



Forest Timeline Newsletter

September 2022



FOREST HISTORY
Society

Join us for the webinar series

Conversations in Forest History

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis



Join us on **October 25, 2022**, at 2 PM Eastern Time, when Lyndsie Bourgon presents "'Robin Hood was just taking care of his own': Timber Poaching from California to British Columbia." **This talk has been approved for 1 hour of CFE credit by the Society of American Foresters.**

Timber theft has been labeled as "a problem in every national forest" because there is a strong market for poached old-growth timber and redwood burls, which enter our homes in the form of firewood, furniture, and building materials. But while poaching contributes to a lucrative trade, it's also an ancient crime that's deeply rooted in the identity of those that live and work in forests. Many contemporary poachers see their actions as following in a long line of protest, and also as a response to conservation plans that contributed to rural poverty. In her new book *Tree Thieves: Crime and Survival in*

North America's Woods, Lyndsie Bourgon explores the social and economic drivers behind timber poaching in the Pacific Northwest. As part of her talk about timber theft, Lyndsie will discuss how she utilized oral history practices to investigate a nationwide logger protest in 1978.

Lyndsie Bourgon is an author, oral historian, and 2018 National Geographic Explorer. Her first book, *Tree Thieves: Crime and Survival in North America's Woods*, was published this summer, and was named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. She works for Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada as a researcher and policy analyst, focusing on unmarked burials at former Indian residential school sites.

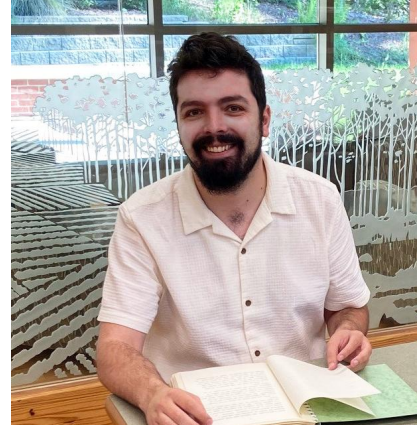
Register Today!

Researcher Finds Materials "Invaluable"

Thomas Kaye, a second year PhD student at the University of Birmingham (UK) and a part of the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR), spent ten days at FHS conducting research on forests and forestry in modern and contemporary American literature. Thomas received an **Alfred D. Bell Jr.**

[Travel Grant](#) to help with his travel expenses.

His project is a piece of literary criticism that places particular emphasis on the forest as a worked and managed landscape. According to Thomas, frequently in literature the forest is depicted as either wilderness or under assault by the logging industry, which can and often does influence how the reading and general publics perceive forests and foresters. His project will analyze and critique works about forestry written by American authors over the last half a century. By examining the world of woods work as portrayed in American literature he hopes to offer a more nuanced understanding of utility in the woods.

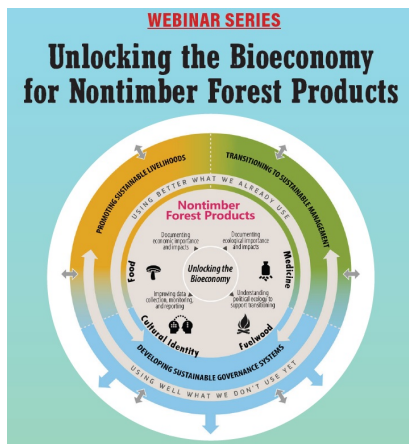


In addition to exploring our extensive fiction collection, he also used collections including:

- [William B. Laughead's papers](#)
- [Jesse Buell's papers](#)
- [Howard Flint's papers](#). Flint's work was depicted in the 1943 novel *The Pine Tree Shield: A Novel Based on the Life of a Forester*.
- [George S. Kephart's papers](#)
- [Michigan Logging Photograph Collection](#)
- [Redwood National Park collection](#)
- U.S. Forest Service's ["Views From the National Forests"](#) Photograph Album

At the end of his stay, Thomas told us, "The materials at the Forest History Society offer an extensive trove of research material that promise to be invaluable to my PhD thesis. As a UK based researcher, the opportunity to study in an American context specific to my research is a rare opportunity and a privilege."

