



Lynn W. Day Lecture Has Global Reach

Acclaimed fire historian Stephen Pyne presented "The Pyrocene: How Humanity Created a Fire Age" as this year's [Lynn W. Day Lecture in Forest and Conservation History](#), on Oct. 28. The lecture was hosted by FHS historian Jamie Lewis. FHS staff members Laura Hayden and Eben Lehman provided technical support, ensuring the event went off without a hitch.

More than 770 people in 18 countries registered for the webinar, and nearly 500 watched it stream live over Zoom and the FHS YouTube channel. By comparison, last year's lecture had an above-average turnout of about 100 people on Duke University's campus and less than two dozen watching the live stream.

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HISTORY DOESN'T STOP HAPPENING!

History is alive and well even in these days of change and challenge. Keeping the documents of forest & conservation history is essential.

EVERY membership contribution supports the daily work at FHS.

Lynn W. Day Distinguished
Lectureship in Forest and
Conservation History



Stephen Pyne
*"The Pyrocene:
How Humanity Created a Fire Age"*

Sponsored by the Forest History Society, Duke University's Department of History
and Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment

To receive CFE credit, send an email to info@foresthistory.org with "CFE" in the Subject line
and include your name and email address in the email body.

Within 24 hours of the video being made available on YouTube, 70 more people had watched it. You can watch it by following [this link](#).

Plans are already underway for more virtual presentations in the new year.

And the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award Goes To . . .

The [Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award](#) rewards superior scholarship in forest and conservation history. The award goes to an author who has exhibited fresh insight into a topic and whose narrative analysis is clear, inventive, and thought-provoking. This year, the judges awarded two books as deserving the award.

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Andrea E. Duffy

Andrea E. Duffy won for [*Nomad's Land: Pastoralism and French Environmental Policy in the Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean World*](#). The book investigates the relationship between Mediterranean mobile pastoralism and nineteenth-century French forestry through case studies in Provence, French colonial Algeria, and Ottoman Anatolia. By restricting the use of shared spaces, foresters helped bring the populations of Provence and Algeria under the control of the state, and French scientific forestry became a medium for state initiatives to sedentarize mobile pastoral groups in Anatolia. Locals responded through petitions, arson, violence, compromise, and adaptation. Duffy shows that French efforts to promote scientific forestry both internally and abroad were intimately tied to empire building and paralleled the solidification of Western narratives condemning the pastoral tradition, leading to sometimes tragic outcomes for both the environment and pastoralists.

Sharing the award is Kimberly K. Smith (below) for [*The Conservation Constitution: The Conservation Movement and Constitutional Change, 1870-1930*](#).



In the mid-nineteenth century, most Progressive Era conservation policies would have been considered unconstitutional. Smith traces how, between 1870 and 1930, the conservation movement reshaped constitutional doctrine to its purpose--how, specifically, courts and lawyers worked to expand government authority to manage wildlife, forest and water resources, and pollution. Her work, which highlights a number of important Supreme Court decisions often overlooked in accounts of this period, brings the history of environmental management more fully into the story of the U.S. Constitution. At the same time, illuminating the doctrinal innovation in the Progressives' efforts, her book reveals the significance of constitutional history to an understanding of the government's role in environmental management.

Congratulations to Kimberly and Andrea!

Catface Given to FHS



A worker in Florida scrapes hardened resin from a tree. The catface is visible at top. The photo is from "A Pictorial Album of the Naval-Stores Industry," published by the U.S. Forest Service in 1937. (FHS2024)

For nearly three hundred years, the forests of the southeastern U.S. were home to an industry that no longer exists: naval stores. The term "naval stores" generally refers to products derived from the resin collected from pine trees. The peculiar slashes made to draw out the resin resembled the whiskers on a cat, as seen in the photo above taken in 1928. The "catface" has long been the iconic symbol of that industry.

Thanks to FHS member and nearby resident K. O. Summerville, we now have our very own catface. After it's been properly preserved, we hope to display in our new building. You can read more about the naval stores industry and a festival in Georgia that celebrates the catface in the most recent issue of [*Forest History Today*](#).



K. O. Summerville (left) presents FHS president Steve Anderson with a catface.

Happy Halloween From the Library Staff!



If you're looking for a good scare, here are some spooky suggestions of frightening forest tales, both fiction and nonfiction, that might just give you nightmares!

Forest Fire Mystery by Troy Nesbit (1962)

Art Mills and his family have recently moved to southwestern Colorado. When Art isn't working in the family's Dew Drop Inn, he's out exploring the surrounding national forest. When the secretive logger Mr. Maynard threatens Art and his friends and tells them to stay away, the kids can't help but wonder what Mr. Maynard is up to. And then once the forest fires start, Art knows someone is up to no good . . . Oh, those meddling kids!

Mystery of the Logging Camp by Dickson Reynolds (pseudonym of Helen M.G. Reynolds) (1945)

Peter Larsen lives with his family on a floating

house owned by the North Pacific Logging Company and wants to grow up to be logger, just like his father. Peter learns of a plot to steal logs from the logging company and sets out to discover the thief with his dog Pooch.

