

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Forest History Society awards program enables the Society to recognize research and writing in forest and conservation history and to stimulate further research into our understanding of the relationships between people and forests. High standards for selection reflect equally upon the recipient and the Society. The following is a list of awards for 2015–16.

LEOPOLD-HIDY AWARD

The Aldo Leopold–Ralph W. Hidy Award honors the best article published in the journal *Environmental History* during the preceding year. The award is presented jointly by the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society. The 2015 winner was **Alan Mikhail** for “Ottoman Iceland: A Climate History,” 20(2) (April 2015): 262–84.

In “Ottoman Iceland,” Mikhail argues that a volcanic eruption and the resulting ash cloud in the North Atlantic resulted in distant and discernible effects on riverine flow of the Nile, and animals and people in Egypt. The author combines both physical and political sources across a large region, linking different scales of environmental process and social experience. Judges thought his essay demonstrated a first-class historical imagination, clarity of thought, deft use of illustration, convincing arguments, and the ability to orchestrate multiple factors at multiple scales without losing the thread of the argument.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN AWARD

The Theodore C. Blegen Award recognizes the best scholarly article in the field of forest and conservation history that is not published in *Environmental History*. This year the award went to **Erik Loomis** for “When Loggers Were Green: Lumber, Labor, and Conservation, 1937–1948,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 46 (Winter 2015): 421–41.

From 1937 to 1948, the International Woodworkers of America challenged the timber industry’s forestry practices, attempting to reshape the Northwest’s timber industry to work for the sustainability of logging communities and the

forest instead of corporate profits. Their activities demonstrate the long history of unions pressing for the environmental agenda of their members.

JOHN M. COLLIER AWARD FOR FOREST HISTORY JOURNALISM

The John M. Collier Award is given annually to a journalist to foster the best journalism in forest and conservation history. The 2016 Collier Award prize was given to **Phil McKenna**, a freelance journalist focusing on energy and the environment.

His piece was copublished as “Life in the Death Zone” at *NOVA Next* and as “The Boys Who Loved Birds” at *The Big Roundtable* in February 2015. McKenna’s article tells the epic story of two nature-loving friends on opposite sides of the Iron Curtain between West and East Germany, and the ongoing transformation of the Iron Curtain’s “death zone” into a European Green Belt.

F. K. WEYERHAEUSER FOREST HISTORY FELLOWSHIP

The F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship is awarded annually to a student at the FHS university affiliate, Duke University, whose research is historical in nature and related to forestry, land use, or the environment. The award for the 2016–17 school year was given to **David Grace**. His project is entitled “The Sacred Groves of India’s Independence: Revisiting Tradition with Forest Conservation in India’s National Capital Region, 1864–2016.”

WALTER S. ROSENBERY FELLOWSHIP IN FOREST AND CONSERVATION HISTORY

The Walter S. Rosenberry Fellowship provides a stipend to support the doctoral research of a graduate student attending a university in North America whose research contributes to forest and conservation history. The 2016 fellowship was awarded to **Nickolas Perrone**. His dissertation, “Hemlock Democracy: Nature and Capitalism in the Leather Industry, 1812–1911,” focuses on leather tanning during the nineteenth century and how this industry affected the eastern hemlock forests.

This project will draw together business and economic history with environmental and forest history in important and valuable ways.

FHS FELLOW AWARD

The Forest History Society bestows the honorary title of Fellow of the Forest History Society on persons who have provided many years of outstanding leadership and service to the Society or many years of outstanding sustained contributions to the research, writing, or teaching of forest, conservation, or environmental history. This honor is the Society’s highest award and is only given occasionally. **Robert J. Olszewski**, the vice president of environmental affairs at Plum Creek Timber Company from 2001 to 2015, was posthumously awarded the honor in 2016. Rob joined the Forest History Society board of directors in 2011 and served on the Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee and as chair of the Nominating Committee. He was a fervent supporter of forest history and used a historical context effectively in his hundreds of educational presentations with forestry associations, landowner groups, and many others.

