

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## FROM THE CHAIR

It is an honor for me to serve as the chairman of the Forest History Society, and I appreciate the opportunity afforded me by the board. This outstanding organization combines two of my passions—forestry and history—and I hope to continue the stellar leadership demonstrated by my predecessors. With our 70th anniversary this year, the Society will be recognizing the many contributions of past leaders and stakeholders. Hayes Brown, immediate past-chairman, is one such leader. With his dedication, steady hand, and professionalism, Hayes created an upbeat, productive environment for the organization, and it was during his tenure that FHS made substantial progress in planning for our upcoming new facility. The Society will continue to enjoy Hayes's leadership and counsel as a member of the board of directors.



Chris Zinkhan

For the past two decades, I have served on a team engaged in investments in primarily hardwood forests. One of the most fascinating and critical aspects of this work is discovering the history associated with a prospective property's management and surrounding communities. Without a perspective of the dynamic interactions of the forest ecosystem and forestry practices, natural disturbances, market gyrations, regulatory changes, and community usage and ethos, a professional's understanding of the forest's condition and its likely evolution will be limited. This, too, is why I believe the Forest History Society is an essential organization.

During the past year there is no doubt that the Society was able to fulfill and advance its core mission, to preserve and help people use the documents of forest history. These recent highlights are especially meaningful for me:

- Post-production work was completed and initial public screenings of *America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment* were held. I had the good fortune to attend a screening at North Carolina State University, and the packed house that evening was as enthusiastic about the film and discussion panel as I was.
- One of the core purposes of the Society became even more evident in 2015, when the Weyerhaeuser Company entrusted us with the company archives, shipping 31 pallets of boxes to FHS for safekeeping and indexing. This demonstrates that we must be prepared in the future to accept such significant forest history collections as individuals, corporations, and other organizations shift primarily to electronic records.
- A landmark book, *Forests of the U.S. South*, by Mason Carter, Bob Kellison, and Scott Wallinger was published in cooperation with LSU Press. It is a unique and insightful 386-page look at forestry during the latter half of the twentieth century. The book explores the collaborative research efforts oriented toward

increasing productivity on forestland, many of which will have benefits long into the future, especially as population continues to increase. The book makes a thoughtful and impressive gift—I presented five of them to friends and colleagues during the holidays!

- An interesting array of archives were processed during the past year. One collection of special interest to me was the T.S. Coile papers. Professor Coile's pioneering research on the relationship between soil characteristics and tree growth sparked my interest in production forestry as a graduate student at Duke University.
- Numerous scholars visited the Society's collections to conduct research. Mention in the Society's monthly newsletter *Timeline* of Amy Hay's research of citizen protests against the use of Agent Orange herbicides in the 1970s and 1980s attracted my attention. The Environmental Protection Agency prohibited the use of such herbicides for a number of forestry applications, including controlling hardwood competition in pine plantations. Thus, forest managers attempted to quickly develop alternative silvicultural prescriptions. As an intern at Westvaco in 1979 armed with just a chainsaw, I participated in a losing battle against the hardwoods. This reinforced to me the importance of the regulatory environment in the practice of forestry.

Given the importance of having well-designed space for fulfilling the mission and work of the Forest History Society, the board has recently expended significant effort in planning for a new facility to meet the needs of its members and the growing need for historical context in natural resource decisions. Good progress has been made on this strategic objective, and in April 2015, FHS purchased 8.6 wooded acres from Duke University as the future site for the Society's home and headquarters. This site offers an attractive, natural setting, conveniently accessible to highways, an airport, lodging, and area universities. As announcements are made this coming year, we hope you will join with us in supporting this far-reaching project, which is destined to be a point of pride for the forestry and conservation community.

The Forest History Society is dedicated to preserving and communicating forest and conservation history in North America and worldwide. We greatly appreciate your support and participation. President Steven Anderson and I look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions, and indeed working with you to determine how we can best fulfill our important mission and maintain free access to the Society's rich resources. □

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Forest History Society continues its mission to preserve and help people use the documents of forest and conservation history with professional dedication and effectiveness. The board and staff of the Society have worked hard to maintain the accomplishment of our mission during fiscal year July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Net assets at June 30, 2015, increased to \$9,120,833 from \$8,544,271 for the previous year's end. This is an increase of \$576,562,