



Forest History Society | 2022-2023 Annual Report



Mission

The mission of the Forest History Society is to preserve and help people use the documents of forest history. The Society identifies, collects, interprets, and disseminates historical information on the relationship of humans and forests, contributing to informed natural resource decision-making.

Our Values

We believe in . . .

Preservation of records of historical significance, and maintaining their quality and integrity to serve **present and future generations**

Documenting the **diversity of peoples' relationships and experiences** with forests through time, and encouraging all individuals and groups to share their stories and perspectives

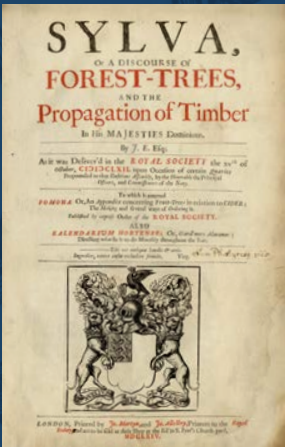
The continuity and **interconnectedness of forests and human events** and that knowledge of the past provides insights to guide the future

Bringing the **lessons of forest history** to bear on the complex social, ecological, economic, and political forest policy issues of today

Sharing information and knowledge among all interested in forests and conservation and **contributing to public enlightenment** about the enduring value that forests have had for humankind

Scholarship and the importance of applying intellectual skills to **advance excellence** in the study, analysis, and interpretation of forest and conservation history

Partnerships and the ensuing synergy among all who wish to support, preserve, study, and apply our heritage of forests and conservation



Title page from *Sylva, A Discourse of Forest-trees, and the Propagation of Timber in His Majesties Dominions*. John Evelyn. 1664. The original publication did not include additional illustrations. Images featured on the cover and throughout this report are from the 1776 edition. FHS Collections.

Shortly after arriving at the Forest History Society, I was able to examine the oldest book in our collections—John Evelyn’s *Sylva*, the first book published by the Royal Society of London, in 1664. I had heard of this book while in graduate school but had never held a physical copy in my hands.

As the full title of the book suggests—*A Discourse of Forest-trees, and the Propagation of Timber in His Majesties Dominions*—it is one of the earliest arguments for sustainable forestry. Dedicated to King Charles II, Evelyn pressed his landholding readers to plant trees as an urgent matter for the country’s continued prosperity and security. As an island realm that depended on ships for her economy and naval defenses, England desperately needed more trees—tall conifers for masts and strong oaks to build hulls. But many of her oldest and largest trees had been cut in prior centuries, and wood was continuing to be fed to the country’s seemingly insatiable hearths and kilns at an alarming rate.

It is remarkable to hold this book in my hands today—not only for the timeliness of its message, but also for the sheer fact that I am standing in a library in Durham, North Carolina, 360 years after its pages were first pulled off a printing press in London. Think of the floods, fires, diseases, perilous passages, and reversals of fortune of centuries past. Any book that survives from the seventeenth century to reach us today is a marvel to behold. And our *Sylva* is in good shape—there are blemishes here and there, but the pages feel sturdy, and the text is still crisp.

Safeguarding the documents of history is one of the core values that guide our work at FHS. Forests have played a crucial role in our nation’s history, and it gives me tremendous comfort to know that our books and documents are kept safe in our state-of-the-art building for generations to come. And yet, as much as the historian in me relishes the vast richness and security of our stacks, I also know that preserving the documents of history is only part of our mandate. Just as crucial to our mission is ensuring that these documents are discoverable and accessible to all who wish to use them, because we believe that understanding the past can make us better stewards of our future.

Forests will increasingly play a vital role in the health of our planet, the global economy, and the well-being of the many communities that depend on them. The mission of FHS is, therefore, just as



timely today as it was at the organization’s founding almost 80 years ago.

In this report, you will see highlighted the values that guide FHS in its work. The achievements you’ll find described are a testament to the dedication and vision of our board of directors, former President Steve Anderson, our staff, and each of you who make this work possible. I hope you will be as inspired as I am by the successes of the past two years—may they instill in you a sense of possibility and excitement for what lies ahead for the Forest History Society!

Tania Munz

Tania Munz, President and CEO

Preserving records of historical significance for **present**
and **future**
GENERATIONS

Collections

Housed in the Alvin J. Huss Archives are the personal and professional papers of some of the most important scientists and practitioners of forestry, as well as corporate, government, and advocacy organizations. Also in our archives are photo collections, films and videos, oral history interview tapes, posters and artwork, and rare books of historical significance. Researchers from around the world visit FHS to gain access to this one-of-a-kind collection. Of the collections we've accepted over the past two years, these three illustrate the diversity of sources we strive to preserve:

FOREST PRODUCTS

From Dierks Forests, we received 17 boxes of materials documenting the history of this forest products company and its operations in Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma until its acquisition by Weyerhaeuser Company in 1969.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The family of Lloyd W. Swift Sr. (1904–2001), a wildlife management expert with the U.S. Forest Service and the World Wildlife Fund, donated more than 20 boxes of files, reports, correspondence, and personal diaries from a seventy-year career.

