FHS Awards and Fellowships

Forest History Society awards and fellowships are fully supported by endowment. The awards program enables the Society to recognize research and writing. High standards for selection reflect equally upon the recipient and the Society. This is a list of the awards for 1995.


Stephen J. Pyne of the University of Arizona West received the Theodore C. Blegen Award for best article in a journal other than Forest & Conservation History for “Nataraja: India’s Cycle of Fire,” Environmental History Review 18 (Fall 1994): 1–20.

Gordon G. Whitney, who is associated with Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, received the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award for the best book on forest and conservation history. Whitney wrote From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain: A History of Environmental Change in Temperate North America From 1500 to the Present (Cambridge University Press, 1994).


The Society awarded the F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship to Susan L. Yarnell of Duke University in support of her doctoral dissertation, an environmental history of Native American, African, and European land use during the late-colonial and early-antebellum periods on the Carolina coastal plain.

Alfred D. Bell, Jr., Travel Grants are awarded to enable researchers to use the FHS library. Bell Fellows for 1995 included:

- Margaret Lynn Brown, a graduate student at the University of Kentucky, gathered information from the company and oral history files for her dissertation on the environmental history of the Great Smoky Mountains.
- Robert E. McFarland, a doctoral candidate at the University of Alabama, worked on his dissertation on the environmental history of the Tennessee Valley. He was interested in the role of the state as a mediator between socioeconomic forces and nature. Several of the library’s files provided evidence of the various uses made of the region’s natural resources and residents’ attitudes toward their environment.
- Louis Silveri, a professor of American History at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, is writing a biography of Alabama’s former U.S. Congressman Carl Elliott, who was active in forestry issues in the 1950s and early-1960s. Mr. Silveri used the collections of the American Forestry Association, National Forest Products Association, and Society of American Foresters to place the work of Elliott in a national context. As an oral historian, Silveri was also very interested in the FHS oral histories dealing with the southern Appalachians.
- Michael David Tegeder, a doctoral candidate at the University of Florida, Gainesville, examined labor relations and work culture in the southern timber and naval stores industries between 1900 and 1940. Tegeder found the oral history collection very useful for filling in important gaps in the understanding of work life in those industries. A period study of American Lumberman and Southern Lumberman magazines also uncovered commonly held attitudes.
- Mark Dailey, a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Georgia, Athens, looked at human-forest interactions on the northern Allegheny Plateau area of northern West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. He is interested in identifying those historical cognitive patterns and processes among regional inhabitants as they affect, and are affected by, changing forest ecosystem. The U.S. Forest Service newspaper clipping file provided good evidence of contemporary public attitudes during the late-1800s and early-1900s.