Throughout this special 90th anniversary year, we have been looking back and celebrating the Forest’s rich history and enduring legacy—a sample of which we share in this year’s The LOG. With a deep appreciation for those that shaped and stewarded this land before us, our team boldly presses forward in new ways across all aspects of our mission—teaching and research, management and stewardship, and community engagement.

Often times, the future is associated with advancing technologies. We’re sure that our first director, Dr. Clarence Korstian, would be fascinated by our geospatial and modeling capabilities that we not only leverage to efficiently manage this resource but also to stimulate teaching and research around the globe. While these and other advances are critical to the future of the Duke Forest, even more important is the greater understanding of and appreciation for the dynamic role Duke Forest plays in academic discovery and our overall well-being.

The increasing recognition of the Forest’s irreplaceable value offers us opportunity to engage, partner, and collaborate in new ways and with new audiences in the protection of this resource and the advancement of its mission. Although the shape and structure of the Office of the Duke Forest has evolved over time, the engagement and education of students remains a core priority. While we are often approached directly by faculty and students to initiate research or teaching activities, we also actively promote and solicit partnerships with faculty and students interested in studying topics that advance our strategic objectives.

I specifically want to highlight some remarkable new teaching and research partnerships that are helping move this incredible 90-year old forest forward. In the past year, we worked with an undergraduate Code+ team through the Bass Connections initiative; two Ph.D. students jointly funded by the Provost Experiential Fellowship program and the Duke Forest; and a group of graduate students, staff, and faculty across campus that began as a Franklin Humanities Interdisciplinary Working Group and then received a Provost-funded Reckoning with Race, Racism, and the History of the American South grant.

The Code+ team consisted of Duke Forest staff and researchers as well as Duke Office of Information Technology staff, but the primary CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of the Duke Forest
Duke University
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Suite A142
Box 90332
Durham, NC 27708
Phone: 919-613-8013
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dukeforest.duke.edu/newsletter
facebook.com/dukeforest
instagram.com/thedukeforest
Teaching & Research

First and foremost, the Duke Forest is an outdoor classroom and living laboratory, and it is the mission of our office to facilitate this use through our daily operations and strategic initiatives. We help establish and maintain dozens of research projects every year, we assist faculty and teachers in creating high impact learning experiences for students of all ages, and we work directly with students interested in designing and conducting projects focused on any aspect of the Duke Forest.

Management & Stewardship

Management of the Duke Forest is guided by a comprehensive plan that promotes the Forest's academic mission while ensuring the protection of its natural resources. Our holistic approach sustains a wide variety of benefits that are available to Duke University, as well as to the broader academic and public communities. This management system is certified by P

Engagement & Outreach

The Duke Forest engages a large audience, including the Duke University community, local K-12 schools, and the general public. Through engagement and outreach, we leverage the Forest's resources to connect people with science; to educate about natural resources conservation and forest management; and to empower the public with information about issues affecting the environment. We rely on a critical core of volunteers to help us accomplish teaching, research, and management goals.

Data portal prototype

(Continued from front page)
Project Updates

2021 FSC® Leadership Award

In October 2021, just as we went to print with this newsletter, we received news that the Duke Forest Teaching and Research Laboratory at Duke University received a 2021 FSC Leadership Award from the Forest Stewardship Council. It recognizes “uncommon excellence that advances responsible forest management and forest conservation.” Award recipients range from builders and architects to forest owners and paper mills, demonstrating that every player in the forest products chain can contribute to responsible sourcing and forest management.

The Duke Forest has been audited to the strict set of FSC standards every year since 2001. We are honored that this award recognizes our team’s (past and present) hard work and dedication to managing a productive, dynamic land base over the last 20 years. Implementing responsible forest management and connecting the community with the wide variety of benefits it provides—especially the opportunity to showcase sustainable timber management—is an important part of our strategic plan, which can be read here: [dukeforest.duke.edu/strategicplan](dukeforest.duke.edu/strategicplan).

Forest Team Transitions

In March, we said farewell to our dear friend and colleague Jenna Schreiber who served the Duke Forest and our team for almost 7 years. Jenna is now settled into her new position with The Conservation Fund in Chapel Hill. Since Jenna’s departure, we have worked to reorganize our small team to make good use of the awesome talent we already have and to create some new positions to bring in more. It is our great pleasure to announce that both Blake Tedder and Tom Craven have been promoted to reflect their leadership roles on the administrative and forest management side of our operations, respectively. Tom’s title will remain Forest Supervisor, and Blake’s title is now Assistant Director of Engagement.

We also quickly filled the 2021 Management Internship to provide much needed field capacity (thank you, Haley Jamed!). To complete our new team, we will soon hire a program coordinator to dedicate effort to our administrative, outreach, and engagement projects.

