

EVERGREEN



WORLD FORESTRY
CENTER MAGAZINE



2023 SUMMER ISSUE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Expanding Horizons through Art and Community-Driven Programs



Joseph A. Furia
Executive Director,
World Forestry Center

Support World Forestry Center by donating at worldforestry.org.

At the heart of World Forestry Center's work is the idea that creating a more sustainable forestry future is about motivating people to engage in the forestry conversation. Lots of people.

For too long, too few people have felt connected to, and therefore been willing to take action for, forests. But, with your support, we are working hard to bring more folks into this conversation. Inside this edition of the *Evergreen*, you can read more about some of our current and upcoming programs focused on that goal:

- › **Page 3: Multi-Sector Fellowship Program** – Our cross-sector program is bringing ten emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds from ten sectors into the forestry conversation.
- › **Pages 4-5: Obscurity: Life Inside the Smoke** – An upcoming art exhibition explores wildfire smoke through new works by six Portland-area artists and invites new audiences to consider their relationship to smoke and fire.
- › **Page 6: Who Will Own the Forest?** – World Forestry Center's signature timberland investing event brings leaders in forestry, finance, wood products, and carbon to Portland to explore the current dynamics affecting the management of and investment in forests and how we can create a more sustainable forestry future.

But we cannot do this work alone. We rely on donations from our generous community of supporters (again, it is about people).

Make a gift today to support World Forestry Center's efforts. Together, we will expand our community and drive the actions necessary to create healthier forests, and, in turn, a healthier society.

With appreciation,

Joseph A. Furia
Executive Director

P.S. You can contribute by using the enclosed envelope or visiting worldforestry.org/donate.

NOTABLE & NEWSWORTHY

Fellowship Workshop Explores Wildfire and Social Change



This summer, our Fellowship cohort and Advisors joined us for a two-day, in-person workshop to learn about large and severe wildfires and their impacts on our forests and communities.

The first day focused on the current state of wildfire and featured presentations from program Advisors: **Paul Hessburg** (Senior Research Ecologist, US Forest Service), **Vivek Shandas** (Climate Change and Urban Environments Professor, Portland State University), and **Savannah D'Evelyn** (Bio-Social Scientist, University of Washington). The program was followed by a dinner in the Discovery Museum.

On the second day, the focus turned toward solutions and creating the public will to support them, with additional presentations by Advisors **Matt Donegan** (Forest, Wildfire, and Climate Executive), **Elizabeth Azzuz** (Director of the Family/Indigenous burning program, Cultural Fire Management Council), and **Dan Porter** (Forest Program Director, The Nature Conservancy). Fellows then participated in an exhibition-design activity led by experience design firm Upswell, and a social change ideation session led by **Emily Brew** (Co-founder & Chief Strategist, Perennial).

The two-day event concluded with Fellows sharing their reflections in small groups, setting the stage for them to apply their learnings and perspective perspective to wildfire issues impacting their own communities and business sectors. ❁



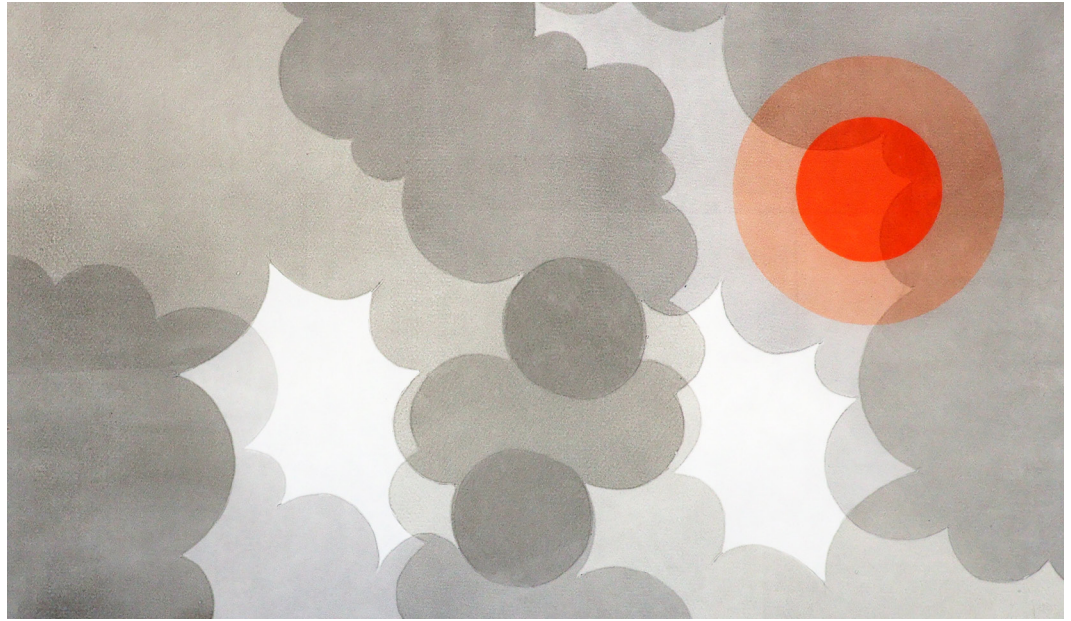
About the Fellowship Program

Generously supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, World Forestry Center's Fellowship Program brings together a ten-person, cross-sector cohort for a two-year fellowship focused on a critical issue impacting our forests and our communities. To learn more and meet the 2023-2024 Fellows, visit worldforestry.org/fellows.

