

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 of people and forests. The following is a list of awards for 2018–2019.

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.

The 2020 winner is **Bathsheba Demuth** for her article “The Walrus and the Bureaucrat: Energy, Ecology, and the Making of State in the Russian and American Arctic, 1870–1950,” published in *American Historical Review* (April 2019): 483–510. Her work traces how ecological context shaped the actions and ambitions of the United States and the Soviet Union, through a comparison of their use of the Pacific walrus. Based in the shared environmental context of the Bering Strait, it examines how the two countries implemented opposing ideological projects in the Arctic, expecting to increase production and by doing so make Indigenous peoples into capitalist or socialist citizens. In an environment impossible for agriculture and difficult for industry, walrus harvesting became one of the few productive options for these ambitions. Between the 1870s and the 1950s, both the United States and the USSR experimented with massive harvests of blubber and ivory to feed ideas of economic growth, before adopting mirrored conservation policies.

CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER BOOK AWARD

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award rewards superior scholarship in forest and conservation history. The judges awarded two books as the best for 2020.

Andrea E. Duffy was named co-winner for *Nomad’s Land: Pastoralism and French Environmental Policy in the Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean World* (University of Nebraska Press, 2019). Duffy 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** for *The Conservation Constitution: The Conservation Movement and Constitutional Change, 1870–1930* (University Press of Kansas, 2019). 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.

FREDERICK 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.

Jacqueline Gerson is a PhD candidate in the University Program in Ecology at Duke University. Her research, entitled “Determining Historical and Current Impacts of Artisanal Gold Mining on the Peruvian Amazon,” involves leveraging field samples, satellite records, and dating of tree cores to understand historical patterns associated with land cover and mercury use in the Amazon River basin and their consequences on ecological and human health. This project seeks to address three questions: How did the landscape change due to gold mining impacting the input and storage of mercury in forested landscapes? How do forest structures and soil characteristics influence the processing of mercury into the more biologically available form of methylmercury? And what legacies of mercury can be traced using tree core analysis?

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 2020 recipient is **Andrew C. Baker**, an assistant professor of history at Texas A&M University–Commerce, for his article, “Risk, Doubt, and the Biological Control of Southern Waters,” (April 2019): 327–50. Baker’s article traces early efforts to combat the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla in the southeastern United States. In a region identified with resilient and fast-growing invasive species like kudzu, hydrilla fit right in. Resistant to pollution, adaptable to various water environments, and nearly impossible to eradicate, hydrilla outcompeted its native counterparts, spreading across the South within two decades of its introduction to a canal in Florida in the 1950s. By the 1970s, the threat the plant posed to the booming lakefront development industry in the South alarmed politicians, who grew frustrated by the fact that scientific studies produced as much uncertainty as consensus. The resulting efforts to control hydrilla, which culminated in the introduction of another exotic species—white amur fish—entailed a separate set of environmental consequences and,

tellingly, as Baker shows, owed more to politicians than to scientists or cautious regulators.

JOHN M. COLLIER AWARD FOR FOREST HISTORY JOURNALISM

John M. Collier was a New Orleans journalist skilled in many areas of communication, including advertising and sales promotion, and public, government, and media relations. He was a working scholar and a prolific writer of articles and special features for forest industry press publications. Established to honor his memory, the Forest History Society’s John M. Collier Award encourages excellence in journalism that incorporates forest and conservation history.

Diana Kruzman, a freelance reporter earning her master’s degree in Journalism and Near East Studies at New York University, won with her article, “India’s Sacred Groves Are Disappearing, Taking Biodiversity and Culture with Them.” Published online on November 30, 2019, by *Earther*, Kruzman tells the story of the loss of small and increasingly isolated sacred old-growth groves of southern India and their gradual destruction due to competing interests. These groves have been continually divided among farmers and individual heirs by law. Their classification as “revenue lands” have kept them from the benefit of protection as forest reserves or areas prioritized for conservation.

WALTER S. ROSENBERY FELLOWSHIP IN FOREST AND CONSERVATION HISTORY

Walter S. Rosenberry, 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.

Caitlyn Dye is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Her research project, “The Water Factory: Governing Nature in an Andean Forest from the National Revolution to the Climate Crisis,” is an interdisciplinary project that blends historical and ethnographic methods to investigate how foresters, park officials, and local peasants have imagined and produced the Tunari forest since it was established as a national park during the period of the Bolivian National Revolution. Her work highlights three historical conjunctures in the making of Tunari: the National Revolutionary period of the 1950s and 1960s during which the Tunari forest was established as a national park; the period of the 1980s and 90s in which park law was transformed in tandem with a reimagining of the significance of the forest; and the period of 2006–2019, during which climate change came to be a dominant lens within Bolivian environmentalism.