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 2014.

**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 Forest History Society and the American Society for Environmental History, and is judged by the editorial board of the journal. The 2014 recipient is Natalia Milanesio for the essay, “The Liberating Flame: Natural Gas Production in Peronist Argentina” (July 2013).

Milanesio’s article examines the dramatic rise in the production and use of natural gas during Juan Domingo Perón’s government (1946–1955), revealing how “the Peronist government transformed gas into a culturally meaningful object through a web of discourses and images that evoked representations of nature conquered, national prowess, and economic liberation.” Milanesio astutely and convincingly argues that the “cultural, social, and political meanings of gas production and consumption in Argentina not only provide an alternative narrative to stories of foreign extraction in the region but also blur the boundaries among nature, culture, and politics.” She suggests that the story is one “of accomplishment, an alternative case to common declensionist narratives about imperialist extraction and exploitation in the region.”

In praise of her article, one editorial board member called Milanesio’s work “innovative,” noting that it “points to new directions in the field.” Another remarked, “Not only does ‘The Liberating Flame’ tell a fascinating story about the importance of natural gas in Peronist Argentina, it provokes questions of wider relevance in environmental history.” Her article, while tightly focused in time and place, sweeps across the conceptual space of the research field, serving as a model for environmental historical research and analysis.

**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 was shared by Nancy J. Turner, Douglas Deur, and Dana Lepofsky for their article, “Plant Management Systems of British Columbia’s First Peoples,” published in *BC Studies: The British Columbian Quarterly* 179 (Autumn 2013): 107–133.

The article was considered an excellent, informative analysis about a timely forest landscape conservation and restoration issue, and how to use traditional ecological knowledge to inform management. In a culture radically different from our own, it shows how a combination of patient, systematic field biology and collaboration with First Nations people can reveal ways of living in and using biodiverse resources in sustainably productive ways. It is considered one of the finest in the *BC Studies* series of studies of First Nations peoples’ ecological knowledge systems.

**CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER BOOK AWARD**

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award rewards superior scholarship in forest and conservation history. 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 2014 recipient is Jared Farmer for *Trees in Paradise: A California History* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2013).

Farmer provides a sweeping history of California as told through its iconic trees: the native giant sequoia and redwood trees, and the nonnative palm, eucalyptus, and citrus trees. His history of the horticultural movement offers new ways to understand how conservationists saw connections between the native and nonnative, urban and rural, and private and public. The advancing and retreating fortunes of California’s iconic trees as part of the socio-economic-environmental history are a reminder, in Farmer’s telling, that landscape is astonishingly artificial. This superbly written book has the potential to alter people’s concepts of “natural.” With a masterful weaving of history and ecology, Farmer offers a significant addition to the literature reaching well beyond California, the American West, or even United States historiography.

**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 2014 F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellowship was awarded to Jonathon Free, a PhD candidate from Duke’s Department of History, for his research project entitled “Dark as a Dungeon: Coal, Community, and Risk in the 1970s.”

Free’s research explores changes in the American coal industry between the late 1960s and the early 1980s, when coal companies shifted from underground to surface mining, in large part to make mining safer. While new federal health and safety regulations made coal mining significantly less dangerous for coal miners, the movement towards surface mining posed a much greater threat to nearby ecosystems (including forests) and communities. What had once been a risky job became an even riskier industry, though the new risks were more diffuse and politically contentious than those of the earlier era.

This project will demonstrate how efforts by coalfield residents, policy makers, and industry leaders who attempted to confront the risks of underground mining contributed to the emergence of this new set of risks and examine how the new risks influenced the environment, politics, and the economy of the late-twentieth-century United States.
WALTER S. ROSENBERBY
FELLOWSHIP IN FOREST AND
CONSERVATION HISTORY

This fellowship will be offered for the first time in 2015. While the F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellowship is for the FHS affiliate university, the Rosenberry Fellowship will be a national-level award. Publicity for the first year is planned to include electronic newsletters from both the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society; announcements on the H-Environment network, which is part of H-NET, the Humanities & Social Sciences online initiative; and direct communications with programs in environmental history and forestry across North America.

ALFRED BELL TRAVEL GRANTS
AND VISITORS

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

Chris Eklund, a PhD candidate in history at Auburn University in Alabama, returned to FHS in September for a planned stay as an Alfred D. Bell Fellow. Chris initially had visited in July and did a preliminary survey of materials. His doctoral dissertation will explore the connections between private individuals, government entities, and nongovernmental organizations in the creation of parklands throughout the American South. He believes that more private individuals and local organizations were involved in the establishment of nature preserves and in creating spaces for recreation than have been previously recognized. Land acquisitions and transfers are a frequent topic in a number of FHS archival collections.

Allison Bryant, a student at Yale College, received a Bell grant to spend time at FHS. Her senior thesis will compare the public relations efforts of the early U.S. Forest Service with those of the National Park Service. She found the USFS newspaper clipping files particularly helpful for evidence of the agency’s early attempts to educate the public about its mission. She was surprised to find how accurately some works of fiction in the Forests in Fiction Collection reflected the attitudes encountered by early forest rangers in the West.

A senior at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Jordan Naftalis conducted research for an honors history thesis, which will examine the foundations of American forestry. She was particularly interested in the contributions of the forestry work done at private institutions such as the Biltmore Estate to the development of a national concern and federal commitment to forest conservation in the early twentieth century.

Rob Shapard, a PhD candidate in U.S. history at the University of North Carolina, discussed with staff a chapter in his dissertation that deals with the creation of the Chocotawhatchee National Forest in Florida’s Panhandle in 1908. (The national forest was transferred to the War Department in 1940 and no longer exists.) The dissertation focuses on how different groups of people perceived and reacted to the decline of longleaf in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

Michelle Steen-Adams, an associate professor with the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of New England and an FHS board member, utilized our archives to look at the papers of Harold Weaver, a forester for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the 1940s and 50s, as part of a project on wildland fire in the Pacific Northwest. FHS has copies of a number of the reports he did on fire ecology research on various Indian reservations in Washington and Oregon. The reports use his high-quality photographs as documentation.

The Home of Tree Farm History

The Forest History Society is proud to be the official archives for the American Tree Farm System. The ATFS Collection contains historic documents, films, and artwork that help tell the history of the American Tree Farm System.
To learn more about the ATFS collection at FHS, visit:

www.ForestHistory.org/ATFS

THE FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY

www.ForestHistory.org/ATFS