FHS is Turning 75!

On June 12, the Forest History Society will celebrate its 75th year and we have much to be grateful for. To commemorate this major milestone, we’ve scheduled special online events and issued a Matching Challenge.

Matching Gift Challenge!
Having you renew your support at last year’s level is our first goal. But in honor of our 75th anniversary, four anonymous donors have committed $25,000 in matching funds to encourage new and increased giving. Any new or additional gift will be doubled! This means that every dollar you donate above last year’s contribution level will be matched dollar for dollar. If you have already given, then any additional gift will also be matched. If you are a first-time donor, that will be doubled also!

Your gift will help support the core FHS efforts including:
- Digitization of historic photos
- Conducting oral history interviews
- Creating digital exhibits
- Researcher travel grants to FHS
- Hosting virtual lectures on forest and conservation topics

Challenge Period
The Challenge Period kicks off Monday, June 7, and runs through our anniversary date of June 12, the Day of Giving for Forest History! Please plan your gift for that week and help us meet the challenge amount of $25,000! Don’t worry if you mail your gift. Any response to this "Challenge" letter will help us earn the match as long as it arrives by June 30, 2021.

Our Gift to You!
Those making a new, additional, or increased gift this year will also receive a selection of special 75th anniversary items as our gift to you during the challenge period. We know you will enjoy them!
Anniversary Special Events

Here are just a few of our virtual events. Please use the link below to learn more and to register for these free events.

Tuesday, June 8 at 1 pm EDT: Join us for the “Wings of the Forest” Interactive Raptor Experience. During this 30-minute experience, participants will meet different raptors from Piedmont Wildlife Center and learn about their natural history. You’ll get an up-close view of their birds and get your raptor questions answered by Noelle Dalhouse, the Center’s Conservation Coordinator. This program will not be recorded.

Thursday, June 10 at 1 pm EDT: "Fire Breaks: Fire Suppression, the 'Light-Burning' Controversy, and the Return of Indigenous Flames" Historian and FHS Fellow Char Miller will be speaking about the history of fire use by Indigenous populations in what is now California and the impact of fire suppression on the land and peoples. A Q&A period will follow after the presentation with Char. This program will be recorded and available to watch on the FHS YouTube channel.

If you have questions about the events or about supporting the Society during this special week of giving, please contact Laura Hayden.

Show Me More Events!

The Forest Service and the Greatest Good
A Finalist for Book Awards

The Forest Service and The Greatest Good: A Centennial History, by FHS historian Jamie Lewis, was recently nominated for two awards given to small, academic, and independent presses. It was shortlisted for the 2021 Eric Hoffer Book Award in the Legacy Nonfiction category and also for the
Montaigne Medal. The book was originally published in 2005 and recently was reprinted for a third time.

Regarding the Eric Hoffer Award, FHS was told, "After our rigorous first round of judging, less than 10% of the nominees become category finalists. We consider this a distinction of its own merit... Finalists are selected by category scoring and considered for category honors. There are typically 1-6 books per category selected as a finalist."

Upon submission for the Hoffer Award, the book was then considered for the Montaigne Medal, putting it in competition with books submitted in the 2021 award year regardless of publication date. According to the award website, "Each year, the Eric Hoffer Award presents the Montaigne Medal to the most thought-provoking books. These are books that either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought. The Montaigne Medal is given in honor of the great French philosopher Michel de Montaigne, who influenced people such as William Shakespeare, René Descartes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Eric Hoffer. This is an additional distinction beneath the Eric Hoffer Award umbrella." Once the list was whittled down from the more than 2500 submissions, The Greatest Good was one of 66 books under consideration for the Montaigne.

The book is available individually or in a gift set with The Greatest Good film. See details here.

Congratulations to Jamie on this recognition!

Kyuhyun Han Awarded Rosenberry Fellowship

Offered by the Forest History Society, the Walter S. Rosenberry Fellowship provides a stipend to support the doctoral research of a graduate student attending a university in North America and whose research contributes to forest and conservation history. Research focus on the historic relationships between humans, forests, and related resources is required. A panel of judges including members of the FHS Board of Directors selected this year's winner, Kyuhyun Han, a PhD candidate in the History Department at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Her research project, "Seeing the Forest Like a State: Forest Management, Wildlife Conservation, and Center-Periphery Relations in Northeast China, 1949-1988," challenges the premise that the Mao era was devoid of environmental protection policies by considering Chinese scientific discussions and conservation policy in the context of the international development of environmental consciousness during that time. Focusing on forest management and wildlife conservation in the northeastern provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning, her dissertation tracks the Chinese state efforts to regulate the environment from the establishment
of the People’s Republic in 1949 to its promulgation of the Wildlife Protection Law in 1988. Despite these efforts, this period witnessed massive deforestation and species extinction in the Northeast. Her dissertation suggests that this was not the result of an absence of state attempts to protect nature, but rather a product of bureaucratic compromises, the local economy, and the government’s relationship to indigenous peoples.

Stewart Udall Talk Now Available on YouTube

John de Graaf, an award-winning filmmaker, gave a talk about Stewart Udall, the 37th U.S. Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. The talk is now available on our YouTube channel. While there, be sure to check out our other talks and lectures. Many of them are suitable for classroom use.

The presentation was part of the Forest History Society’s Unprecedented Seasons virtual lecture series, supported by the Lynn W. Day Endowment.

For Society of American Foresters members, you have until June 1 in order to earn 1 hour of CFE in Category 1 by watching the presentation on YouTube on our channel. Afterward, please send an email with “CFE” in the Subject line and include your name and email address in the email body. Send it to education@foresthistory.org.

Upcoming talks include Char Miller on June 10 (see above) and Brooks Mendell on July 22 discussing wood as bioenergy.

(Photo courtesy of University of Arizona Libraries, Special Collections)

NEW BLOG POST!
The Great Northwest Log Haul of 1988
On May 13, 1988, a convoy of trucks more than 12 miles long rolled down U.S. Highway 93 in Montana. Onlookers gawked and cheered as over 300 trucks fully loaded down with logs passed by one by one. This impressive display was actually a unique form of protest by the local logging community. Frustrated by an increase in the amount of protected wilderness, court rulings that hampered timber harvesting, cancelled timber sales, and the closing of mills, the local logging industry was now fighting back. The event would become known as the Great Northwest Log Haul...

COVID Update

FHS 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 May 18, Gov. Roy Cooper has eased restrictions. However, to continue protecting FHS staff and their families, we’re asking unvaccinated visitors to FHS to wear masks and practice social distancing. We’ll keep you posted and hope you will visit 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.