ALFRED BELL TRAVEL GRANTS AND VISITORS

William Bryan, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at The Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University, used a Bell Travel Grant to conduct research on a book manuscript entitled “Nature and the New South: Promoting ‘Permanent’ Uses of Resources in a Developing Region, 1865–1930.” It traces how business leaders worked to address resource depletion in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries in ways that presaged strategies of sustainable development that emerged decades later. It also reframes the history of the post–Civil War South by showing how conflicts over natural resources shaped Southern economic development.

April Merleaux, a history professor at Florida International University, received a Bell grant to examine files from the U.S. Forest Service Headquarters History Collection and the Western Timber Asso-

ciation Records. She is conducting research for a new project examining the environmental history of the “War on Drugs” in the United States and abroad.

Jon Hazlett, a PhD candidate at Case Western Reserve University, used a Bell grant to examine conservation efforts within the lumber and paper industry and how they influenced early recycling movements. Jon spent significant time with the collections of the American Forest Institute and the National Forest Products Association in an effort to gain a broader understanding of how the lumber and paper industry adapted to and influenced changing ideas of environmental stewardship in postwar America.

David Benac, an associate professor of history at Western Michigan University, received a Bell grant to spend a week at FHS. David works in both the public and environmental history fields. He conducted research for his manuscript, “Town for Sale: Oregon’s Timber Industry Heritage.” In his application, David wrote, “I have four primary objectives to pursue at the archives. The most pressing is to gather information on representations of timber heritage by corporate entities, unions, and social organizations in advertising/publicity, art, music, folklore, and festivals. My secondary topic is to gather information regarding the thirteen communities that serve as my case studies. The third item on my agenda is to gather specific records on the tree farm movement. Finally, I hope to acquire additional records to develop the national context of the company-owned sawmill town.”

Jameson Karns, a doctoral student at the University of California-Berkeley in the History of Science Program, used a Bell grant to examine the notebooks and photographs of Harold Weaver, an American forester best known for his mid-twentieth-century work on prescribed burning and a pioneer in the fire science field. Weaver’s papers provided Jameson with an opportunity to place him in the fire science historiography. This research will also be shared with several environmental scientists, foresters, and fire scientists, who will apply the findings to current and ongoing studies.

