Laura M. Marx

lmarx@tnc.org

Education

PhD Forestry / Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior 2005
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

BA Biology 2000
Kenyon College, Gambier, OH

Employment

Climate Solutions Scientist Jan 2022 to present
Forest Ecologist Oct 2007 – Dec 2021
Landowner Outreach Coordinator Apr 2006 - Oct 2007
The Nature Conservancy - Massachusetts Chapter

- Reduce and/or remove carbon pollution by avoiding loss of, and better managing and restoring, forests and other land types. Work directly with landowners, partner NGOs, and agencies, design and carry out GIS and field research projects, translate and communicate scientific research to influence policymakers and other decisionmakers, and lead a team of staff within MA and across the Appalachians to achieve this goal.

Coda Fellow, The Nature Conservancy - Dominican Republic Aug 2022 -- Jul 2024

- Contributed 20% of my time for two years as a science advisor and project manager for a carbon benefits study of agroforestry in the Dominican Republic

Visiting Lecturer, Conway School of Landscape Design Jan 2019 – Mar 2020

- Taught 2 winter term Ecology courses to masters' students including regional conservation planning, forests and climate, and ecological datasets

Acting Co-Director, Forest Health Protection Program Oct 2010 - Feb 2011
The Nature Conservancy - North America Region

- Directed TNC's efforts to reduce the introduction and impact of invasive forest pests and pathogens. Supervised three staff and managed $1.5 million program budget.

Visiting Lecturer, Westfield State University Sep 2006-Dec 2008

- Taught section of Environmental Biology lab and advised students on independent research projects.

Supervisory Experience

2006-present Directly supervise one TNC staff member (beginning in 2024). Hire and formally mentor various TNC staff. Supervise a range of "matrix teams" of TNC staff on specific time-bound and continuing projects. Hire and supervise contractors.
2001-4 Funded, hired, and supervised seasonal research assistants.

Fundraising Impact (Total 2006-present: >$6,000,000)

Private: Assist in obtaining private grants from small private foundations such as Jane's Trust, the Hughes Foundation, and the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust.

Lead author on successful grant applications to the US Climate Alliance and NCS Accelerator (both Doris Duke Charitable Foundation), and to the Amazon Right Now Climate Fund (~$2 million) and TNC One Conservancy Science Catalyst Fund. Assist TNC Development staff in crafting and making successful asks of numerous major (>$150K) donors.

Public: Lead on crafting MA state bond and legislative language that have directed over $2 million in state funding to forest natural climate solutions in Massachusetts (with a much larger indirect impact). Successfully competed for two USFS grants ($300K).

Selected Publications

Grey literature includes: Avoided deforestation: A climate mitigation opportunity in New England and New York (2021), Forests fight climate change infographic (2019), blue carbon and forest carbon factsheets for Massachusetts (2015-6), Berkshire Wildlife Linkage online map (2014, 2024), and many others.

Cudemus, L. García, C., and Marx, L. 2024. Impact of shadegrown coffee and cocoa agroforestry in the watersheds of the Dominican Republic: A study by The Nature Conservancy's Natural Climate Solutions Prototyping Network. The Nature Conservancy. 35 p. https://tnc.box.com/s/bxf7zax0m8bqzi8mgacbmvsqm11si0w7

Marx, Laura; Zimmerman, Chris; Ontl, Todd; Janowiak, Maria. 2021. Healthy Forests for our future: a management guide to increase carbon storage in Northeast forests. Arlington, VA: The Nature Conservancy; Madison, WI: Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science. 40 p. https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/63533

Leavitt, S.M. et al. 2021. Natural Climate Solutions Handbook: A Technical Guide for Assessing Nature-Based Mitigation Opportunities in Countries.The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA, USA https://nature4climate.org/the-nature-conservancy-natural-climate-solutions-handbook/

Rafferty, A. and L. Marx. 2019. NAACC Stream Crossing Instruction Guide for Terrestrial Passage Assessments. North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), University of Massachusetts Amherst. June 3, 2019. 21 pp. https://streamcontinuity.org/assessments/terrestrial-connectivity

Marx, L.M. and M.B. Walters. 2008. Survival of tree seedlings on different species of decaying wood maintains tree distribution in Michigan hemlock-hardwood forests. Journal of Ecology, 96: 505-513.

Marx, L.M. and M.B. Walters. 2006. Effects of nitrogen supply and wood species on *Tsuga canadensis* and *Betula alleghaniensis* seedling growth on decaying wood. Canadian Journal of Forest Research, 36(11): 2873-2884.

Marx, L.M. 2005. Substrate limitations to *Tsuga canadensis* and *Betula alleghaniensis* seedling establishment. PhD Dissertation, Michigan State University. Online at www.lauramarx.com.