




April 2021

"War and the Environment" Roundtable Discussion Video Now Online

FHS hosted a roundtable discussion entitled "[War and the Environment](#)" that's now available on the FHS [YouTube channel](#). This was one of dozens of virtual events organized by the American Society for Environmental History for its "[Environmental History Week 2021](#)," held in lieu of its annual conference. FHS and ASEH co-publish the journal [Environmental History](#).

The Forest History Society
presents
War and the Environment
A Roundtable Discussion
with
Anthony Andersson Keri Lambert
Lisa M. Brady Jamie Lewis
Gerard J. Fitzgerald Richard Tucker

*Part of the American Society for Environmental History's
Environmental History Week 2021*

 FOREST HISTORY
Society

Studying the relationship between armed forces and the environment is a history subfield, referred to as either "War and Environment" or "Military and Environment," that emerged towards the end of the last century and has since blossomed into a vital area of study. The study of military history and environmental history *in combination* helps us understand the impact of military-related activities and armed forces on the environment and society during wartime *and* peacetime, at the battle front *and* on the home front.

Five members of "War and Environment," a history special-interest group, had a roundtable discussion moderated by FHS historian Jamie Lewis that examined the current state of the field of military-environmental history. Panelists discussed important new trends and lines of inquiry, and where the subfield may be heading next. They also talked about how historians might work to bring this and other areas of environmental history into secondary school classrooms. The discussion was recorded in advance for our [YouTube channel](#). For more on this exciting subfield of history, check out the group's website [here](#).

NEW DIGITAL EXHIBIT!

The Oberlaender Trust and American Forestry



FHS intern Andrea Kolarova has completed a new digital exhibit that explores an important but little-known connection between American and German foresters at the height of Nazi power in Germany. The exhibit uses materials, including photos and diaries and published articles,

drawn from across the FHS archives and library holdings.

Beginning in 1933, the Philadelphia-based Oberlaender Trust sponsored a cultural exchange program between the United States and Germany aimed at benefitting "public welfare" in the U.S. As part of the program, 31 American foresters, Forest Service leaders, lumbermen, and forest researchers traveled to German-speaking countries to study forest management, logging, milling, and other aspects of forestry. One group of Germans toured forests and mill towns up and down the American East Coast. The program came under criticism and suspicion as the Nazis strengthened their grip first over Germany and then Austria and Czechoslovakia, and it was suspended in 1938. Among those sent overseas by the U.S. Forest Service in 1935 were (above, left to right) William Sparhawk, Aldo Leopold, Clarence Forsling, Leon Kneipp, and Edward Carter.

The Americans were impressed by the efficiency and orderliness they saw in the German forests, though some had negative reactions to what they saw. In the case of Aldo Leopold, a forester who was by then a professor of game management, it profoundly influenced his thinking about ecology and wildlife. His conclusions and those of several others, including Wilson Compton and Julian McGowin, are shared in the exhibit.

[Explore the Exhibit](#)

Virtual Talk on Stewart Udall Set for May 20

John de Graaf, an award-winning filmmaker, will deliver a talk entitled "Stewart Udall and the Politics of Environmental and Racial Justice." The talk will be at 2 PM EST on May 20, 2021, and will be streamed live on Zoom. This presentation is part of the Forest History Society's *Unprecedented Seasons* virtual

lecture series supported by the *Lynn W. Day Endowment*. The event is free but registration is required. [Click here](#) to learn more and to register.

John is developing a PBS film about the influential conservationist and racial justice advocate. In his presentation, he will explore the life and career of Stewart Udall, who served as the 37th U.S. Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. During his tenure, Udall succeeded in creating many national parks and monuments, led the fight for critical environmental legislation, and encouraged Lady Bird Johnson (seen with Udall) to undertake a national beautification program.



As Secretary and throughout his private life Udall worked for racial justice. His recruitment of and appointing the first African American park rangers while Secretary was just one of several accomplishments in this arena. As a student at the University of Arizona, he worked to end segregation on campus. After his time in Washington, he provided legal representation to Native Americans in a law suit regarding harm done to them by atomic testing and uranium mining and wrote a book about the topic, one of several books with an environmental focus.

