



Forest Timeline Newsletter

May 2023

Join us for the webinar series

Conversations in Forest History

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis

Join Us for TWO Webinars in June as Part of Our Day of Giving Campaign!



June 12

Becoming “Treewise and Sequoical”: John Muir and the Giant Sequoia

Naturalist John Muir had just turned thirty when he first arrived in California in 1868. He came for many reasons, but certainly as a botanist, he wanted to see the Giant Sequoia

of the Sierra Nevada. Throughout the rest of his life, Muir’s focus on the Big Tree changed and those changes matched his pursuits in life. At first, he reveled among the groves like the young man that broke away from the factories to “study the inventions of God.” Then he studied the trees scientifically as he had studied the glaciers of the Sierra. Lastly, he worked tirelessly to preserve them as he helped to establish national parks and tried to prevent the flooding of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite. Join us to learn about how this tree changed John Muir.

Mike Wurtz is Head of the University of the Pacific Libraries' Holt-Atherton Special Collections and Archives - home of the largest collection of John Muir material in the world. An archivist and historian by trade, he is also the author of *John Muir's Grand Yosemite: Musings and Sketches*, which geolocates 25 sites in Yosemite from which Muir made his drawings.

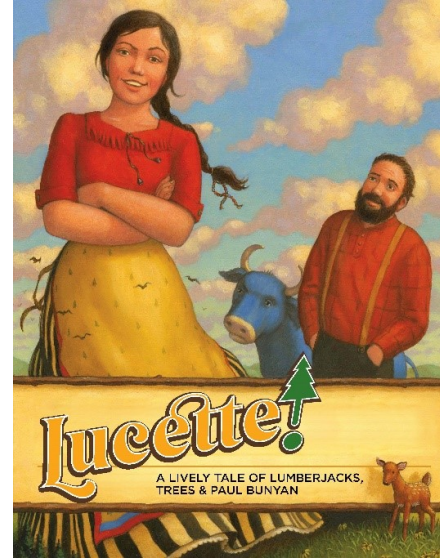
This webinar is approved for 1 hour of CFE credit.

Register Today!

June 14
"Lucette!"

Transforming Paul Bunyan from Indiscriminate Logger to Caring Forester

The Paul Bunyan myth has been woven through the history of US and Canadian forests, supporting a pride in unlimited logging. Marybeth Lorbiecki, having written a biographies of Aldo Leopold (one for adults and one for children), decided that North America needed a fresh cultural story that integrates a Leopoldian and Native American–influenced ethic. So, in 2007, Lorbiecki created the picture book [*Paul Bunyan's Sweetheart*](#), which puts a new twist on the tale of Paul's courtship of Lucette Diana Kensack. To win her hand, Paul tries to reform his ways, with great comic results!



Then Lorbiecki decided to transform this story into a new musical: “Lucette! A Lively Tale of Lumberjacks, Trees & Paul Bunyan.” She has integrated a strong female lead and friends, immigrants, and wildlife to better reflect the Northwood’s real history. This dynamic new musical with an environmental message and catchy original tunes will debut next summer.

Join us for a discussion about the message, the musical, and how we talk about the land by using well-known figures both real and mythical in general.

[Marybeth Lorbiecki](#) is the author of the award-winning biography [*A Fierce Green Fire: Aldo Leopold's Life and Legacy*](#). She is an adjunct writing and literature professor at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls and author of adult nonfiction and children’s books.

This webinar is approved for 1 hour of CFE credit.

Register Today!

Double Your Impact on Forest History!





Nate Otjen, [Bell Travel Grant](#) Awardee, Visits Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Library

Nate Otjen, a post-doctoral fellow at Princeton University, came to the Forest History Society to complete research on an article manuscript he was writing for *Animal Studies Journal*, a leading publication in the field of critical animal studies.

"Inheriting Extinction: Labor and Loss in the Longleaf Pine Forests of the U.S. South" examines how draft animals and animal-related logics played central roles in the extirpation of longleaf pine forests across much of the U.S. South during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Nate is studying the economy that arose through the extraction of longleaf, paying particular attention to how naval stores and logging operators employed draft animals like mules, oxen, and horses, and how they used animalizing language to hold Black and immigrant laborers in these difficult jobs.

Nate shared with us, "During my research, I located an excellent photo of a longleaf logging team working near Columbia, SC, and another photo of a longleaf pitch mule cart used by the Gillican-Chipley Company in New Orleans. These photos help illustrate my argument and, more importantly, they give readers a sense of the conditions in which nonhuman animals and their human caretakers labored. Another helpful source was the poem 'The Cry of the Pines' by Anne McQueen (published in Thomas P. Ivy's *The Long Leaf Pine*, 1923), which contains some extraordinary lines about what the economy of 'tree-life buying' may have looked like from the perspective of longleaf trees."

