

After twenty-six years, FHS President and CEO Steve Anderson announced in June 2022 he would retire in the coming year. Steve had succeeded Pete Steen, who led FHS for twenty years before retiring in 1997 and had worked at FHS as a staff member for about eight years before that.

Pete's record as president of FHS is remarkable. But in addition to leading FHS, Pete was a prolific chronicler of forest history, with a list of publications that is long, varied, and impressive. Though perhaps best known for his work on the U.S. Forest Service, he also wrote about tropical forests in the Pacific Rim and Central and South America. We forest historians toil away in fields he plowed. You can read about both Pete the executive and Pete the historian in the special section of this issue that commemorates his time at FHS. It contains a tribute to him from the time of his retirement along with an article he wrote for *American Forests* that exemplifies his command of forest history and his engaging, sly writing style.

I first met Pete two years before he retired, when I was a graduate student conducting research at FHS on a Bell Fellow Travel Grant. History was serious business to him. He invited me into his office to talk about my dissertation, which was on the establishment of forestry education in the United States. Pete was a tall, lanky fellow with a gruff demeanor, a combination that made for an intimidating presence to someone who didn't know him. I got the feeling that, perhaps, he wanted to assure himself that the Society hadn't wasted its funds supporting my travel to Durham to work in its archives. He

asked tough, thoughtful questions and pressed me about the direction and scope of the project. Being a know-it-all doctoral student at the time, I didn't like hearing what sounded like disapproval. But upon later reflection, I realized what he offered was valid feedback, and, indeed, it helped me a great deal. He had challenged some of my assertions because he wanted the work to be solid, and because he expected me to make a worthwhile contribution to the field. Pete passed away in January 2022.

The field of forest history suffered another loss last year with the passing of Steve Arno in June 2022. Steve spent much of his career as a forest researcher with the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station. Trained as a forest ecologist, he took up writing history that easily conveyed his scientific knowledge to a lay audience. This magazine was the beneficiary of that decision. Steve contributed several articles over the years that I have been editor (sixteen years and counting!) on individual tree species, starting with ponderosa pine in the 2008 issue. His latest—an excerpt from the 2020 book *Douglas Fir: The Story of the West's Most Remarkable Tree*, written with his frequent collaborator Carl Fiedler—will be his last, but I'm happy to announce that it's kicking off a new column called Icon. The column will highlight an iconic tree or animal in forest history. Though I never met Steve, my impression of him is that he was an icon (and like the subject of this selection, the Mineral Tree—a giant) in his field.

This issue contains a second special section, devoted to the inaugural Women's Forest Congress held in Minneapolis in October 2022. It includes a summary of the history of American forest congresses (of which



this is the eighth), the declaration issued at the end of this congress, the reflections of four attendees, and then two presentations given at the congress—one on the history of women in forest conservation and the other about the present and future roles of women in the forest sector. My thanks to Elizabeth Woodworth for all her time and help with this section.

In addition to the special sections, this issue has several other outstanding offerings. You can eavesdrop on a “conversation” between James Gulden and Hermann Rodenkirchen about the *Dauerwald* forest management approach, which originated in Germany and was adapted for use in Missouri in the 1950s. Julie Velásquez Runk looks at the centuries-long history of rosewood as a global commodity. Pete Steen would have high praise for Stephen Cernek, who debunks the mythical origins of the American wood pulp and paper industry. In the Portrait column, Jerry Emory introduces us to George M. Wright, an important figure in the history of the National Park Service. And if you're looking to explore forest history while on vacation, Sydney Miller tells why you should visit Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, South Carolina.