F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellowship Winner Announced: Vivien Rendleman

The F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship consists of a \$10,000 stipend and 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. Judging criteria includes overall significance and quality of presentation. Our selected recipient for 2021 is Vivien Rendleman, a Ph.D. student in the Department of History, and her project, “Unfree Soil: Empire, Labor, and Coercion in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, 1803-1861”.



Rendleman’s dissertation asks how the geography of the Upper Mississippi River Valley shaped relationships of work and power in the nineteenth-century United States by centering the region’s Native American people and their lifeways. The fur trade brought a diverse group of workers, including French Canadians, into a shared political economy before U.S. sovereignty

extended over the region. This political economy was dependent on the natural world, making labor relations inseparable from the region's geography and resources.

By reconstructing the region's geography, Rendleman treats the natural world as an archive. She will use descriptions of the region's workplaces - its warehouses, fields and forests - to sketch out the places that unfree laborers inhabited and the spatial constraints that they faced. She will use the fellowship support primarily to travel to various archives in the upper Midwest.

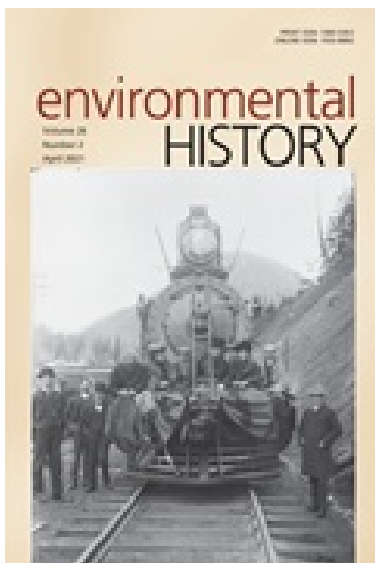
John Garland Forestry Film Collection Now Available

A full inventory of the John Garland Logging Films Collection was recently completed and published as an [online finding aid](#). The collection features nearly 100 films in various formats on topics related to forestry, logging, technology, and safety. The films were collected by forest

professor John Garland, a renowned safety expert and forest engineer who in addition to collecting these films also produced several documentaries of his own. Garland has also made numerous appearances as an expert on History Channel programs such as *Modern Marvels: Logging Tech*, *Suicide Missions: Timber*, and *Ax Men*. Select films in the collection have begun to be digitized, and will be made available on the [FHS YouTube channel](#). You can already view Garland's film [Aerial Logging Systems \(1976\)](#), as well as [Whose Lookin' After My Forests And Howse It Goin'? \(1993\)](#) starring comedian Don Harron as his signature character Charlie Farquarson.



Environmental History Advance Access to Next Issue



If you receive the *Environmental History* journal, you can look forward to these articles in the coming issues. If you are not, you may [join FHS today](#), and begin receiving the journal, (4) times per year with your membership at the basic \$75 level. You may also join as a Joint member and take advantage of benefits from both FHS and ASEH. [Click here for FHS membership](#). [Click here for Joint Membership](#). Student rates available also.

["Absorbing Waste, Displacing Labor: Family, Environment, and the Disposable Diaper in the 1970s"](#) Kendra Smith-Howard

["Migrant Flows: Hydraulic Infrastructure, Agricultural Industrialization, and Environmental Change in Western Mexico, 1940-64"](#) Mateo J. Carrillo

Playing It Safe

The Society continues to follow North Carolina's recommended safety guidelines relating to COVID-19, and those for Durham County, where the headquarters is located.

As of now, Gov. Roy Cooper has suggested June 1st may be the date we in NC can look forward to everything being 100% open. We'll keep you posted and hope you will choose a visit to FHS in the near future!

All FHS staff and their families remain healthy and look forward to resuming regular library visiting hours soon. If you are in our area, please don't hesitate to call and make an appointment to visit! We're here to make it work and safe for all.

