



August 2023

## Announcing a New Endowment for Forest History Internships

One of the priorities in the FHS 2022–2032 strategic plan is to provide the FHS library and archives staff more time to field the growing number of information requests from students, teachers, journalists, and researchers, and to provide more forest history information online. To help achieve these objectives, the Society established an endowment to support interns to work alongside our librarian and archivist. Interns will come from colleges in the Triangle area who are students in forestry, history, and the library sciences. Interns may help by digitizing historic materials, processing archival collections, developing digital exhibits, cataloguing, and enriching research databases.



Funding will be provided through the [Steven Anderson Endowment for Forest History Internships](#), which will honor Steve, who finishes his 27-year tenure as president and CEO of the Forest History Society on Sept. 8. The endowment will be the first monies FHS has outside of grants and contracts to formally offer students compensation for their work. To date, we have secured \$95,000 as an initial investment toward the core of the endowment. In addition, we have secured \$6,000 from other generous donors to be used immediately toward giving interns such opportunities now, while the endowment increases in size.

If you would like to support this endowment, please make your donation by using the link below; in the "Additional Comments" write in "**Anderson Endowment**" so your request will go to this exciting program. You may also mail a check to the address at the bottom of the newsletter. If you have questions, [email](mailto:Laura.Hayden@fhs.org) Laura Hayden or call her at (919) 660-0552.

To contact Steve after Sept. 8, email him at [StevenA@duke.edu](mailto:StevenA@duke.edu). We wish him all the best in his retirement!

[\*\*Donate to Anderson Endowment\*\*](#)

## Meet International Bell Travel Grant

# Recipient Sam Hawksford White



Sam Hawksford White recently made use of an [Alfred D. Bell Jr. Travel Grant](#) to come from the United Kingdom to conduct research at FHS. He examined the photographic representation of flooding and drought in scientific journals produced in the 1930s, using textual and image analysis to identify narratives around the role of forestry, as a category of land engineering, in managing this dual problem. His research objectives are to question the function of photography in communicating environmental degradation during the Great Depression

and the New Deal. He examined several publications, including the *Journal of Forestry*, *American Forests* magazine, and *Forestry News Digest*; materials in the U.S. Forest Service Headquarters [History Reference Collection](#); and the [Edward B. Sincic](#) photograph collection.

Sam, a postgraduate researcher in American Studies at the University of Hull, had this to say about his time with us:

During my visit to FHS, I encountered first-hand the outstanding visual and textual collections that the Society holds. I was able to consult an incredible range of sources in the [American Forestry Association collection](#) and in subject files that I was completely unaware of while planning the work. Fortuitously, the search located the vivid biographical files that *American Forests* magazine kept on its authors and this provided welcome personal context to the content of the publications' articles. This detail will greatly strengthen my writing and add super "backstory" to the New Deal-era debates around forestry and flood management that I discuss in part of my thesis.

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## *Conversations in Forest History* Returns September 14th!



FOREST HISTORY  
*Society*

Join us for the webinar series

### *Conversations in Forest History*

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis



The [Conversations in Forest History](#) webinar series returns September 14th, at

1 pm EDT, when Beth Cormier, of SAAP1 North America, will be talking about cellulose, the most abundant polymer on earth. Used in paper products, textiles, consumables, and pharmaceuticals, cellulose is central to our daily lives. The presentation "[Cellulose: Meet the Versatile Forest-based Polymer](#)" will cover the many applications of forest-based cellulose in everyday products—some known, some not so known. Join Beth on a journey from paper and paper-based packaging to wood pulps for innovative composites and textiles and then finally from forest into high fashion.



The presentation is approved for 1 hour of CFE credit.

**"Cellulose: Meet the Versatile Forest-based Polymer"**  
with Beth Cormier  
Sept. 14, 1-2 pm ET

Register today!