TROPICAL FORESTRY

Gary Hartshorn (1943–), one of the world's leading experts in tropical forestry, donated 35 boxes of materials from his work in Central and South America, including records covering fifty years of data on one experimental plot in Costa Rica.

IMAGE DIGITIZATION

The FHS online image database contains more than 40,000 historical images. All are accessible to researchers from anywhere in the world. Scanning and cataloging old photos is highly detailed work requiring precision and delicate handling. Recently, of the thousands of photos that have been processed and uploaded, more than 600 depict the Westvaco Corporation's operations in South Carolina during the 1940s and 1950s. These paper photos were carefully removed from albums, scanned and cataloged, and returned for preservation.

Some 250 slides from the Duke University School of Forestry Lantern Slide Collection were added, bringing that collection's total to 550 images. The hand-colored glass images provide an extraordinary visual record of forest management practices in the first half of the twentieth century in the U.S.



“It’s exciting when a researcher finds something new or something they maybe didn’t even know existed when using our collections.”

EBEN LEHMAN, FHS ARCHIVIST



Documenting the **DIVERSITY** of **peoples’**
perspectives and
experiences with forests through time

Library & Archives

Since our founding in 1946, the library and archives have been central to the Forest History Society’s mission. The library holds more than 12,000 books and annually receives more than 200 books and periodicals, with more coming in every day, to add to the collection. Our manuscript and image collections, which are protected in our climate-controlled archive, shed light on a wide range of subjects, such as the American conservation and environmental movements, the profession of forestry, and the use of forests and related natural resources throughout the world. The library and archives staff ensure that our holdings are available to everyone interested in the history of the relationship between people and forests and other natural resources.

One way we share materials is through our digital exhibits on the FHS website, where you will find a diversity of themes and voices. Our latest, “Reclaiming Maxville: The Legacy of African Americans in a Lumber Town,” explores the history of a multiracial lumber town in Oregon that disappeared in 1945. And thanks to support from the MillsDavis Foundation, FHS curated this online exhibit working with Yolanda Hester and Elizabeth Flowers of Frameworks and Narratives LLC, and the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center.

All digital exhibits, including “Division and Restoration: A Brief History of Forestry on the Quinault Indian Reservation” and “The Oberlaender Trust and American Forestry”—both created by interns—can be found at www.foresthistory.org/digital-exhibits.



“Every day I learn something new about forest history through the treasure trove of resources we have right here in our library.”

LAUREN BISSONETTE, FHS LIBRARIAN

As of July 2023, our searchable, online library databases list:

- 40,576** images
- 18,425** books
- 27,671** articles
- 3,605** dissertations and theses

Research Fellows

The Forest History Society offers three fellowships to support researchers.

Early-career scholars can receive the **ALFRED D. BELL JR. TRAVEL GRANT** to help defray travel and lodging expenses for those using our library and archive.

Andrew Bell, a postdoctoral student at Centre d’histoire, Science Po, Paris, conducted research on postwar seeding programs as well as the role of forestry in the First World War and its aftermath on an international scale.

Nate Otjen, a postdoctoral research associate at the High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University, researched how draft animals were used in the extraction of longleaf pine for logging and turpentine industries in the U.S. South around the turn of the twentieth century.

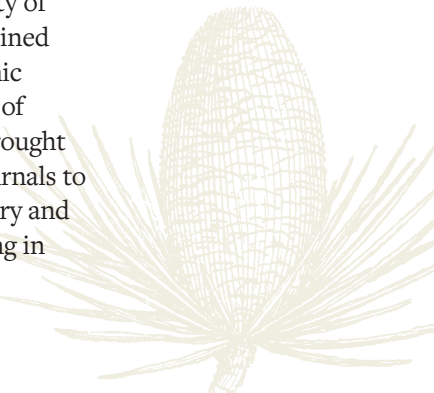
Thomas Kaye, a PhD student at the University of Birmingham (UK), used the Forests in Fiction collection to conduct research on forests and forestry in modern and contemporary American literature.

Donald Davis, an independent historian and part-time research scholar at Harvard Forest, worked on his book featuring the biographies of ten ancient trees, including the oldest living bald cypress in eastern North America and the individuals who studied them.