Research Tower Repairs

On Christmas Day 2020, a tree fell across one of the guy wires supporting our 40-year old, 140-ft. tall research tower. It snapped nearly in half and the top part became suspended in the surrounding tree canopy, sensitive research equipment from the EPA and the phenology camera hung along with it. The “Hardwood Tower” so unique is that it climbs through and extends above the top of a mature stand of hardwood trees, allowing research to be done at many different levels of the forest. This woody location also makes the tower extremely cumbersome to repair. In early January, a massive crane was brought down a narrow forest road deep in the Blackwood Division. A team of skilled climbers and crane operators safely brought the tower down. Weeks later, after safety inspections and the purchase of new tower sections, the crane was brought back in to reassemble the tower. Thankfully, no research instruments were damaged and the tower is once again fully operational.

Volunteer Photographers Persist

With so many distinct areas, special species, interesting research, and natural and cultural sites of significance, it can be a challenge to communicate the unique beauty and value of the Duke Forest. Three years ago, we enlisted the help of keen-eyed photographers to document this dynamic land base through the seasons. The results have been astonishing! From an average of 16 volunteers—even throughout the pandemic—we receive approximately 200 curated, high quality photographs from our Volunteer Photography Corps (VPC) each quarter. We feature some of those photos here, in our e-News, and on social media.

Pat French and husband Calvin Powers are two of our most active volunteers. The duo dove into the VPC when the COVID-19 pandemic and Calvin’s retirement afforded them more time outside. They often can be found together snapping photos by New Hope Creek or in the Hillsboro Division. Pat frequently uses the popular nature app, iNaturalist. Pat French says, “Learning to keep my eyes open for shots and using iNat forces me to slow down and leave my troubles in the car.” While the program meaningfully engages our volunteers, we also reap tremendous benefit from seeing the forest through their eyes and sharing it with a wide audience.

Visit the gallery here: [dukeforest.duke.edu/gallery](dukeforest.duke.edu/gallery).

Peet Delivers Data to the Archive

Renowned biologist Robert Peet retired in 2018 after 43 years of teaching and research at UNC. In the past year, he delivered large volumes of paper and electronic data collected from Duke Forest to our archive at Duke University Libraries. Among many accomplishments, Peet was a leading scientist in the creation of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification, providing a common language for the effective management and conservation of plants communities across the country. In the 1970s, Dr. Peet and Dr. Norman Christensen (founding Dean of the Nicholas School) rediscovered the plots first established by the first Duke Forest Director, Clarence Korstian. They assembled these Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) and established 230 larger Compositional Survey Plots (CSPs). Their expanded plot design captured a wider variety of ecosystem types found across the Duke Forest, and with their innovative surveys, data from these plots have been critical in understanding the mechanisms of forest change. We are grateful for Bob’s immeasurable influence on the teaching and research laboratory we know today and wish him well in retirement.

View of the Hardwood Tower this summer after reconstruction.
For a half century, Mary and Judd Edeburn M.F’72 have worked, played, grown and dreamed in Duke Forest. They even built their home nearby. Now retired, they have more time to observe its ever-changing landscape and notice the increasing demands on it. The Edeburns love staying involved. Though they once circled the globe, they don’t travel extensively now because they find so many fascinating things to see and helpful things to do right outside their door.

Judd was the resource manager of Duke Forest for 36 years. He knows the more than 7,000 acres as well as anyone—flora and fauna, nook and cranny. When the forest staff has a question about a past project, they know they can call on Judd. Now as adjunct professor with the Nicholas School of the Environment, Judd has moved from managing to being a user of Duke’s oldest and largest classroom.

Through years of nature journaling and participating in the forest’s Volunteer Photography Program, Mary is in tune with Duke Forest’s subtle details: the patterns of a butterfly’s wing, the sheen of a bluebird’s feathers, the velvety feel of a sycamore leaf. She’s happiest when working with children to foster a love of nature and learning.

When the couple began work on their wills, making a lasting impact was important to them. Judd says, “Our thinking was, ‘Let’s make our donations while we’re here.’ Our thinking was, ‘Let’s do something that can help the forest continue its mission into the future.’” Inspired, Judd and Mary started a conversation with the Duke Forest director and others. The result is a bequest that will provide a resource the director can target to important but harder to fund areas. That type of gift shows a deep understanding of the value of adaptability in managing a living asset serving many constituencies.

“The forest is a resource that so many people have benefited from and continue to benefit from,” Judd says. “The scientific community, the many students who have gained experience on the Duke Forest, the public that’s gotten to use the forest.” They love that their bequest will likely benefit that broad spectrum of individuals and areas—a multiplier effect, as they see it. That and the flexibility of a planned gift made it very appealing. The fact that the process was easy and no-pressure made a difference too.

“We wanted to plant a seed,” Mary says. “The challenge we had was that we’re people of relatively ordinary means. We thought, ‘Given that, how can we have an impact?’ When you look at the Forest, the bang for the buck is huge.”

### The Edeburns Make Enduring Gift

**BY GREG JENKINS**

Since we launched the Friends of Duke Forest program with our last edition of the LOG, donor support has helped make crucial connections between our mission and important but unbudgeted projects.

