

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. The following is a list of awards for 2014–15.

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. The 2015 recipient is **Faisal Husain**, a PhD candidate at Georgetown University, for his article, “In the Bellies of the Marshes: Water and Power in the Countryside of Ottoman Baghdad,” Vol. 19, no. 3 (October 2014): 638–64.

In this deeply researched study, Mr. Husain examines Ottoman attempts to dominate people by exerting power over nature. He takes us into the marshy world of the Khazil, a tribe that had long been a thorn in the Ottoman side. After failed efforts to bring the Khazil into the fold by traditional means, Ottoman authorities in Baghdad implemented extensive dam and canal projects aimed at draining the wetlands that gave the Khazil security and sustenance. What began as a military expedient, however, had longer-term political and religious repercussions; as Husain deftly shows, draining the marshes not only transformed them from places reflective of Khazil culture, it opened the way for the region to become deeply and strongly associated with Shi’a Islam, a greater challenge to the Ottomans in later years.

One editorial board member called Husain’s article “noteworthy” because “it shows not only how imperial powers—the Ottomans in this case—attempted to use the landscape as a means of warfare, but how this strategy led to an unexpected yet transcendent consequence—namely, the rise of Shi’ism in Iraq. [He uses] environmental history to link the local with the

global in a way that attends to geopolitics as well as to village-level uses of the land.” Other judges cited his thorough research, temporal sweep, innovative and convincing arguments, and remarkable fluidity in writing.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN AWARD

The Theodore C. Blegen Award recognizes the best scholarly article in the field of forest and conservation history that is not published in *Environmental History*. This year the award goes to **Jack Reid** for his article, “The ‘Great Migration’ in Northern Arizona: Southern Blacks Move to Flagstaff, 1940–1960,” published in the winter 2014 issue of *The Journal of Arizona History*, Vol. 55, No. 4: 469–98.

Based on the Northern Arizona’s library’s oral history collection, this article captures the mostly untold story of the forestry-related African American migration out of the south in the 1940s and 1950s. With work experience in the lumber industry, the first migrants set out on a journey to Arizona in hopes of better pay and less discrimination. Due to declining lumber quality and quantity in the south, more would follow. Details on the work opportunities and social consequences are well documented and shed light on this minority group within the forestry workforce.

JOHN M. COLLIER AWARD FOR FOREST HISTORY JOURNALISM

The John M. Collier Award encourages excellence in journalism that treats forest and conservation history. This year’s prize goes to **Michael Gaige** for his article “Wolf Trees: Elders of the Eastern Forest” published in *American Forests*, Fall 2014 (120:3). He is a freelance conservation biologist and educator based in Saratoga Lake, N.Y.

The article tells the story of relict “wolf trees,” a term used by early twentieth-century foresters to describe undesirable old shade trees that spread like wolves and “preyed” upon forest resources needed by more marketable species. It took decades before foresters recognized the ecological value of the giant trees. These trees have endured the rise and fall of New England’s

agriculture, and now provide important ecological benefits to many other species. Judges found this essay to be well presented with broad applicability in forestry and land conservation in an artful combination of ecological, cultural, and historical perspectives. One evaluation commented on the presentation of the first-person viewpoint giving the reader a feeling of being in the woods and found the article to be worth a second read. Judges found this article to possess broad applicability in forestry and land conservation in an artful combination of ecological, cultural, and historical perspectives.

CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER BOOK AWARD

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award rewards superior scholarship in forest and conservation history. The 2015 winner is **Thomas Miller Klubock** for *La Frontera: Forests and Ecological Conflict in Chile’s Frontier Territory* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014).

This book offers a century-long, bottom-up view of forest and conservation history in the southern Andes that balances the views of state foresters and planners with the voices of indigenous communities and rural forest workers as the Chilean landscape transformed from one of the largest native temperate forests in the world into plantation after monocultural plantation of Monterey cypress. Comments on this authorship included: “far and away a most ambitious, scholarly, and sophisticated book and although not the easiest read, a rich work based on a tremendous amount of original research”; “a benchmark in Latin American environmental history, and model for integrating forest history with social history”; “after twelve years of research, including oral histories and archives that had never been used before, he infuses his text with rich examples and vibrant stories, and ably avoids tropes that glorify peasants or triumphantly celebrate conservationist policies”; “despite being packed with content, his writing remains graceful and relatively accessible”; and finally, “it will have a well-deserved place in a distinguished tradition of scholarship.”

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. The 2015 fellowship was awarded to **Tom Cinq-Mars**, a PhD candidate from Duke's Department of History, for his research titled "'Friendship Like Steel Welds': The *Druzhba* Oil Pipeline and the (Un)Making of the Socialist World, 1948–1994."

