

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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. The following is a list of awards for 2013.

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 2013 recipient is **Cynthia Radding** for the article, “The Children of Mayahuel: Agaves, Human Cultures, and Desert Landscapes in Northern Mexico” (January 17:1, 84–115).

Radding brings together research in ethnobotany, ecology, and history to show the mutually reinforcing relations between humans and agaves. Its theoretical framework integrates three foundational concepts relating to the production of space, the evolution of life-forms, and the creation of desert landscapes. Centered on the relations between the agave family of plants and both indigenous and colonial populations in northern Mexico, this study challenges the conventional distinction between wild and cultivated plants and addresses different modes of cultural diffusion between Mesoamerica and the arid lands of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts. Its aim is to relate the botanical complexities of the Agaveae to the development of different systems of knowledge and cultural beliefs relating to the plant and to the historical communities that have intervened in its cultivation and distribution.

The members of the editorial board noted that Radding’s article is a masterful analysis that blends indigenous ecological knowledge with modern-day ecological and social theory to help us rethink several foundational categories in environmental history. But this is also a carefully researched article based on creative readings of primary and archival sources as

well as a rich array of secondary literature. Radding’s article underscores that the so-called “Columbian Exchange” was a far more complicated and nuanced process than we’ve originally believed. Finally, Radding does what environmental historians do best—tracing how the contingent material world and an evolving human world constantly entangle over time and space.

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. This year, the award went to **Richard Rajala** for “‘Streams Being Ruined from a Salmon Producing Standpoint’: Clearcutting, Fish Habitat, and Forest Regulation in British Columbia, 1900–45” published in the winter 2012/13 issue of *BC Studies: The British Columbian Quarterly* No. 176: 93–132.

This article provided detailed and insightful information into the competing interests of the forest and fishing industries in the early 1900s in British Columbia and the inability/paralysis of the governmental entities involved to resolve this problem. The author conducted careful documented research into the dynamics of this period and also provided background before 1900 and in recent times to help the reader understand the inherent conflict. The early discussions of “multiple use” and the failure of this concept to take hold were especially interesting.

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 2013 recipient is **James Morton Turner** for *The Promise of Wilderness: American Environmental Politics since 1964* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2012).

This book presents a new look at the role of wilderness in the American environmental movement, particularly in the ways that “old” ideas about wilderness continued to influence environmental politics after the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. It provides a much-needed survey of one of America’s longest-running environmental battles—the designation of wilderness areas on our nation’s public lands. Turner complements the recent scholarship on events leading up to the Wilderness Act by analyzing wilderness politics since that milestone, including useful treatments of the Sagebrush Rebellion and the spotted owl controversy. It makes a clear case that historiographical debates about the idea and reality of wilderness are far from dead; in fact, this book could likely revive the conversation about wilderness among American environmental historians.

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 2013 F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellowship was awarded to **Ansel Bubel**. Bubel, a master’s candidate at the Nicholas School of the Environment, submitted his research on “Restoring the Forests of Lewis and Clark.” Mr. Bubel’s research will create a forest management plan and a simulation model for forest restoration in the Sitka spruce forest of northwest Oregon. The project has broad application to forest restoration practices in the Pacific Northwest. His particular project is historically significant in seeking to restore a coastal Oregon landscape to the condition described by Lewis and Clark more than two hundred years ago.

Contemporary researchers note that restoration is frequently challenged by unclearly defined targets and inadequate long-term monitoring among many other factors. Yet, Bubel’s project is well posed and is in an excellent position to succeed. The goal is clear, and there exists strong infrastructure in place to monitor the

process and to continue the project over the years needed to reach its goal.

ALFRED BELL TRAVEL GRANTS AND VISITORS

Alfred D. Bell Jr. travel grants are awarded to enable researchers to use the FHS library and archives. Recent Bell Fellows include:

Dr. Jonathan Beever, a graduate student in philosophy at Purdue University, used FHS collections to explore cross-currents between environmental philosophy in Europe and America. While at FHS on a Bell Fellowship he looked for evidence of influences on American foresters, including Aldo Leopold, who traveled to Germany during the mid-1930s on trips sponsored by the Oberlaender Trust. He examined the papers of Clarence Forsling and Leon Kneipp as well as publications from the era.

Zachary Gardner, a doctoral candidate in history at Georgetown University, tried to discover what made working for the U.S. Forest Service so appealing to young men in the first decades of the twentieth century. He examined oral history transcripts, correspondence, and forestry school alumni publications.