Jason Newton, a history professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, explored an early-twentieth-century debate on “technical” versus “practical” forestry training in the professional literature of the era.

Samuel Hawksford White, a postgraduate researcher in American studies at the University of Hull, UK, examined the photographic representation of flooding and drought in scientific journals to compare forestry and land engineering in the 1930s.

Ruth Anna Stolk, Smithsonian Conservation Commons, Washington, DC, researched the Progressive Era forest conservation movement and the key figures of the early days of American professional forestry, including her own grandfather, to compare their values and practices with those of the present.



The **WALTER J. ROSENBERRY FELLOWSHIP** supports the doctoral research of a student attending a university in North America.

2022. Sophie FitzMaurice, “Wood and the Making of Modern Communications: Telegraph Infrastructure in the U.S. Empire, c. 1846–1910.”

2023. George Andrei, “Conflicts over Scientific-Bureaucratic Forestry as a Major Force Shaping Life and Forest Use in Rural Romania.”

The **F. K. WEYERHAEUSER FELLOWSHIP** provides funding to Duke University graduate students pursuing research in environmental history with a focus on forests.

2022. Alyssa Russell, “Economic Development at What Cost? The Fantus Company, Corporate Subsidies, and Working-Class Communities, 1919–1999.”

2023. Arthur Braswell, “Building the Forever Fort: Militarization and Race in South Carolina since 1917.”

Visiting Researchers

Researchers come from all over the world to use the Society’s extensive library collection and unique archival holdings, which include rare photos, artworks, films, and interview recordings. Over the past two years, FHS welcomed eleven other researchers to Durham. Their topics represent a diverse range of study, from industrial timberland ownership to African American life under segregation in the forests of the Deep South, and in materials, from photos and film footage of women in forest conservation to blueprints of fire towers. The library staff also answers queries and requests from those unable to travel to Durham.

FHS VISITING RESEARCHERS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS

- Gary Blank, North Carolina State University
- Kelly Kay, University of California, Los Angeles
- Owen Hyman, University of Mississippi
- Augustine Sedgewick, journalist and author
- Cheryle Franceschi, filmmaker, Por Eco Productions
- Theo Mitchell, Princeton University
- Linda Fetko, U.S. Forest Service
- Julie-Francoise Tolliver, University of Oklahoma
- Sophie Fitzmaurice, University of California, Berkeley
- Tom Özden-Schilling, National University of Singapore
- Kayla Stan, University of Southern Mississippi

“The Forest History Society offers an extensive trove of research materials 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. I found some amazing material that will prove vital to the thesis, and it was a real pleasure to work in the beautiful Carl Weyerhaeuser Library.”

THOMAS KAYE, DOCTORAL RESEARCHER, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, UK

Promoting **KNOWLEDGE** and **public understanding** of the value of forests through time

Programming

Our programming provides knowledgeable people in various fields an opportunity to share their perspectives about the value of our forests. Two of our most popular programs are the monthly webinar series, “Conversations in Forest History,” hosted by historian Jamie Lewis, and the annual Lynn W. Day Lecture in Forest and Conservation History. Webinars have featured a range of experts—including leaders from industry, historians, and artists—on topics like the history and future of forest carbon markets, the many applications of forest-based cellulose in everyday products, why foresters founded The Wilderness Society, the challenges faced by minority landowners across generations, and the underrecognized role of women in creating a land ethic.

Held each autumn, the Lynn W. Day Lecture is given by

recognized scholars or leaders in natural resources who are shaping our understanding of human history and environmental change. This is a collaborative effort between FHS and Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment and the university’s Department of History. The most recent lecture featured Terry Baker, CEO of the Society of American Foresters, who shared personal experiences to illuminate the dynamic intersections of people, policy, and climate and their implications for the future of our nation’s forests. Afterward, Terry (right) also presented Jamie Lewis (left) with the SAF’s 2023 W. D. Hagenstein Communicator Award.

All presentations are available on our YouTube channel. FHS offers Continuing Forestry Education credits for all presentations.



Since 2021, our webinars have gotten more than **7,000** views on YouTube.

Each webinar averages **250** attendees.

“Beautifully done and well facilitated, as always! Thank you for continuing to bring excellent scholarship to the public.”