The NC Museum of Natural Sciences brought to our attention a collection of amphibian and reptile (aka herpetofauna) records collected between the 1960s and 1980s by Duke Zoology professor Dr. Joseph Bailey. This collection consisted of over 1,200 records handwritten on 3x5 note cards. For our ongoing Herpetofauna of the Duke Forest citizen science program—which we plan to resume in 2022—the Bailey collection offered opportunity to provide a more complete history of herps in the Duke Forest. With the help of donors, many of whom fondly remember Dr. Bailey, we supported the museum in directing 300 hours of staff time to georeferencing and digitizing this data. This information is now available for investigation by researchers, conservationists, and land managers.

Dr. Bailey was the curator of Duke’s vertebrate collection and a preeminent scholar of snake classification, among other amazing accolades. Because of this project, we are pleased to have met many new friends, including his children, and to have ensured that Dr. Bailey’s valuable legacy of research on the Duke Forest continues.

#### Donors Support Research Projects Old and New

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### Become a Friend of the Duke Forest!

In honor of our 90th anniversary, we have created an opportunity for a greater connection with the Duke Forest through our friends program. Become a Friend of the Duke Forest to show your dedication and appreciation for this invaluable, irreplaceable resource by donating $50 or more. You will receive a Friends of the Duke Forest car sticker and invitations to register early for tours and other activities (in-person, when it is safe to do so again).

**Visit:** [dukeforest.duke.edu/friends](http://dukeforest.duke.edu/friends)

**Friends of the Duke Forest**
A Moment 90 Years in the Making

In a time characterized by escalating environmental and social crises and when technology entices our attention away from the natural world, it has never been more important to have an entire land base intentionally set aside for deep inquiry and exploration.

Since 1931, the Duke Forest as a living laboratory and outdoor classroom has been an essential destination for discovery for students and researchers here at Duke and from around the world.

Its storied gifts are many. Hundreds of long-term research plots offer data more valuable with each passing year. Legacy experiments continue to provide foundations for today’s critical research needs. Leading scientists in water resources, forest ecology, and electrical engineering—to name only a few disciplines—are generating insights from the forest that address pressing problems.

With incredible forethought, Clarence F. Korstian, the first director of the Duke Forest, set in motion a series of events that have made this dynamic forest an indispensable living record of how our world has changed in nine decades and an invaluable resource for answering questions about our future.

The Duke Forest is a perennially giving resource, and its many gifts are ours to steward. Join us in taking care of this treasured forest.

Make a gift today to show your family’s support in this milestone year. Together, we can ensure that even as we navigate the uncertainties of our modern world, the Duke Forest will remain a vibrant and rich resource for discovery, exploration, and engagement.

Free Commmemorative Gift with your Donation!

For a limited time when you make a donation, you can receive a free gift to commemorate your connection with the Duke Forest. With a donation of $200 or more, receive a vacuum-sealed water bottle with the Duke Forest’s 90th anniversary logo. With a donation of $150 or more, receive a copy of The Duke Forest at 75: A Resource for All Seasons, a beautiful book about the history of the Duke Forest by Ida Phillips Lynch. Please use the links at dukeforest.duke.edu/give.

Special Thank You

Patricia Bailey
Robert Bailey
Karl and Suzanne Bates
Ashley Craver and Howard Rice, Jr.
Gal Boyarsky and Walter Fowler
Ann Brooks
Richard and Elizabeth Bruce
Mary and Judson Edeburn
Jeffrey and Stacy Glass
Richard and Linda Heintzelman
Nadeem Ur Rahman
Tim and Lori Rowe
Toney Lumber Company, Inc.
Lindsay White
All the Friends of Duke Forest
We have been celebrating the Duke Forest’s 90th anniversary through our e-newsletter, social media, and with the help of our communication friends at the Nicholas School of the Environment and Duke University. Although we would have enjoyed hosting in-person events to gather the many people who love and have influenced the Duke Forest, we hope our virtual tributes have proved equally meaningful.


See these videos and more at: dukeforest.duke.edu/90th

1930s Many of the roads and bridges we use today were originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

1940s Director Clarence Korstian installed Permanent Sample Plots that formed the foundation of our long-term research.

1950s Duke’s School of Forestry grew to prominence as the first graduate school of Forestry in the South.

1960s The first major threat to the Duke Forest, the construction of a textile plant upstream on New Hope Creek, was avoided.

1970s Norm Christensen and Robert Peet’s new vegetation plots ushered in a new era of long-term research.

1980s The Forest housed the Southeast’s primary research site for a national acid rain study.

1990s Hurricane Fran left an indelible mark on the Forest that we still see today—25 years after the storm.

2000s The FACTS-1-FACE experiment on the effects of elevated CO2 was the largest and most well-funded experiment ever in DF.

2010s Influential findings emerged from dedicated researchers with long-term sites in the Duke Forest (pictured L>R: Steven Cummer, Emily Bernhardt, James Clark).

2020s The regional importance of the Duke Forest as an anchor for biodiversity and habitat connectivity grows stronger and yet more fragile.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

What will the next 90 years hold for this dynamic forest?
Limited Edition
90th Anniversary Merchandise

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Kyle Fox