

The Forest History Society Awards program enables the Society to recognize research and writing in forest and conservation history and to stimulate further research into our understanding of the relationships of people and forests. The following is a list of awards for 2023 and for 2024.

LEOPOLD-HIDY AWARD

The Aldo Leopold–Ralph W. Hidy Award honors the best article published in the journal *Environmental History* during the preceding year. The award is presented jointly by the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society. The 2023 recipient is **Emily Brownell**, currently a lecturer in Environmental History and African History at The University of Edinburgh in the UK, for her article, “Reterritorializing the Future: Writing Environmental Histories of the Oil Crisis from Tanzania,” 27, No. 4 (October 2022): 747–71.

Brownell’s article challenges environmental historians to play a bigger role in narrating the events of postcolonial Africa and underscores the promise of doing so by reframing the oil crisis of the 1970s and 1980s as a political and social crisis in Tanzania that set in motion environmental transformations. With its economy crippled as a result of rising importation costs, Brownell argues Tanzania “reterritorialized its future” by pushing to reinvigorate Global South cooperation and fostering the development of local resources that were not predicated on continued access to cheap petroleum. It was a process, as she convincingly shows, that entangled political aspirations to sever dependence on the West with material environmental consequences for the nation.

The 2024 recipient is **Hayley Negrin** for her article, “Return to the Yeokanta/River: Powhatan Women and Environmental Treaty Making in Early America,” 28, No. 3 (July 2023): 522–53. Her article offers new

insight into the Treaty of Middle Plantation (1677) between the Powhatan people and the English. Departing from a tradition that has long interpreted the treaty as an indication of declining Powhatan power, Negrin turns her attention to an Algonquian Weoransqua named Cockacoeske, who, having survived Nathaniel Bacon’s attempt to enslave her by hiding in the swamps of the Piankatank River, negotiated with representatives of the crown and eventually signed the treaty in a swirling line to represent the river of her birth. Tracing the multiple meanings of the treaty for the Indigenous signatories, Negrin demonstrates that Cockacoeske’s signature offered a reminder to the English of the kinship and environmental relationships at stake as the plantation complex expanded in Virginia. Narrating the environmental history embedded in Cockacoeske’s “signature” in collaboration with contemporary tribal historians, Negrin reframes the history of the treaty as one of Indigenous resilience and kinship with the environment. In doing so, she develops the concept of “environmental treaty making” in a way that underscores the previously unappreciated role that Indigenous women like Cockacoeske played when negotiating with colonial powers.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN AWARD

The Theodore C. Blegen Award recognizes the best article in the field of forest and conservation history that is not published in *Environmental History*. The 2023 winner was **Mark E. DeGiovanni Miller**, a professor of history at Southern Utah University, for his article “A River

Again: Fossil Creek, Desert Fishes, and Dam Removal in the American Southwest.” His work was published in the *Pacific Historical Review*, Volume 91, Number 2. Miller’s article examines the pioneering campaign to remove the Childs-Irving dam and hydroelectric plants from Fossil Creek, an unusual perennial stream in the Arizona desert that harbored several rare fish species. Childs-Irving was one of the country’s first two successful dam removals, the result of an emerging international restoration movement to reestablish free-flowing rivers and a model for removals to come. But, as Miller shows, the effort was initially complicated by both historic preservationists and green energy advocates who saw the dam as a historical structure that produced clean energy. The article is a wonderful case study that illuminates the complex forms of coalition and consensus building that eventually resulted in the dam’s successful removal.

The 2024 winner is **Kara Murphy Schlichting**, an associate professor of history at Queens College, CUNY, for her article “The Narrowing of Broad Beach: Coastal Change and Public Beaches in Malibu, California,” published in *Pacific Historical Review*, 92, No. 2, Spring 2023. This article examines conflicts over public access to Malibu’s Broad Beach, highlighting how climate change–driven storms have eroded both the beach and property boundaries. Schlichting adeptly integrates twentieth-century conservation history with current environmental issues, offering a significant scholarly contribution to environmental and conservation

history by exploring both activist and regulatory perspectives.

JOHN M. COLLIER AWARD FOR FOREST HISTORY JOURNALISM

Established to honor the memory of the skilled journalist, working scholar, and prolific writer of articles and special features for forest industry press publications, the Forest History Society's John M. Collier Award encourages excellence in journalism that incorporates forest and conservation history. **Paige Williams**, an American journalist, author, and staff writer at *The New Yorker*, was the 2023 winner for her article, "Howl: Killing Wolves Has Become a Political Act" (April 4, 2022). The winning article discusses the reintroduction of wolves into Idaho back in the 1990s and its role as the object of political controversy ever since. With Idaho's long reputation of hostility toward the grey wolf, an aggressive new law allows people to hunt or trap as many as they can.

