

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Now We Begin*

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STEVEN ANDERSON

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By the time this issue is published, the staff of the Forest History Society will have finished moving into our new library, archives, and headquarters. Our relocation marks the accomplishment of the Society's highest strategic priority as set by its board of directors in 2010. It is the result of excellent dynamics and collaboration between staff, the board, and our fundraising advisers, moss+ross, LLC, which helped keep us on point and avoid the pitfalls of many capital campaigns.

The building itself is a beautiful and inviting structure. Our site planner, Coulter, Jewell, Thames, Inc., and our architect, DTW Architects & Planners, Inc., began assisting us as soon as we started to evaluate options for new space. C. T. Wilson Construction Company was exemplary at all stages of work and was careful of our new neighbors during the construction process. These partners also helped us secure more than \$300,000 in donated building materials from the forest industry and arranged for them to be delivered to the site in a timely fashion, a significant accomplishment in itself.

We will celebrate the Society's new facility on May 3, 2019, with a grand opening: a tour, ribbon cutting, and reception. Credit for the new building belongs to all of our donors, friends, members, leaders, staff, and those who came before us: their efforts put the Society in a position to envision and pursue such a consequential goal.

During the next year and beyond, we will begin a push to recognize our many donors of financial gifts and building materials. Special thanks go to our Campaign Cabinet, a steady and evolving group of board members who helped lead the way, including Hayes Brown, Doug Decker, Kent Gilges, Peter Madden, Scott McCampbell, Rob Olszewski, Peter Stein, Rick Titcomb, Larry Tombaugh, and Chris Zinkhan, and co-chairs L. Michael Kelly and Ned Phares. Charley Tarver and Mark Wilde served as honorary chairs of the campaign.

The upcoming celebration will commemorate the completion of this foundation for the Society's programs, yet this end is also a beginning. The building process has helped us see new opportunities and renewed our commitment to further the preservation and use of forest history. Like other milestones in the Society's history, it has strengthened our relationships and reminded us not to be content with having realized our intention.



In our new building, we can begin afresh to collect, preserve, and share forest history. The Society is now reviewing our strategic initiatives to ensure that our programs take full advantage of the new space. We will seek input from leaders, staff, and members, as well as those outside the organization, to determine the highest priorities for future efforts and strengthen our ability to accomplish them.

One immediate priority will be to help companies, organizations, and individuals make maximum use of the expanded space in the Alvin J. Huss Archives, one of the main reasons for the new building. The new building has about 7,500 linear feet—almost one-and-a-half miles of archival storage—half of which is open for new records. The Society

can now take on collections of almost any magnitude, and our intention is to make this known and save more forest history. The first collection received in the new building was a group of records of the Oregon-American Lumber Company. Operating from 1922 to 1957, the company is a prime example of the history of lumbering in the region. Thanks to Ed Kamholz and Doug Decker for being forest history heroes by making sure these important documents reached a safe repository. I invite you to contact us if you know of a collection of records, large or small, that is at risk.

Other priorities may include live-streaming events from the Lynn W. Day Education Center, engaging the local community in new Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Library and meeting spaces, expanding our oral history program, accelerating the digitization of Forest History Society collections, strengthening our digital archiving capability, adding to our growing presentation of physical and digital exhibits, and exploring innovative and strategic collaborations. If you have ideas, don't wait to be asked. Please send them along. Although our physical address has changed (to 2925 Academy Road, Durham, NC 27705), our email addresses and phone numbers remain the same.

The future is bright for the Forest History Society. We are in an enviable position in relation to many nonprofits. We have a 73-year history of strong programming to achieve our mission, we own our own facilities, we have an endowment, and our knowledgeable staff members love nothing more than to help people find the information they need. With your renewed and energetic support, current and future generations will benefit from the history we save today. Thanks for sharing the journey. □