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## Researcher Explores the History of the Book *Timber and Men*



Within the expansive [Weyerhaeuser Company records](#) are the working papers from a book project documenting the company's history from its beginnings to the early 1960s. In 1953, an agreement was reached between Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and Columbia University for a book *Timber and Men: The Weyerhaeuser Story*, a 700-page history published in 1963 by professional historians Ralph Hidy, Frank Hill, and Allan Nevins. Contemporary scholarly reviews described the book as "a magnum opus."

Karl Rodabaugh, an adjunct professor of history at East Carolina University, is interested in understanding what records those historians chose to consult and include in their project and why. Those choices can be influenced by personal interests and biases, as well as larger cultural, political, or social influences. In this case, the three men were hired by Weyerhaeuser, and they were

researching and writing the book during a era dubbed "consensus history," when business historians tended to downplay class conflict and looked favorably upon successful businesses and leaders.

Karl, shown above with a portrait of F. K. Weyerhaeuser in the FHS Library and Archives, visited to explore what major shifts or trends in the general outlook of business historians doing corporate history might be revealed by an examination of *Timber and Men*. In his abstract, Karl asks: "To what extent did their ten-year research project investigate the following six potential subject areas of research (recommended in 2011 by Walter Friedman and Geoffrey Jones to revitalize the field of business history): (1) entrepreneurship; (2) innovation; (3) globalization; (4) business and the environment; (5) the role of governments; (6) business and democracy? Arguably, *Timber and Men* deals substantively with every one of Friedman and Jones's six subject areas" in a modernist way. Karl is also interested in determining how historians today should assess the book,



## Five Hundred Westvaco (South Carolina) Photos Now Available Online

More than 500 photos were recently scanned from the Westvaco Corporation records detailing the company's operations in South Carolina during the 1940s and 1950s. These photos are just a small portion of those collected in the historic photo albums found in the collection. The albums were originally collected by the company's timberlands division office in Summerville, SC, and later donated to FHS. The



majority of the photos now available document the company's forest management efforts throughout South Carolina, as well as pulpwood logging, tree planting, nurseries, buildings, employees, and more. The company, then called the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company (renamed Westvaco in 1969), had a significant presence in South Carolina during this time period, and these photos visually document a piece of that history. View all of the digitized Westvaco South Carolina photos via the FHS Image Database by clicking below. Here is a link to the collection's [finding aid](#).

(Above, Club house located on sand ridge in interior of area, surrounded by swamp lands in the 1940s. [Georgia Cypress Company Purchase area, Jasper County, South Carolina.]

[View The  
Photos](#)

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## FHS Board Member Hailed as National Outstanding Forester of the Year

Don Motanic, a member of the FHS Board of Directors and president of the [Wisdom of the Elders Board](#), is the recipient of one of the Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards, given annually by the Intertribal Timber Council. The awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian forestry and natural resources. Don received the National Outstanding Forester of the Year award for 2023.

The awards are named for [Earle R. Wilcox](#), whose career spanned 33 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His tireless devotion to the development of



forestry resources for the benefit of Indian people was instrumental in establishing tribal enterprises on several reservations and contributed greatly to the development of the Intertribal Timber Council and what it stands for.

In its announcement about Don's award, the [Wisdom of the Elders](#) blog described Don this way: Don Motanic's profound knowledge spans various areas, most notably as a Forestry Engineer and Forest Manager. Throughout his illustrious 42-year career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, he lived and worked closely with the Yakama Nation, Umatilla, and Spokane Tribes, actively contributing to

sustainable forest management and preservation of tribal lands.

A true advocate for education and empowerment, Don has played an integral role as a Technical Specialist with the Intertribal Timber Council since 1995. Furthermore, his dedication to nurturing Native youth shines through his involvement with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), providing them with opportunities to explore and excel in the fields of science and engineering.

Congratulations, Don! We are delighted to have your friendship and wisdom at the Forest History Society!



Forest History Society | 2925 Academy Rd., Durham, NC 27705

[Unsubscribe james.lewis@duke.edu](mailto:james.lewis@duke.edu)

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Sent by [laura.hayden@foresthistory.org](mailto:laura.hayden@foresthistory.org) powered by



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