Devon McCurdy, a PhD candidate in history at the University of Washington, explored tensions between rural and urban Portland, Oregon, during the 1980s and 90s with an emphasis on the forest products industry. He wanted to ascertain whether the balance of political power shifted during that time period and received a Bell Fellowship to use the records of the American Forest and Paper Association and the American Forest Council.

Dr. Char Miller, Director of Environmental Analysis Program and W. M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pomona College, visited FHS as part of research on a book-length history of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. He used the collections at FHS to learn more about early (pre-1960) conservation education efforts, especially by the U.S. Forest Service, and was pleased to find material on the Youth Conservation Corps.

Dr. Sarah Mittlefehldt, an assistant professor of Environmental Studies and Natural Resources Management at Green Mountain College in Vermont, received a Bell Fellowship to support a new project exploring the history of wood-to-energy initiatives in the late twentieth century as American forests became re-envisioned as a source of fuel and energy. The terms "biomass" and "bioenergy" may be new, but the

use of wood for fuel has a long history.

Jason Newton, a PhD candidate in history at Syracuse University, used oral histories and the Forests in Fiction collection to help him understand why loggers in the Northeast did not organize unions as often or as early as their counterparts in the far West and Lake States. The working title for his dissertation is "Forging Titans: Men and Myth in the Working Forests of America, 1850–1950."

Karen Bradshaw Schulz, a Koch-Searle Fellow at New York University School of Law in New York City, received a Bell Fellowship to explore the development of forest certification by the American Tree Farm System, one of the first examples of sustainability certification anywhere. This is part of her ongoing research in environmental law.

Other researchers who used the library and archives:

Dr. Brett Bennett, who is an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Western Sydney, spent about eight days at FHS completing the manuscript for his book on the global history of forestry. This is Dr. Bennett's third visit to FHS, a resource he finds to be unmatched anywhere in the world.

Willa Brown, a PhD candidate in history at the University of Virginia, spent a few days at FHS working on her dissertation. Part of her study involves lumberjacks in the Minnesota/Wisconsin/Michigan Northwoods in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and their lingering use as icons long after the hand-logging era had passed. She found the Forests in Fiction and oral history collections to be particularly helpful.

Kevin Burke, a PhD student in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, was beginning dissertation research on the political ecology of land use in the Research Triangle area of central North Carolina. His interest stems from viewing attempts to restore remnant tree species to their former status and what that tells us about constantly changing relationships between humans and nature.

FHS hosted a visit by six staff members of the Chapel Hill office of the **Conservation Fund**. The Conservation Fund is involved in forest management, agricultural land use change, fostering sustainable natural resource use, and preserving historic sites. Their staff member responsible for web site development found the historic photo collection to be impressive and

the person managing GIS projects was intrigued by some of our early maps.

Joann Cox, president of the Society of American Foresters, visited FHS to see for herself the records of the national SAF and to learn about needs for their care and improved access. FHS has served as the official archives of the SAF since 1965 and the collection has grown to be the largest in the Archives, filling 338 linear feet of shelves.

Dr. Russ Lea began his career as a professor of forestry, soil science, and ecology but moved fairly quickly into academic administration, serving as vice president for research at the University of North Carolina and associate vice chancellor for research at North Carolina State University. He is now CEO of NEON, Inc. a continental-scale ecological observation system for examining critical ecological issues. He visited FHS for a tour of historical resources and a discussion on ways that we might collaborate in the future.

Pam McElvey, an independent researcher from Oberlin, Ohio, is writing a biography of John Jay McKelvey, a lawyer in New York City who served for many years as the attorney for the National Wholesale Lumber Dealers Association (NWLDA). FHS is the official repository for the archives of NWLDA's successor the North American Wholesale Lumber Association and Pam found useful information in its records.

Dan Richter, professor in the School of the Environment at Duke University, brought his fire ecology class to visit as their last session of the semester. They got a brief introduction to the collections, received copies of FHS publications including the Issues Series booklet *America's Fires: A Historical Context for Policy and Practice* by Stephen J. Pyne, and viewed the FHS film *Up in Flames: A History of Fire Fighting in the Forest*. The film, produced in 1983, proved enlightening for the development of firefighting technology and the fact that so much has changed in regard to fire policy since its making.

Volney White is a U.S. Forest Service volunteer interpreter at the oldest USFS research facility in the country, Ft. Valley Experiment Station in Flagstaff, Arizona. During her visit to FHS, Volney used the collection of USFS Organizational Directories to locate listings for various station personnel throughout the twentieth century. She was also able to find a listing for her father Volney Marx Douglas, who worked in Region 3 during the 1930s. □