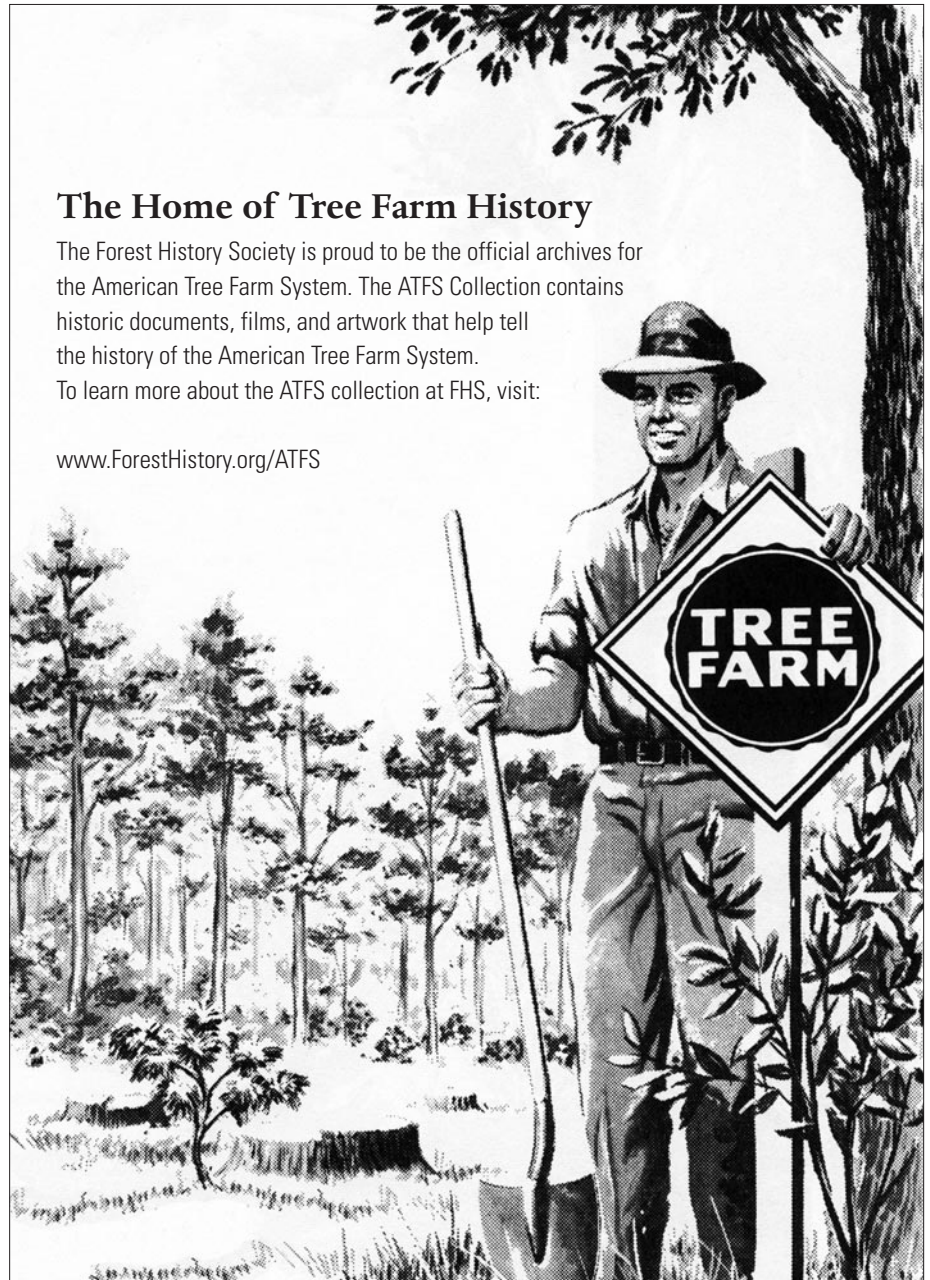
The Forest History Society cohosted **Dr. Li Li**, an associate professor at Beijing Forestry University. She spent a year in Durham exploring methods and approaches in forest history. Dan Richter, professor of soils and forest ecology at the Nicholas

School of the Environment at Duke University, cohosted during her tenure.

Rob Newman, a PhD student and assistant lecturer at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, visited FHS while on a research trip to the United States. Rob’s dissertation, “British Empire Forestry and the First World War,” in part looks at how the American army’s Forestry Engineers working in France interacted with the Canadian, British, and multinational forces. His research also addresses the forestry situation in France and the wider world before, during, and after World War I. While at FHS he spent time looking at the American Forestry Association records, the

National Forest Products Association records, the Greeley Family papers, various oral histories, and other materials from the library and archive collections.

Alex Poole conducted research here for a biography of historian and archivist Harold T. Pinkett. Alex earned a PhD at the UNC School of Information and Library Science in 2015. While at FHS, he looked at FHS organization papers and other materials and spoke extensively with archivist Eben Lehman and librarian Jason Howard about Pinkett and his work with FHS. Pinkett was an important figure in the field of forest history as well as within our own organization. □



The Home of Tree Farm History

The Forest History Society is proud to be the official archives for the American Tree Farm System. The ATFS Collection contains historic documents, films, and artwork that help tell the history of the American Tree Farm System.

To learn more about the ATFS collection at FHS, visit:

www.ForestHistory.org/ATFS

THE FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY www.ForestHistory.org/ATFS