WEBINAR ATTENDEE

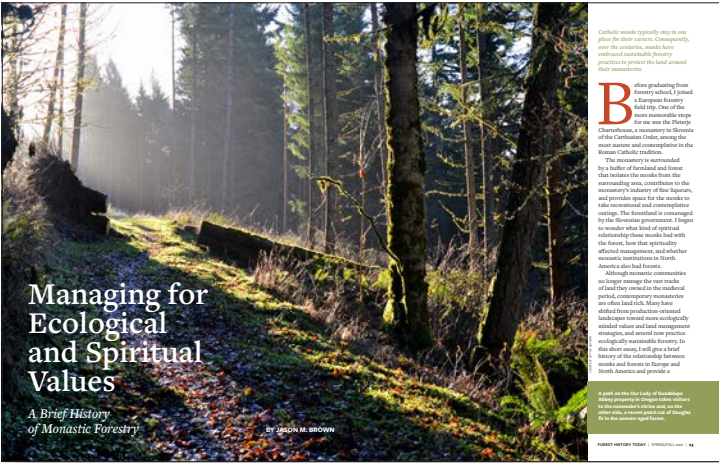
Fostering **scholarly** EXCELLENCE in forest and conservation history

Publications

FHS has been sharing forest history for nearly 80 years through a variety of outlets, from books and journals to a blog, digital exhibits, documentary films, and social media. It all began with our first book, *Forests for the Future: The Story of Sustained-Yield Forestry*, published in 1952. In the coming year, we’ll publish three more: two entries in our Issues Series and our eleventh book about the U.S. Forest Service.

Society supporters receive subscriptions to our annual magazine, *Forest History Today*, and the quarterly journal *Environmental History*, copublished with the American Society for Environmental History. Partnering with ASEH and the University of Chicago Press enables us to distribute the world’s leading scholarly journal on the subject to nearly 5,500 libraries and research institutions worldwide. A recent issue of *Environmental History* included a forum of six articles that explored new directions in the field of forest history.

Forest History Today provides general readers with informative and engaging articles about forest history around the world, generously illustrated with historical images frequently drawn from our own archives. Recent articles looked at the global exploitation of rosewood, the use of homing pigeons as a firefighting communication tool, and the long history of Christian monks’ embrace of forest management. In keeping with our belief in making scholarship widely available, the magazine is made accessible online to all six months after members receive their print copies at www.foresthistory.org/FHT.



“*Forest History Today* is truly outstanding! It isn’t often that I read any publication from cover to cover, but every page of this edition told interesting and fascinating stories. I *did* read it from cover to cover!”

Financial Highlights

For the year ended June 30, 2022

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Income	
Contributions	\$663,814
Program and Other Revenue	\$6,800
Investment Income	\$160,031
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain	(\$1,669,633)
Total Support, Revenue, and Investment Income	(\$838,988)

Expenses	
Program Services	\$764,324
Administration	\$86,100
Fundraising	\$64,978
Depreciation	\$173,975
Total Expenses	\$1,089,377

Change in Net Assets	
Net Assets—Beginning of Year	\$16,075,167
Net Assets—End of Year	\$14,146,802

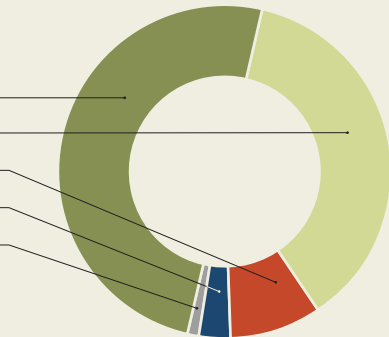
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	
Current Assets	\$849,153
Investments	\$7,491,615
Pledges Receivable, Long term	—
Land, Building, and Equipment (net)	\$5,877,864
Total Assets	\$14,218,632

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$71,830
Long-Term Debt	—
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$6,480,673
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$7,666,129
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,218,632

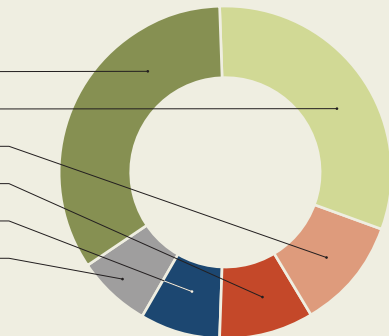
OPERATING REVENUE

Annual Giving	\$492,815	50%
Endowment Withdrawal	\$367,305	38%
Program Gifts, Grants, Contracts, Publications, and Royalties	\$85,881	9%
Funds Released from Restrictions	\$27,355	3%
Interest, Dividends, and Miscellaneous	\$4,833	<1%
Total	\$978,189	



OPERATING EXPENSES

Research and Publications	\$314,181	34%
Library and Archives	\$286,315	31%
Education and Outreach	\$97,024	11%
Administration	\$86,100	9%
Awards and Fellowships	\$66,804	7%
Development	\$64,978	7%
Total*	\$915,402	



