



Steven Anderson to Retire as President/CEO of the Forest History Society

After 26 years of service to the Forest History Society, FHS President and CEO, Dr. Steven Anderson, will be retiring in the spring of 2023.

Steve became the leader of FHS in 1997, coming from Oklahoma State University where he served as Professor of Forestry and Program Leader of the Forestry, Wildlife and Aquaculture program. During his tenure, FHS thrived, taking on numerous important archival collections, including the records of the Weyerhaeuser Company, the American Tree Farm System, the Forest Landowners Association, the U.S. Forest Service Headquarters History Reference Collection, and the Global Fire Monitoring Center. He helped double the FHS endowments, established the FHS annual fund and increased annual giving by six-fold.

Programming significantly increased under his leadership. He expanded the FHS Issues Series books, *Forest History Today* magazine, the scholarly journal *Environmental History*, and other publications; spearheaded the development of the “If Trees Could Talk” middle school curriculum; and initiated early social media efforts. He served as co-executive producer of the regional Emmy award-winning film “America’s First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment.” Released in 2016, the film has reached over 5 million viewers on 387 PBS stations in 47 states.

Anderson led the FHS team through a \$7.1 million capital campaign for a new library, archives, and headquarters. Opened in January 2019, the 16,750 sf state-of-the-art facility has quickly become a point of pride for the forest and conservation community. According to Bob Izlar, FHS Board Chair, Anderson “leaves the Society in the enviable position of a professional and dedicated staff; strong, diverse support; no debt; and room to accommodate library and archive material well into the future.” The Society’s new strategic plan aims to continue this growth during the next ten years.

In his role as FHS President, Anderson built strong relationships with U.S. and international forestry and environmental history associations, the U.S. Forest Service, and corporate forestry leaders interested in preserving the history of their industry. He was one of three founders of the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations.

FHS is beginning its search for an inspiring, visionary, and innovative President/CEO with a passion for forest history and the leadership skills to elevate the Society to its greatest potential. In looking for its next leader, the FHS board desires to attract the best expertise in history, forestry, library & archives, association management, and related disciplines.

Inquiries about the position may be made by contacting Lynn Wilson, Search Committee Chair, at WILSONNL2020@GMAIL.COM. Further information is available on the FHS web site at www.foresthistory.org.