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. Awards and fellowships are fully supported by endowment. Following is a list of awards for 2010.

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, and is judged by the editorial board of the journal. The 2010 recipient is Emily T. Yeh for the essay, “From Wasteland to Wetland: Nature and Nation in China’s Tibet,” which appeared in the January 2009 issue. Her essay focuses on Lhasa’s Lhalu wetlands and explores the competing ecological national narratives of the Chinese state and Tibetan exiles regarding this region. She approaches the topic from the unique perspective of the conflict that has raged since the 1950s over the Lhalu wetland of western Tibet. Editorial board members’ comments included high praise for her “innovative research methods and deft analysis” and calling her work a “tour-de-force of subtle, exacting, and methodologically sophisticated historical writing.” One noted: “This article is a brilliant examination of the social construction of nature and its deployment in the service of political goals.”

THEODORE C. BLEGEN AWARD
The Theodore C. Blegen Award recognizes the best article in the field of forest and conservation history that is not published in Environmental History. Articles are submitted by editors of scholarly journals and a panel of judges selects the winner based on contribution to knowledge, strength of scholarship, and clarity and grace of presentation. It is awarded this year to Drew Addison Swanson for “Fighting over Fencing: Agricultural Reform and Antebellum Efforts to Close the Virginia Open Range,” published in Virginia Magazine of History and Biography Vol. 117, No. 2: 102–139. Swanson dives directly into the debate over fencing in rural Virginia and revisits the literature by offering a compelling reinterpretation of the drive for enclosure in the antebellum South. A well-argued, well-written, and well-researched piece in which Swanson demonstrates that there is significant evidence that the push to fence livestock was motivated as much, if not more, by concerns about productivity and fertility, than by class concerns.

CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER BOOK AWARD
The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award rewards superior scholarship in forest and conservation history. Awarded biennially prior to 2004, this annual award goes to an author who has exhibited fresh insight into a topic and whose narrative analysis is clear, inventive, and thought-provoking. The 2010 recipient is Karl Appuhn for A Forest by the Sea: Environmental Expertise in Renaissance Venice (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009). A richly textured case study of Renaissance Venice shows how experts, motivated by a sense of civic duty, came to manage the maritime republic’s forest resources to meet military and economic needs for a much longer period than scholars have assumed. Through a perceptive and creative reading of scarce primary sources, the author reconstructs the mental worlds of those who used and came to manage Venice’s timber resources and provides a nuanced description of the forest economy as it evolved over 350 years. In challenge to the argument that eighteenth-century Europeans replaced an organic view of nature with a more mechanized view of the natural world, Venice’s unique history suggests there is no single model for the rise of the nation-state in Europe. The research is deep, and the writing clear and concise.

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. Criteria include overall significance and quality of presentation. The 2010 F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellow is Gwendolyin Williams, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Biology, who is investigating “Pine to Oak: A Mycorrhizal Perspective on Old-field Succession.”

ALFRED BELL TRAVEL GRANTS
Alfred D. Bell Jr. travel grants are awarded to enable researchers to use the FHS library and archives. Recent Bell Fellows include:
- Nathan Roberts, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Washington in Seattle, looked at the relationship between the Philippine Bureau of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service and attitudes toward colonial forestry. He found the U.S. Forest Service clipping file, dating from the turn of the twentieth century, to be particularly useful, as were later oral history interviews with Forest Service employees.
- Kevin Brown used the FHS Library and Archives as part of his work on a doctoral dissertation in history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh entitled “The Nature of Lumber: Work, Culture, and Environment in Minnesota and Louisiana, 1865–1940.” He found an abundance of material regarding the migration of industry from North to South, as well as the impact on the people and land in both areas.
- Aaron Reynolds, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Texas, Austin, is looking at coerced workspaces in the Deep South from 1900 to 1965. His research at FHS involved learning more about the location and working conditions in turpentine camps, especially in Alabama. A number of oral history interviews and memoirs were especially useful in understanding the culture of the camps.
- Ellen Stroud, assistant professor of Urban Environmental Policy and Problems at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, visited FHS to work on her soon-to-be-published book on reforestation in New England. She found many
historic photos for the heavily illustrated work.

Brett Bennett, who completed his Ph.D. in forestry history this fall at the University of Texas, Austin, used the FHS Library and Archives to compare the development of forestry practices in the Pacific Northwest and the southeastern United States for a book he is writing on the global history of forestry. Beginning January 2011 he will be a lecturer in history at the University of Western Sydney and an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow for 2011–2014.

Dr. Fred Kruger, an expert on the science and management of forests and heathlands, especially those in South Africa and other Mediterranean climates, visited the FHS Library and Archives to study the intellectual connections between forest hydrologists around the world. He was especially interested in the scientific currents that took place in 1935 British Empire Forestry Conference that was held in South Africa.

OTHER RESEARCH VISITORS

Kristin Wintergreen, a graduate student in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, brought her small undergraduate environmental history class to FHS for a tour of the archives to see how the process works and specifically how it is used by environmental historians. In addition, a visiting researcher, Kevin Brown, talked to them about his research. Kristin copied archival materials that included photographs, cartoons, letters, magazine articles, and oral history interviews to give the students primary documents from which to prepare a narrative for their class assignment.

Paul Sisco of the American Chestnut Foundation researched the provenance of a photo of large chestnut trees that appeared in the Jan. 15, 1910, issue of American Lumberman magazine and has been published with differing captions over the years.

Eleven members of the Triangle Chapter of the Society of American Foresters had a tour of the FHS Library and Archives and were presented with an overview of the work of the Society.

Neil Prendergast is a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona, where he studies United States environmental and cultural history. His dissertation tells the story of how nineteenth-century Americans began celebrating family holidays, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, and how nature became important to those celebrations. At FHS he studied the history of the Christmas tree growing industry.

Gordon Stuart, a forest hydrologist from Maine, visited FHS to discuss the unpublished New Hampshire streamflow study that was used to justify the Weeks Act. He thought it might be of special interest as the centennial of the act is being celebrated during 2011.

Don C. Bragg, research forester at the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station in Monticello, Arkansas, stopped by FHS to look for documentation of the history of the Crossett Experimental Forest.

Jane Carruthers, a history professor from the University of South Africa in Pretoria, visited FHS to discuss continuing possibilities for collaboration on international environmental history topics.

Jared Farmer, a visiting scholar at the National Humanities Center, is working on a book, Trees in Paradise: A California History, that looks at redwood, eucalypts, oranges, and palms. He used several collections at FHS focusing especially on redwoods.

Russ and Kathy Graham visited in order to go through the U.S. Forest Service microfiche caption set looking for descriptions of photos of the Priest River Experimental Forest and the Kaniksu National Forest. He has gathered some images from the Regional Office in Missoula but wants as many choices as possible for the histories he is currently writing.

Victoria Klesmith, a graduate student in public history at North Carolina State University, was working on an assignment for a documentary editing class which consists of transcribing and annotating approximately 25–30 letters or diary pages. She selected the 1915 diary of forester Tom Gill as her project and will share the results with FHS for posting on the website.

Jack Patrick Hayes, a history professor at Norwich University in Vermont and incoming book review editor for Environmental History, made a brief visit to become better acquainted with the resources of the FHS Library and Archives and to discuss streamlining the book review process.

David Brownstein, an environmental historian from Vancouver, British Columbia, visited FHS to begin working on a project designed to preserve Canadian forest history in collaboration with the Network in Canadian History & Environment and the Canadian Forest Service.