrublands) with 10-15 large “perch” trees per acre, surrounded by mature deciduous forest. The existing power line on the property was providing some of this ESH for the GWWA but expanding this by creating more adjacent young forest in a more natural shape and size for the bird was key.

EcoForesters’ forest restoration crew established the initial 2-acre young forest habitat block this year. The crew felled many of the common, dense trees near the powerline with lower wildlife value and little to no economic value and painted stumps with herbicide to prevent these trees from resprouting to maintain the habitat for the GWWA for a longer period of time. An additional 14-acres of adjacent more mature forest will be harvested by a logger to create more habitat and help fund the project. EcoForesters also controlled all the non-native invasive plants on the site so that they will not overtake the newly created growing space. This is an essential step before any planned forest disturbance.

Early Successional Habitat is an underrepresented habitat type across our forested landscapes. It is estimated that 100+ years ago 5-10% of forests used to be maintained in this early successional state through native grazing (e.g., elk, bison), fire, wind, ice, and natural tree mortality. However, since around 1900 native grazers have been extirpated, fire has been suppressed, and widespread clearcuts have regenerated into an even-aged forest without much structural diversity. A more mixed-aged forest with trees of different sizes created by forest disturbances benefits many declining species of wildlife, not just the iconic, near threatened golden-winged warbler.

The primary goal for the project is to create habitat for this at-risk bird species. Therefore, the timber harvesting will need to be done by very skilled loggers. Other advantages to the timber harvest are to improve the many poorly designed and eroding old logging roads on the property, to protect water quality in the nearby trout stream, and to establish better access to this permanently conserved nature preserve to allow for public hiking. Without regular disturbance (controlled burning, cutting, grazing, or herbiciding) the habitat will grow up and no longer be suitable for the GWWA.

Wildlife friendly trees – oaks, in particular, but also cherry, hickory, beech, hawthorns, apples, witch hazel, and standing dead trees – were left to increase the value of the ESH for all associated wildlife species. The vast majority of the trees marked for harvest are the very common yellow-poplars. Smaller trees were also left scattered or in clumps to create more habitat diversity. And of course, no harvesting can happen during the breeding season for all birds (April-July). Furthermore, a proposed stream crossing was avoided and stream buffers of at least 50-feet were left untouched to ensure high water quality was maintained and to break up the ESH for more edge habitat which is especially important to all wildlife.

Read more at: www.allaboutbirds.org/bbimages/clo/pdf/GWWA-APPLRegionalGuide_130808_lo-res.pdf



Newly created Warbler habitat will help this threatened species rebound.

EcoForesters Off To A Busy Invasive Species Control Season

EcoForesters is pleased to have **Krishun Karau** as our new restoration crew leader. Her background in ecological restoration and education is the perfect combination for helping landowners to make informed decisions about their forest. She leads a growing team that controls invasive species and restores native habitat. Join us in welcoming Krishun to the team and contact her for assistance restoring your forest.

kkarau@ecoforesters.org



*New Crew Leader
Krishun Karau*

EcoForesters' Restoration Crew is Ramping Up For Another Season!

Have you noticed any non-native invasive species leafing out in your forest this spring? Unsure how to identify non-native invasive plants? EcoForesters is here to help!

We are available to assist you and your forest in a variety of ways, from:

- Mapping out areas on your property of invasive species and their severity
- Developing a plan of action and timeline for treatments
- Providing you with the tools and knowledge to conduct treatments yourself
- Utilizing the work of our Invasive Species Crew



Krishun discussing treatment options with landowners

Armin is Off to Graduate School!

Longtime EcoForesters employee **Armin Weise** has accepted a graduate school position at Clemson University School of Forestry where he will be studying Loblolly Pine restoration. We knew this day was coming as it always seemed like he was destined for bigger things.

This space is too small to list all of Armin's accomplishments while with EcoForesters. He started working with us in 2018 as an intern but quickly showed his chops as a botanist and ecologist. His plant ID skills are phenomenal and when anyone is wondering what that unique flower species is (Latin or common name), we show it to Armin! His passion for prescribed fire was shown through his dedication to the Nature Conservancy's Burn Crew.

An accomplished photographer, he has been instrumental in developing our video outreach program. His cinematic expertise behind the camera and editing skills have allowed EcoForesters to produce over 20 videos that will assist landowners with their forest management.

Armin has also played a leading role in administrative protocols, particularly improving the template for our forest management plans. Armin's attention to detail and passion for ecological forestry has aided our growth and made us stronger.

Armin, you will be missed but we will continue to be reminded of your big impact in a short amount of time. Clemson is lucky to have you!



Armin's photography skills are one of many talents he brings to EcoForesters!

Be sure to watch your inbox for our upcoming series on how local industries are impacted by healthy forests and the natural benefits they provide.



EcoForesters **Our Mission**

EcoForesters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit professional forestry organization dedicated to conserving and restoring our Appalachian forests through education and stewardship.

**Please contact us
with any questions
about your forest
or our mission!**

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EQIP Stewardship Funding Opportunity Deadline

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to landowners to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. Qualifying landowners can receive both financial resources and help planning and implementing forest restoration and conservation practices. EcoForesters helps landowners with their application and implementation of EQIP approved practices.

The deadline for 2022 funding is the first week of November 2021, so there is time to apply. But there are requirements that can take time, including registering your property with the Farm Service Agency. If this is of interest to you, please contact EcoForesters to learn about how to access this important resource for landowners.

What is Your Barrier to Forest Management?

EcoForesters' mission is accomplished by helping landowners overcome barriers to forest stewardship. We consult with you to learn how you use your forest and where it could use some TLC. We help you secure available stewardship funding to offset the costs of managing your forest. And we train landowners to identify and control non-native invasive species. EcoForesters is committed to helping landowners obtain the resources they need to restore their forest. What's your barrier?