FEATURED EXHIBITION

Obscurity: Life Inside the Smoke

Opening September 1, 2023



Presenting Sponsor

Turner

Supporting Sponsor

**Schwabe,
Williamson,
& Wyatt**

This fall, World Forestry Center premieres *Obscurity: Life Inside the Smoke*, an art exhibition exploring wildfire smoke through new works by six Portland-area artists.

As wildfires worsen, smoke permeates our lives and livelihoods, reminding us that we must find a new way to live with the forests that surround us. Through a dynamic mix of sculpture, printmaking, painting, and installation, these six artists reveal their unique perspectives and individual relationships with our new, smoke-filled reality.

“This show examines what we know, and think we know, about wildfire smoke,” said guest co-curator Roger Peet, “and how [that smoke] makes us feel about the world and each other.”

“We want to imagine how our relationship with smoke and fire might look in the future,” adds Erica Meryl Thomas, guest co-curator, “and how we can respond collectively to the presence of smoke in our lives and the fires that put it there.”

“Art has an extraordinary power to evoke emotions and promote dialogue,” said Tim Hecox, World Forestry Center Experience Director. “*Obscurity* will engage visitors who might not otherwise take an interest in wildfire smoke. We hope this exhibition brings about meaningful discussion and inspires action on behalf of our forests and our communities.”

For more information, please visit our website at worldforestry.org/obscurity. ❖

MEET THE ARTISTS



Amirah Chatman is a black, queer, interdisciplinary artist focused on fabricating abstractions of natural elements and weather phenomena. These works manifest as chalk pastel drawings, oil paintings, fiber sculptures, murals, and light installations. Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Chatman's inspiration often stems from the imagery that they were raised on: dazzling sunsets, powerful monsoons, and an abundance of stars.



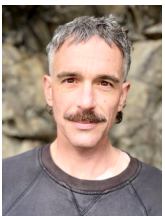
Santigie & Sapata Fofana-Dura are brothers, art partners, and collaborators. Santigie holds an MFA in Collaborative Design (2013) from the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Sapata has over 13 years of commercial and residential construction experience. The duo designs and builds architectural sculptures hinging around the concept of the "Shrine." They create their works using abandoned lumber and other discarded materials salvaged from around the Pacific Northwest.



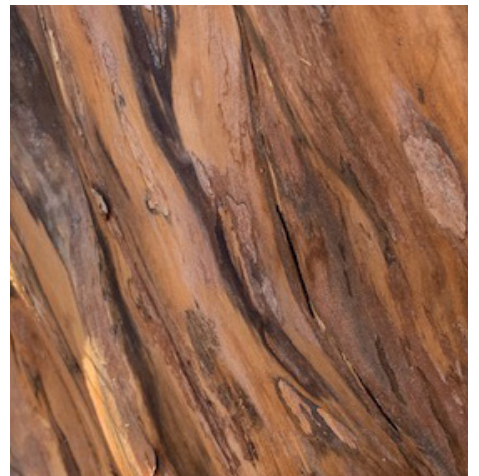
Roger Peet is an artist, printmaker, muralist, and writer. His work focuses on civilized bad ideas, predator-prey relationships, and the contemporary crises of biodiversity and capitalism and what can and can't be done about them. He is a founding member of the Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, a group of North American artists producing print art and graphic tools for social and environmental movements.



Erica Meryl Thomas is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and labor organizer. Her work explores the ways we relate our personal stories to social, political, and natural histories. She uses the art-making process as an opportunity to illuminate and celebrate both visible and invisible labor. In 2014, she received an MFA in Contemporary Art and Social Practice from Portland State University, where she now teaches interdisciplinary courses blending art, design, and social theory.



Alex Wiseman FKA Gary grew up in the forests, high deserts, and intertidal zones of the Pacific Northwest. Their work explores themes of integration, balance, patterns, and conditions of suffering that help or hinder our ability to connect with ourselves, other humans, our animal siblings, plant relatives, and the biosphere. In 2015, Alex began exploring wildfire ecology and the creative possibilities of charcoal collected from wildfire sites.



WHO WILL OWN THE FOREST

SEPTEMBER 26–28, 2023 | PORTLAND, OREGON

Discover the Future of Timberland Investment at Who Will Own the Forest?