Bioeconomics Webinar is Oct. 6



Join Jim Chamberlain when he hosts a new presentation in his "Unlocking the Bioeconomy" Series on Oct. 6 at 9 am EDT. The presentation, which focuses on Argentina, will last one hour. **This talk has been approved for 1 hour of CFE credit by the Society of American Foresters.**

To address challenges linked to the forest sector, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Argentina crafted ForestAr 2030, a strategic plan to move toward a forest-based bioeconomy. Concurrently, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development launched a national program for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), that included characterization, statistics, and

monitoring the products. Argentina recognized that NTFPs can be of major economic importance at national and local levels by generating employment and trade of unprocessed and processed products. This presentation will describe the process of developing the bioeconomy policy in Argentina, with an emphasis on the forestry sector and presents successful cases of usage and marketing of NTFPs.

The presenters are Juan Pablo Moro, an agricultural engineer from the University of Buenos Aires and an expert in non-timber forest products from Argentina and across Latin America; and Sandra E. Sharry, who holds a number of positions, including Coordinator of the Experimental Center for Vegetative Propagation, Coordinator of the project "Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Forests of High Conservation Value," and Vice-President of ProDiversitas, the Pan American Program for the Defense and Development of Biological, Cultural and Social Diversity.

The First Women's Forest Congress is Weeks Away!

The Inaugural Women's Forest Congress will take place October 17-20, 2022, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. FHS Librarian Lauren Bissonnette will be representing us at this historic event. Historian Rachel Kline, who is the USDA Forest Service Liaison to the FHS Board of Directors, will present on the panel entitled "Women's Legacy and Future in Forestry: Paving the Way for Progress" on Oct. 19 at 9:30 AM CDT. Rachel is one of 60 speakers presenting on a variety of topics.



FHS has been working with event organizers to determine how best to capture and archive all materials and files relating to this event. FHS also provided historical context for the many forest congresses that have been held since the first one [in 1882](#).

You can learn more about the event, how to register for either in-person or remote attendance, or how to give financial support, by visit the Congress's website [here](#). Registration closes on Oct. 10, so be sure to sign up now!

Sweeping History of Large Mexican Sawmill Wins Theodore Blegen Award



The Theodore C. Blegen Award recognizes the best scholarship in forest and conservation history published in a journal other than *Environmental History*. It's named for [Theodore C. Blegen](#), one of the founders of the Forest History Society.

This year's winner is Ana Córdova, a research professor at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, for her article entitled "El Colorado Sawmill: A View into 20th-Century Timber Extraction from the Chihuahua Sierra Madre." It was published in the *Journal of the Southwest*, Vol. 63, No. 3. You can access the article [HERE](#).

This work introduces readers to the El Colorado Sawmill, one of the largest sawmills in the northern state of Chihuahua between 1952 and 1970. It operated with up to three shifts daily, processing lumber extracted from its surroundings and providing employment for hundreds of workers. Impressive as it was, it endured for less than two decades, and followed the fate of mills in other logging and mining towns in the extractive boom-and-bust economy of the northern state of Chihuahua during the 20th century. The author argues that to understand the origins of El Colorado settlement and why the mill lasted only two decades, one must go back to the end of the Apache Wars in the 1880s, the arrival and colonization by Mormon refugees, and the sweep of Mexican history from that era forward. The author draws from social, political, environmental, and economic histories to tell this fascinating history.

Reminder: Join Us in Seattle!



The Forest History Society will hold its Fall 2022 Board of Director's meeting at the Weyerhaeuser Company headquarters in Seattle.

Our main public event will be a reception on Thurs., October 20th, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Society with special guest Devin Stockfish, President & CEO of Weyerhaeuser. FHS president Steve Anderson will also speak. Members of FHS are cordially invited to join us at the reception from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. PDT. To RSVP, click the button below.

On Saturday, the directors will gather again the Weyerhaeuser headquarters for the semi-annual board meeting. Members are welcome to attend. Please contact Andrea Anderson at FHS if you want more information. You can reach her by email at [this link](#) or by phone at (919) 682-9319. We hope to see you in Seattle!

[RSVP FOR THE RECEPTION HERE](#)

Staff Has Enjoyable Conversations at "Charm City" Convention

Lauren Bissonette, FHS librarian and president Steve Anderson wish to thank all those who stopped by the exhibit booth at the Society of American Foresters' national convention in Baltimore, A "Charm City." They enjoyed having numerous discussions with groups and individuals about housing their collections, introducing students to the benefits of using FHS resources for their studies, and welcoming new members who joined during the convention.

Lauren attended a couple of sessions, including the Women in Forestry discussion group, at which attendees talked about the challenges women often face in the forestry sector and how women can help each other --a good precursor to the Women's Forest Congress happening this October in Minneapolis.

FHS snagged a few fun items from the Silent Auction, including this framed Lego portrait of SAF founder Gifford Pinchot!



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