April 2023

New Webinar:
"Firebreak: How the Maine-New Brunswick Border Defined the Miramichi Fire of 1825"

On 7 October 1825, the Miramichi region of New Brunswick experienced one of the largest forest fires in recorded history while, next door, Maine suffered the most extensive fire in its history. The fires burned in the same environmental and climatic conditions, of course – and may well have been connected. Yet these fires, which consumed more than 4.6 million acres total, are largely forgotten today. Depending on which country they lived in, even the survivors remembered them very differently. Historian Alan MacEachern will describe efforts to reconstruct the fire’s history, and discuss how the international border served as a cultural firebreak, diminishing its fame in both the United States and Canada.

Alan MacEachern is the author of The Miramichi Fire: A History (2020). This webinar is approved for 1 hour of CFE credit.

You can see all previous webinars on our YouTube channel, including last month’s about Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards.
F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship Awarded

The F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship is awarded annually to a student at FHS's university affiliate Duke University whose research is historical in nature and related to forestry, land use, or the environment. This year's recipient is Arthur Braswell, a PhD candidate in the Department of History, and his project, "Building the Forever Fort: Militarization and Race in South Carolina since 1917."

Arthur's proposal focuses on Fort Jackson in South Carolina and how it has been leveraged to both undermine and also perpetuate Jim Crow policies in the military and in the region. Braswell outlines an important historical land use and land access thread of inquiry and analysis in the project.

Rosenberry Graduate Fellow Returns to FHS

The 2022 Rosenberry Graduate Fellowship winner Sophie FitzMaurice, returned to FHS this month to conduct more research. FitzMaurice's dissertation project, "Wood and the Making of Modern Communications: Telegraph Infrastructure in the U.S. Empire, c. 1846–1910," examines how wood provided the material foundations for the modern forms of communication that usually are associated with wire and electricity. These forms of communication all ultimately hinged on the ability of states or corporations to capture colossal amounts of wood and command cheap human and animal labor to move it.

Sophie is a history doctoral student at the University of California, Berkeley.

Logging Legends Live On Thanks to Daniel Boone

Daniel M. Boone (Yes! He's related to the famous one.) is a young logger with a passion for working in the woods, and for making videos in which he interviews older loggers. He says, "I want to capture these stories before it's too late." These oral histories are available to watch.
on his YouTube channel "Daniel Boone's Logging videos." We recently chatted with Daniel and hope to be sharing more of his videos in the future. You can watch his interview with Wes Allen, of Allen Brothers Forest Management, HERE.

FHS at ASEH

Last month, librarian Lauren Bissonette traveled to Boston for the annual American Society for Environmental History conference. Lauren met with long-time FHS members and board members, and those who wanted to learn about FHS. Rachel Kline, the US Forest Service liaison to the FHS board, teamed up with Lauren to staff our exhibit booth. Visitors were awed by the various publications FHS has to offer, and graduate students were happy to learn how FHS resources could support their studies. Rachel was part of a roundtable that discussed “Women, Nature, and the Nation in the United States, 1800–1950,” along with Ann Little, Colorado State University, and Lila M Teeters, University of New Hampshire. Lauren also attended a session called “Environmental Histories Beyond the Academy: Storytelling for Diverse Publics.” Big thanks to Rachel Kline and to all who stopped by the booth!

Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment Board of Visitors from Host Annual Meeting at FHS

In March, the FHS hosted the Board of Visitors from the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, Dean Toddi Steelman presiding. One of the presentations made was
by Cakey Worthington, Vice President of Carbon Operations for Anew Climate, LLC, formerly Bluesource, LLC, that assists unique projects to produce high-quality emission reduction benefits for sale in North American carbon markets. In 2022, Blue Source Sustainable Forests Company announced the acquisition of The Forestland Group’s 1.7 million-acre timberland portfolio. She shared that the increased focus and value of carbon credits will lead forest companies to consider a balance between timber harvest and growing forests for carbon offsets.

FHS Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 2023

We are looking forward to hosting the FHS Board of Directors at our headquarters in Durham, North Carolina, for their Spring 2023 meeting.

We are grateful to our volunteer board for all the time and energy they have dedicated in recent years to help FHS blaze a trail for the next 77 years! Thank you!
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH FHS!

INVEST IN THE FUTURE
BY UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST

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