As pressing environmental challenges drive increasing interest in sustainable investment, timberland continues to be a focal point for investors, land managers, carbon offset developers, advisors, and dealmakers.

Delve into the latest trends and explore the drivers and impacts of institutional timberland investing at Who Will Own the Forest? — World Forestry Center’s signature Timberland Investment conference. This two-and-a-half-day event promises an unparalleled opportunity for learning, networking, and fostering collaboration. ✨

JOIN US IN PORTLAND

Unraveling the Forest Investment Landscape

The conference will kick off with an evening reception on September 26, followed by a series of engaging sessions on September 27 and 28. From a keynote address on the evolving timberland market to discussions on family office perspectives, carbon markets, and climate risk analysis, the conference offers a comprehensive look into the intricacies of timberland investment.

A Wealth of Learning and Networking Opportunities

Who Will Own the Forest? prides itself on providing valuable educational and network-building experiences for professionals from various backgrounds. Attendees can earn continuing education credits for appraisers, attorneys, foresters, and CPAs, making this an ideal platform to enhance professional growth.

Join Us in Portland in September

Whether you are an investor, landowner, asset manager, forest industry executive, or a professional involved in carbon offset development, Who Will Own the Forest? is the place to be this September. The conference offers an exceptional platform to stay ahead of industry trends, forge valuable connections, and gain timely insights from industry leaders.

To register and learn more, visit worldforestry.org/wwotf

UPCOMING EVENT

Free Sundays Return to the Discovery Museum



Thanks to a generous grant from the Juan Young Trust, World Forestry Center is renewing our Free Sunday program. This year, we're offering free admission to our Discovery Museum every Sunday from November 5 through December 17, 2023.

“Our Discovery Museum has always been at the heart of our public work,” said Executive Director, Joe Furia. “We’re thrilled to welcome first-time visitors and long-time patrons to explore the museum free of charge.”

Located in Portland’s forested Washington Park just steps from the MAX Light Rail, World Forestry Center’s Discovery Museum invites visitors to examine forests and consider all the ways they impact our lives. The dramatic 20,000-square-foot wooden building is filled with new exhibits and familiar favorites that explore people’s relationship to the woods.

“We are so grateful to the Juan Young Trust for renewing their support of this program,” said Merrit Thompson, World Forestry Center Development Director. “Inviting more people to connect with forests is central to our work. A program like Free Sundays makes that even more possible.”

Mark your calendars and spread the word! 🌲

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday, November 5
Sunday, November 12
Sunday, November 19
Sunday, November 26

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday, December 3
Sunday, December 10
Sunday, December 17

HOURS

11 – 4 PM

ADDRESS

4033 SW CANYON ROAD
PORTLAND, OR 97221

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Marks

We sat down with World Forestry Center's new Development Associate, Sarah Marks, and talked about our community of donors, the importance of fundraising, and moving to the Pacific Northwest.



Tell us a little bit about yourself?

"I grew up in Indiana and lived in the Midwest until I moved from Chicago to Portland with my husband in 2016. I've been working in fundraising since 2013, first at a nonprofit in Chicago and later at Pacific University in Oregon."

What do you do at World Forestry Center?

"As Development Associate, I work with our Development Director to share World Forestry Center's programs and mission with our donors and the wider community, to foster connections and engage support for our work."

What connects you to World Forestry Center's mission?

"As a transplant from the Midwest, one of the things that has stood out to me is the outsized role forests play in the Pacific Northwest. There is a strong emphasis on spending time in nature, coupled with the economic role that forests have played in the region's history. Forests also play a vital role in so many other facets of daily life, from housing to climate to health. I'm proud to play a small part in helping to champion sustainable forestry, creating healthier forests and a healthier society for future generations."

What's your favorite part of your job?

"I love using storytelling (in many different formats) to inspire people to support causes they care about. Whether it's an appeal letter

highlighting great programs, a thank you letter to a donor, an email sharing an opportunity to support the organization in a new way, or a story in the *Evergreen* magazine, communication is essential for bringing more people into the conversation about sustainable forestry. I love being able to connect with our community of supporters in a variety of ways. That's what fundraising is ultimately about — creating a community that cares through sharing stories that inspire generosity."

What's something people may not know about you?

"This is the second time that I have lived in Oregon. When I was six years old, I lived in Eugene for half a year while my dad was on sabbatical at the University of Oregon. The memories of all the trees, and how everything was *just so green*, were enough for me to agree to move to Portland sight unseen when my husband was offered a job out here."

Do you have a favorite "forest memory"?

"I am very excited to create new 'forest memories' with my son as he grows up. I cannot wait to take him hiking and camping, and really look forward to exploring the awe-inspiring scenery that the Pacific Northwest has to offer." 🌿

