

April 2019 MPC update
Written by Robert Turner

March was a sociable month. The New England SAF meeting was in Burlington and the program was peppered with Guild members. Most notably, Northeast Region Director, Amanda Mahaffey partnered with fellow Guild member (and her former professor) Lloyd Irland to present a keynote session entitled *A Thinking Community: The Forestry Profession and the Land Ethic*. Many felt it was the highlight of the conference!

The evening before, Guild members were invited to meet for dinner. *Forty members showed up—nearly 10% of conference attendees!* It was gratifying for the 4 MPC members and two board members in attendance.

Earlier in March, MPC member Shane Hetzler (OR) hosted a Guild pop-up where visiting MPC chair, Robert Turner, met with Shane and his wife, Shannon, Peter Hayes (Guild board member) and his wife Pam, and student Cody Holubeck. These gatherings are not only fun, the opportunities to connect with kindred spirits are vital to our collective mission of promoting excellent forestry. Many conversations highlighted the challenges Guild members face when stepping outside the conventional professional “box.”

Your MPC continues to make sustained progress on a Natural Forest Management Policy statement. Watch for an opportunity to vote on this soon. We are moving ahead with deploying a new student chapter “toolkit” and we have begun the process of revising our Membership and Policy Guidelines. As always, we welcome your suggestions for needed policy statements, events you like to see hosted, or any other ideas or concerns you’d care to share with your elected representatives!