Deadfall: A National Forest Mystery by

Lynda Douglas (2002)

Claire Mitchell was found in the Siskiyou National Forest as a battered ten-year-old child with only a locket and no memory of her past. As an adult, her idyllic life is shattered when it becomes clear someone wants her dead. She returns to the national forest in search of answers, armed only with her wits and haunting dreams.

The Rosenbluth Case: Federal Justice on Trial by Rosemary Reeves Davies (1970)

A true story of one of the most dramatic and highly publicized episodes of American forest history in the 1920s. During World War I, an army officer is shot dead during maneuvers at Camp Lewis, Washington. The victim's powerful father stops at nothing to get justice. When 1907 graduate of the Yale Forest School and fellow officer Robert Rosenbluth is falsely charged and imprisoned, his Yale friends and former professors came to his legal aid as the case dragged on. He was finally vindicated in 1924.

The Ghost of Guyan by Ralph Justice (1948)

Tales handed down by the residents of the Guyan Valley, West Virginia, a historical logging area in decline, include those of horses whose galloping was heard but never seen, and jolting wagons that left no visible trail.

The Port of Missing Men: Billy Gohl, Labor, and Brutal Times in the Pacific Northwest by Aaron Goings (2020)

The true story behind a powerful labor leader, Billy Gohl (1873-1927), reputed to be a serial killer in Grays Harbor, Washington. As the body count rises, Gohl comes under suspicion and is arrested. The true-crime tale also sheds light on the lives of workers who died tragically, illuminating the dehumanizing treatment of sailors and lumber workers and the heated clashes between pro- and anti-union forces.

Research Materials Donated to FHS Archives



Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

Joseph Lint worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Idaho and Oregon as a wildlife biologist. During his career, he coordinated the interagency Northern Spotted Owl population and habitat monitoring program in Washington, Oregon, and northern California. FHS has recently accepted a donation from Joe of materials and documents, including news and research.

Included in the collection is a chronology of events related to the Spotted Owl issue, dating back to 1969, when the owl was first listed as an Oregon Endangered Bird. It wasn't until 1990 that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife listed the Northern Spotted Owl as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan provided protections for the spotted owl and other species inhabiting late successional forests in Washington, Oregon, and California.

The documents have not been processed yet, but we look forward to making them available through our searchable database in the new year. Meanwhile, you can learn more about the issue through our "Northern Spotted Owl Timeline" in the U.S. Forest Service history pages [here](#), and read about a product parody on our blog [here](#).

FHS Welcomes Researcher from West Coast



Cassie Phillips followed FHS's COVID-19 protocols for visiting researchers while spending several days conducting research.

With proper precautions in place, FHS welcomed Cassie Phillips, a former Weyerhaeuser executive, to conduct research in the Weyerhaeuser Company archival collection relating to landscape and forest management around the company's previous headquarters in Federal Way, Washington.

Cassie is assisting a nonprofit group called Save Weyerhaeuser Campus (SWC). The Federal Way property was sold to a developer that proposes to build industrial warehouses on the forested property. The process requires review by the city to evaluate the impact environmentally, culturally, and historically. There is concern about the impact on the campus's landscape, which once had its own forester. The landscape around the forests was carefully planted, including many exotic species around existing native trees, and maintained through pruning, thinning, and control of competing vegetation (including noxious weeds). This created a naturalistic landscape, with tiers of hardwood and softwood tree canopies, and trees and shrubs that flowered over several seasons. The proposed development would irreparably change that.

FHS Mourns Loss of Board Member John Matel



John Matel

The Forest History Society is saddened by the recent passing of board member John Matel. He passed away on June 22, 2020, at age 65. He is survived by his wife, Christine M. Johnson; his daughter, Mariza Matel (Brendan Williams); his sons, Alex and Espen Matel; and his sister, Christine Matel Milewski (Greg Milewski) of Oak Creek, WI. He was born in Milwaukee, WI, to the late John Matel Sr. and Virginia Haase Matel.

After serving 32 years as a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State, John became a self-professed "Gentleman of Leisure . . . a sometime diplomat, conservationist & seeker of insights." He purchased his first forest tract in 2005 near Lawrenceville, VA. As a landowner, certified tree farmer & naturalist, he managed nearly 500 acres of Virginia forest for timber, wildlife, and water quality. John actively served on boards of the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation and the Forest History Society, and promoted southern pine ecology and working landscapes. John led by example, working to restore longleaf and shortleaf ecosystems on dedicated parcels of his land.

John's diplomatic posts with the U.S. Department of State in Brazil, Norway, Poland, and Iraq let him do what he loved: working to understand societies, information, and behaviors, and shape strategies to engage networked publics. His proudest accomplishments included working with Iraqis to rebuild their communities after ousting al-Qaeda in Anbar Province, and sending more than 26,000 Brazilian students to study STEM fields in top American universities. His career in diplomacy

included broadening experiences as president of the Fulbright Commission in Brazil, Senior International Advisor at Smithsonian Institution, and State Department Fellow at Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy.

We will miss John's presence on our board and in our lives.

