This year, Scott McCampbell completed a successful year as Chairman and handed the reins over to me. Scott is completing two three-year terms on the Board, and I congratulate him for this dedicated service to the Forest History Society. While a relative newcomer to the Board, I have been a supporter of FHS for many years, and I’m honored to be able to serve as Chairman. I’ve been a practicing forester for more than thirty years, and the study of forest history has been an important aspect of my career, paralleling my love of history since childhood. I relish the opportunity to help lead this important organization. A few of our numerous accomplishments in the past year are outlined below, and I believe 2011 and beyond hold great promise for FHS.

This past year the Board and staff revisited the Society’s long-range and strategic plans and reconfirmed the Society’s core function as a library and archive with the primary mission to preserve and help people use and understand the lessons of forest history. Publication of a variety of materials will continue to be essential for the Society to accomplish its mission. The Environmental History journal has entered a new era in partnership with the Oxford University Press, and our Issues Series books and Forest History Today magazine will be expanded pending funding.

Our most immediate challenge is space, and the Board of Directors will be increasingly focused on our ability to accept and preserve valuable collections into the future. FHS moved to Durham, North Carolina, in 1984, purchased a small building, and raised funds for an extension for its headquarters. The staff has done its job well to fill it up with rich materials, and we are now bulging at the seams. In addition, better facilities are needed to accommodate the constant stream of researchers that visit the collections each year. You will soon hear more about our spatial needs and future plans to address them from President Steve Anderson.

Among our accomplishments, many collections were accepted this year, including the historic documents of the American Tree Farm System. We also published a revision to the America’s Fires Issues Series book and distributed it widely among the forestry and NGO communities. More recently, we published Tongass Timber: A History of Logging and Timber Utilization in Southeast Alaska. This book is now being carried in many venues in Alaska and is being distributed to public and school libraries in the state.

Following a year-long effort, we recently finalized an agreement with the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) and Natural Resources Canada-Canadian Forest Service (NRCan-CFS) to advance forest history in Canada. FHS staff will work with counterparts in Canada to help repositories seek and accept valuable collections that deserve to be preserved. Central to this effort will be the Society’s Guide to Environmental History Archival Collections, a multi-decade effort that has identified more than 7,000 collections in North America and around the world. As a result of this focused discussion, NRCan-CFS has provided $55,000 for provincial forest history groups and the Canadian Institute of Forestry to advance forest history.

Next year is the Society’s 65th anniversary, and I encourage each of you to join with me in 2011 to consider how forestry and forest history have contributed to our personal and professional lives. I then ask that you renew your support and encourage others to join with us in the important mission of preserving forest history. Your support is vital, and I—and the whole Board—sincerely thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Forest History Society.