"By understanding our past, we shape our future" is the motto of the Forest History Society. Coincidentally, three articles in this issue allude to it. The first is the features article by environmental historian Donald Edward Davis. In the spring of 2021, FHS extended a pair of invitations to him: one to deliver the Lynn W. Day Lectureship in Forest and Conservation History that November, and one to prepare an article for this magazine. Both would draw from his new book *The American Chestnut: An Environmental History*, which examines the iconic species from pre-European settlement through to today's efforts to restore it to eastern U.S. forests. The article explores how the focus on (and celebration of) a handful of unusually enormous individual trees may be influencing those restoration efforts. His lecture is on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/foresthistory.

In the 1920s, establishing a mill town in the Pacific Northwest virtually overnight simply by shipping its workers, equipment, and buildings by rail to a site and setting them in place was not unusual. What makes Maxville, Oregon, different—and why it's the subject of the Places column—is the town's complex racial history. By documenting, interpreting, and sharing that history, Gwendolyn Trice, the daughter of a former employee, and the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center are simultaneously shaping the town's future and its legacy.

Conversely, willfully choosing to ignore lessons from the past also shapes the future. Frequent contributor Char Miller's Portrait column is about the early-twentieth-century ecologist William Bray, whose innovative scholarship and recommendations for conserving forests and watersheds in Texas were disregarded at the time. He warned his fellow Texans that when it comes to conservation, it "behooves a democracy to take a long look ahead." Miller argues that Texans continue to pay for their forebearers having failed to do so.

Speaking of Texas, Greg Christensen is a writer and advertising creative director based in Dallas. His interest in design led him to investigate who came up with the iconic trapezoidal shapes the U.S. Forest Service uses in its signage to identify its lands and buildings. That research journey led him to FHS and our wealth of materials on the topic. He discovered that Virgil "Bus" Carrel, a forester with no graphic design background, had developed the "Family of Shapes"—a design aesthetic for the agency's signage that would "complement natural beauty" yet be instantly recognizable to passing drivers. Christensen also found that Carrel's vision continues to win praise from designers nearly sixty years later.

Another Forest Service employee, Robert K. Winters, is the focus of Margaret Andrews's article "'There Are Advantages All Ways': Choosing a Career in Forestry in the 1920s." Unlike Christensen, Andrews found her research materials close to home: Winters was her father. His letters and diaries are used to tell the story of how Winters consulted with his family and fiancée as he struggled over whether to pursue a career as a forest researcher rather than as a forest ranger—a career that initially did not seem very exciting but proved rewarding.

Two articles highlight unusual topics in forest history. In "Feathered Fire Fighters," Elizabeth Macalaster tells us how the Forest Service

experimented with homing pigeons as a way for men to communicate while fighting forest fires. Another overlooked set of actors in the history of forest management are Catholic monks. Jason M. Brown examines their centuries-long connection to the land in "Managing for Ecological and Spiritual Values: A Brief History of Monastic Forestry."

Lastly, 2021 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary for two organizations. The first is the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Since 2009, James Skillen has published three books about different aspects of its history and has also contributed two related articles to this magazine. So, when he contacted me to offer another one reflecting on why this milestone was passing with so little fanfare, saying "yes" was a no-brainer.

The other celebrant is us—the Forest History Society. To commemorate the anniversary, we've created an illustrated timeline with highlights of our history. My thanks to former FHS staff members Cheryl Oakes and Kathy Cox for helping with the timeline, and to everyone—whatever their relationship to FHS—who has contributed to the success of the Forest History Society over the last 75 years.