Cinq-Mars's research explores the construction of the longest oil pipeline in the world (roughly 5,500 kilometers), and its effects on the formation of socialist political economies. He has confirmed through archival sources that the pipeline, still in use today, was built through 450 kilometers of undeveloped forestland in the USSR alone. His research into the conceptualization, planning, and construction of *Druzhba* reconfigures the history of the Cold War, viewing that competition between political and economic systems from the perspective of natural resource management, particularly petroleum management. He argues that Soviet industry leaders did indeed craft environmentalist policies that significantly circumscribed petroleum production and contends that they did so in part because of interactions with North American Petroleum companies. He intends to demonstrate that the forest histories of two disparate landmasses, North America and Eurasia, are intrinsically interconnected and aims to bring natural resource management to fore among myriad scholars of the Cold War, a truly interdisciplinary cohort, and contribute to ongoing discussions of environmental sustainability.

WALTER S. ROSENBERY FELLOWSHIP IN FOREST AND CONSERVATION HISTORY

Walter S. Rosenberry (1931–2005), a long-time supporter and Forest History Society Board member, provided the Society's first endowment in support of its awards program. The fellowship provides a stipend to support the doctoral research of a graduate student attending a university in North America whose research contributes to forest and conservation history. The recipient is selected on the basis of merit: proposals are judged in terms of overall significance, achievability, quality of pres-

entation, academic record, and relevance to forest history. Additionally, the winner will also be considered for up to \$1,000 in travel expenses toward attendance at a professional conference where they have had a paper accepted for presentation.

The 2015 recipient is **Owen James Hyman**, a PhD candidate from Mississippi State University. His dissertation project entitled "Naturalized Race, Industrialized Forests: An Environmental History of Jim Crow in the Forest Industries of Louisiana and Mississippi, 1880–1960" will examine how ideas about the landscape shaped ideas about race and labor in the South after Reconstruction. The panel of judges considered his proposal an important and compelling study in both southern history and environmental history. Mr. Hyman is thinking about race in ways that few southern environmental historians have to date.

FHS FELLOW AWARD

The Forest History Society bestows the honorary title of Fellow of the Forest History Society on persons who have provided many years of outstanding leadership and service to the Society or many years of outstanding sustained contributions to the research, writing, or teaching of forest, conservation, or environmental history. This honor is the Society's highest award and is only given occasionally. In 2015, **Cheryl P. Oakes**, librarian of the Forest History Society, was awarded for her long and outstanding service to the Society and for her contributions to the field of forest and conservation history upon her retirement after 25 years at the Society. We at FHS congratulate Cheryl and wish her well on her retirement.

ALFRED BELL TRAVEL GRANTS AND VISITORS

Joe Giacomelli, a PhD candidate in history at Cornell University, is studying how scientists and others understood climate during the nineteenth century. He used a Bell Travel Grant to look at the training of foresters, how they integrated fields such as hydrology and meteorology into their work, afforestation as a means of modifying climate, and how predominant viewpoints about climate changed in the early twentieth century.

Nicole Cox, a PhD candidate in history at the University of Florida, is writing a dissertation on the history of the wood-preservation industry entitled "Toxic Treatment: The Wood-Preservation Industry and the

Making of Superfund Sites." She is taking the long view of the industrial processes that created Superfund sites and is especially interested in creosote and experiments on its use by federal agencies. The Bell Travel Grant enabled her to utilize early newspaper clipping files, and she was pleased to discover that FHS has quite a number of historic photographs related to wood preservation processes.

Amy Hay looked at Forest Service environmental impact statements (EISs) from the Pacific Northwest and combed through the extensive holdings of the Western Timber Association and U.S. Forest Service History Reference collections. Dr. Hay teaches American history at the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley.

Ella Mueller, a research associate at the Chair of Modern History at Freiburg University in Germany, examined the archival records of the Western Timber Association and oral history transcripts from interviews with U.S. Forest Service leaders in the 1990s. Her doctoral dissertation is on the history of anti-environmentalism in the United States since the 1970s. She is focusing on the question of why people opposed the adoption of environmental protection measures, in what forms protests manifested, and to what extent they influenced political decisions.

Swen Steinberg, a German historian working on a post-doctorate fellowship through the German Research Foundation at UCLA, is researching transnational knowledge transfers and transfer practices in forestry and mining science between Germany and the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For the forestry portion, he examined several sets of papers in the Alvin J. Huss Archives: first in the papers of persons, including Thomas Gill, who were in contact with German scientists such as Egon Glesinger, Franz Heske, and Adalbert Ebner or with scientists with connections to Germany such as Ward Shepard and Carl A. Schenck. He also worked in the papers of the American Forestry Association and other organizations. Additionally, he looked at materials concerning forestry trips to Germany made by Americans in the 1930s through the Oberlander Trust, including the Clarence Forsling papers. □