

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Heroes of Forest and Conservation History

STEVEN ANDERSON

O kay. Who springs to mind when you think about the heroes of forest history? For me, it's Pinchot, Fernow, Schenck, Hough, MacMillan, Greeley, Mason, Leopold, and Carson, among others. Certainly they represent the builders of the professions of forestry and conservation in North America, if not their philosophical, even spiritual underpinnings. But I want to talk about another type of hero. It is time to recognize those who help preserve and care for the documents and associated materials of history.

Those heroes are our unsung volunteers, those who come to our offices and give of their time and energy to further the mission of the Forest History Society and to better themselves.

The Society gains immensely from the growing number of volunteers who help us make our rich library and archival materials available for public use. Part of their impetus for volunteering may be the experience they gain processing collections, the increased confidence and analytic skills developed at the Society, or the addition of an attractive qualification on future employment or university applications. But all show a keen desire to understand the workings of a library and archives and the value their projects hold for future researchers and generations. To us, they move mountains. And we are extremely grateful. So here is a list of the volunteers who have helped the Society during the past year. Let them represent the many volunteers who have helped us in the past and those who will in the future.

Lynn Brinkley is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a bachelor's degree in political science. Her interest in environmental policy led her to volunteer at FHS while she waits for admission to graduate school. She is organizing materials for the U.S. Forest Service Headquarters History collection.

Wes Collins spent several years in the retail music business before deciding in 2007 to become an audio archivist. He earned a master's in library science from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in December 2010. As an FHS volunteer, Wes has processed archival materials, adding to the Westvaco Company and North American Wholesale Lumber Association records, and has converted oral history interviews to usable formats for transcription.

Augusta Dell-Omo spent the summer between her junior and senior years of high school interning at FHS. She already had library experience and was willing to do anything that needed doing, including cataloging, reshelving, and adding citations to the Environmental History Bibliography. She is our youngest volunteer ever, and her enthusiasm for learning has been inspirational.

Nancy Nye has an MS in landscape history and garden restoration from the University of Connecticut but found herself



managing a research library for a biotech company in North Carolina. When the library closed, she came to FHS looking for a new experience while deciding what to tackle next. She has been researching and writing new web pages that document the increasingly important role of recreation on the national forests.

Jessica Parker completed an internship at FHS in fall 2011 as part of her master's program in the library school at NCCU. She was introduced to some of the processes involved in managing serials, books, and government documents in the library.

Desiree Peterson was looking for some practical experience while deciding whether to apply to library school. A photographer, it seemed natural for her to process a collection of photographs that had been recently donated. After beginning her volunteer work, she was accepted by the library school at NCCU and began classes in January.

Godha Raghavan has a master's in library science from Rutgers and worked as a professional reference librarian in New Jersey before moving to North Carolina. She is hoping to transition from public to academic libraries and wanted to see what that might involve. She has taken on many tasks in the library but has been most helpful in using her abilities in French to canvas journals and books for possible inclusion in the Environmental History Bibliography.

Marshall Strosio is just beginning his program in the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina and is interested in archives. He and classmate **Laura Vepraskas** are standardizing and converting the finding aid for our largest collection—the records of the Society of American Foresters—from a Word document to the standard Electronic Archival Description form.

Shaun Trujillo came to us in 2010 as a student intern from SILS and has just received his master's degree. He began by processing the John Fedkiw papers and the American Tree Farm System records. He has recently been hired part-time by FHS to head up development of a repeat photography portal on our website.

Camille Tyndall also came to FHS as a student intern from SILS. She has helped update our archives inventory and processed the papers of Gene Bernardi, a U.S. Forest Service employee in Region 5 (California).

Evan Watson has worked as an intern while completing a master's degree in information and library science at the University of North Carolina. He has identified relevant publications for inclusion in our Environmental History Bibliography and assisted with expanding and maintaining web pages.

Thanks again to our heroes. We hope that your experiences have been as valuable to you as your time and energy have been a benefit to the FHS staff. □