Nate then emphasized, "These materials not only strengthened my argument, but they also added historical nuance and texture that would have otherwise been impossible to achieve."

FHS Board of Directors Meet in Durham



The spring 2023 FHS Board of Directors meeting was held in late April in Durham. Thank you to the FHS Board of Directors for

all you do! L to R, back row: Peter Mertz, Ruth Anna Stolk, Chip Dillon, Bob Izlar, Don Motonic, Paul Sutter, Clark Seely, Tom Temple, Marshall Thomas, Doug MacCleery, Dan Christensen, Brent Keefer, and Fred Piasecki. Front row: Ellen Stroud, Charlie Rasmussen, Steve Anderson, Mark Hersey, Rachel Kline, Suzanne Cuthbert, and Rebecca Barnard.



At the spring board meeting, Hayes Brown was presented with the [FHS Fellow Award](#) in gratitude for his many years of services and support to the Forest History Society. Hayes served on the FHS Board of Directors from 2010-2017 helping to lead the organization as Vice-Chair and Immediate past-chair. He was instrumental in planning and helping the FHS achieve its new library, archives and headquarters. Joining Hayes is his wife Carrie Brown and FHS President Steve Anderson.

FHS Fellow awardees are given an hourglass inscribed with the FHS logo on top. The hourglass represents the continuous passing of time and our efforts to trace history. It is a reminder that time is precious and that every moment should be used to reflect and find meaning. Likewise, the Forest History Society aims for absolute integrity in historical interpretation.

Steve Anderson's Service and Career

Celebrated at Spring Dinner

Having the FHS Spring board meeting in Durham gave us the opportunity and pleasure to recognize and give thanks to Steve Anderson for his 27 years of service to the Forest History Society! More than 80 guests, including friends, family, staff, current and former board members and members of FHS, attended a dinner at the Washington Duke Inn. Remarks and speeches were given by Eugene Robbins (Past Board Chair), Larry Tombaugh (Past Board Chair; FHS Fellow and Emeritus board member), Michael Kelly (Past Board Chair; FHS Fellow and Emeritus board member), Ned Phares (FHS Fellow and Emeritus board member), Lynn Wilson (Immediate past-chair), Bob Izlar (current FHS Chair), and FHS staff historian Jamie Lewis. A great evening of celebration was had by all!



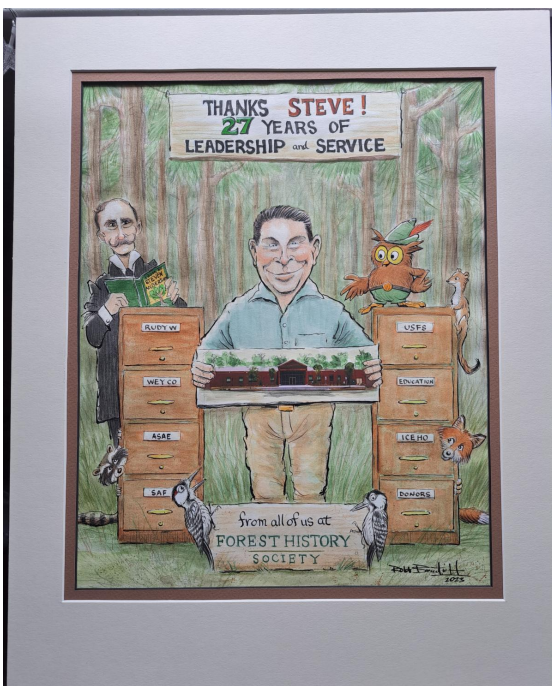
Steve Anderson was presented with the [FHS Fellow Award](#) by Bob Izlar and Lynn Wilson.



To cap off the evening, Steve offered remarks after being presented with a gift in recognition of his service to FHS.



FHS staff, from left to right: Lauren Bissonette, Librarian; Laura Hayden, Membership & Development; Eben Lehman, Archivist; Jamie Lewis, Historian; and Janet Askew, Finance & Accounting.



Left: FHS staff and board presented Steve with artwork specially commissioned for the occasion by Robert Braunfield, a nationally acclaimed naturalist and artist. It includes depictions of Carl Schenck and Woodsy Owl, the FHS building, and file cabinets with labels that refer to different aspects of Steve's career both before and with FHS.

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