For the year ended June 30, 2023

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Income	
Contributions	\$768,421
Program and Other Revenue	\$13,707
Investment Income	\$235,622
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain	\$552,684
Total Support, Revenue, and Investment Income	\$1,570,434

Expenses	
Program Services	\$987,250
Administration	\$159,035
Fundraising	\$66,586
Depreciation	\$173,178
Total Expenses	\$1,386,049

Change in Net Assets	
Net Assets—Beginning of Year	\$14,146,802
Net Assets—End of Year	\$14,331,187

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

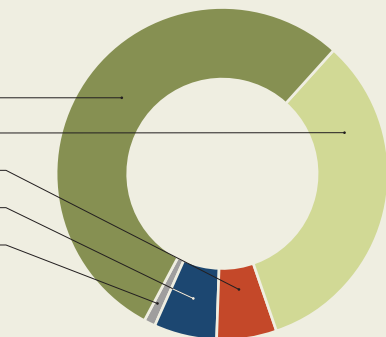
Assets	
Current Assets	\$759,937
Investments	\$7,926,028
Pledges Receivable, Long term	—
Land, Building, and Equipment (net)	\$5,717,372
Total Assets	\$14,403,337

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$72,150
Long-Term Debt	—
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$6,205,564
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$8,125,623
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,403,337

Audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available at www.foresthistory.org or by phone (919) 682-9319.

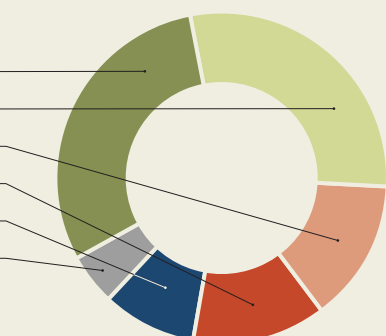
OPERATING REVENUE

Annual Giving	\$573,865	54%
Endowment Withdrawal	\$348,024	33%
Program Gifts, Grants, Contracts, Publications, and Royalties	\$61,267	6%
Funds Released from Restrictions	\$65,424	6%
Interest, Dividends, and Miscellaneous	\$12,832	1%
Total	\$1,061,412	



OPERATING EXPENSES

Library and Archives	\$365,542	30%
Research and Publications	\$347,320	29%
Education and Outreach	\$169,898	14%
Administration	\$159,035	13%
Awards and Fellowships	\$104,490	9%
Development	\$66,586	5%
Total*	\$1,212,871	



thank you!

CREATING partnerships to support and promote forest history

Contributions & Project Sponsors July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022

Thank you for generously supporting the Forest History Society!

INDIVIDUALS

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(\$25,000 and above)

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F. K. Day
Peter* and Carolyn Mertz
Ned* and Beverly Phares

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Anonymous

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memory of George M.
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Rick Weyerhaeuser*
Nancy Weyerhaeuser
Lynn* and Patrick Wilson

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Douglas G. Turner
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(\$100 to \$249)

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Andrea Anderson
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Daina Dravnieks Apple
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Michael Bentinck-Smith
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Aranzazu Lascurain
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(\$25,000 and above)

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Rosenberry Charitable
Term Trust

Director’s Circle
(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Weyerhaeuser Day Foundation
Cherbec Advancement
Foundation
The George Kress Foundation

Scholar’s Circle
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Charles A. Weyerhaeuser
Memorial Foundation
Chip and Margaret Dillon
Endowment

Elise R. Donohue
Charitable Trust
Anonymous
Sit Investment Foundation
in memory of George H.
Weyerhaeuser
Summit Trust

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(\$2,500 to \$4,999)

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser
Memorial Foundation
Harrigan Family Foundation

President’s Circle
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

American Forest Foundation
Mason Charitable Trust
The Rodman Foundation

Benefactor Circle
(\$500 to \$999)

The Hearthstone Foundation

Patron Circle
(\$250 to \$499)

Betsy Jewett Giving Fund

CORPORATIONS

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(\$25,000 and above)

Weyerhaeuser Company

Director’s Circle
(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Green Bay Packaging

Scholar’s Circle
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Enviva LP
Green Diamond Resource
Company
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Management Timberland
Rayonier Inc.
Rex Lumber LLC
The Westervelt Company
Timber Products Company
Timberland Investment
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Forest Investment Associates
Global Forest Partners
Roseburg Forest Products
SAPPI North America
Starker Forests Inc.

President’s Circle
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Huber Engineered Woods LLC
Charles Ingram Lumber Co. Inc.
American Forest
Management Inc.
Harrigan Lumber Company Inc.
LandVest Timberland Inc.
Lyme Timber Company
PotlatchDeltic
Resource Management
Service LLC
Seven Islands Land Co.
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