The 2024 winner is **Alec Luhn**, an award-winning climate journalist, for his article, "Rusting Rivers," published in *Scientific American* (January 2024). This article vividly explores the critical issue of tainted rivers with gripping, well-researched writing. Luhn uses a "quest adventure" narrative to tackle the mystery of polluted orange rivers, blending literary style with urgent environmental concerns. While it leaves some questions unresolved, particularly regarding the exact cause and solution, it compellingly addresses the impact of permafrost thawing and presents a thought-provoking examination of the situation.

CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER BOOK AWARD

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award rewards superior scholarship in forest

and conservation history. This award goes to an author who has exhibited fresh insight into a topic and whose narrative analysis is clear, inventive, and thought-provoking.

Mark Kuhlberg and his book, *Killing Bugs for Business and Beauty: Canada's Aerial War Against Forest Pests, 1913–1930*, won for 2023. *The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier* by **Amy Godine** and *Democratic Spaces: Land Preservation in New England, 1850–2010* by **Richard W. Judd** were cowinners in 2024. More can be learned about each of these books in the Media column.

F. K. WEYERHAEUSER FOREST HISTORY FELLOWSHIP

The F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship is awarded annually to a student at the FHS university affiliate, Duke University, whose research is historical in nature and related to forestry, land use, or the environment. The 2023 recipient was **Arthur Braswell**, a PhD candidate in the Department of History, for his project, "Building the Forever Fort: Militarization and Race in South Carolina since 1917." Braswell'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 environmental history—land use and land access thread of inquiry and analysis in the project. The longleaf pines that no longer dominate the Southeastern forest ecosystem still remain prominent in the 53,000-acre army base and insulated from suburban sprawl. The army's need for expansive forests to conduct maneuvers inadvertently aligned with the goals of modern conservation. Varied

groups of constituents valued Fort Jackson and clashed about the limits it imposed on local development.

Brandon Hays, a PhD candidate in the Department of Ecology, was selected as the 2024 recipient for his project "Asian Elephants Rebounding from the Brink: Impacts on Tropical Forest Structure from Past to Present." The project examines how Asian elephants shape forest composition and structure. Researchers have shown that elephants alter forests by dispersing seeds, selectively trampling saplings, and dispersing nutrients through their dung. His work will focus on the impact of Asian elephants on tropical forest structure as well as how their presence affects carbon storage. Understanding the consequences of losing elephants is important, he argues, both for our understanding of Asian tropical forests and for our understanding of global carbon cycles and climate change.

WALTER S. ROSENBERY FELLOWSHIP IN FOREST & CONSERVATION HISTORY

This fellowship provides a stipend to support the doctoral research of a graduate student attending a university in North America other than Duke University whose research contributes to forest and conservation history. Our winning student for 2023 was **George Andrei** from Indiana University in Bloomington. His dissertation project, "'Our Struggle for Existence': State-Building, Forestry, and Citizenship in Carpathian Romania, 1918–1940," follows the emergence of and conflicts over scientific-bureaucratic forestry as a major force shaping life and citizenship and forest use in rural Romania. Studying Romanian forestry from global and local perspectives,

he reveals the networks of scientific activism that connected Romanian foresters to peers in the United States, Europe, and the colonized world and how these connections led them to develop seemingly paradoxical notions of rural citizenship based on duty, commodification, and environmental stewardship. At the same time, he evaluates the purchase of modern forestry practices among highland- and mountain-dwelling villagers whose socioecological systems were fundamentally transformed through these practices.

Abby Cunniff from the University of California Santa Cruz was selected as the 2024 recipient. Cunniff's dissertation, "Someone Has To Do It': Incarcerated Workers in California Forests," brings the subfields of environmental and forest history into conversation with both labor history

and the history of incarceration in productive and interesting ways, with a timely focus on the history of fighting forest fires in California. Her project centers the experiences of incarcerated people on the front lines of fighting forest fires in California since 1943 and takes us from the World War II era through the rise of mass incarceration to our current era of climate change. Cunniff draws on an impressive range of sources, from the written testimonies of formerly incarcerated firefighters, to prison newspapers, to state and federal archival material, to historical scientific and technical literature.

FHS FELLOW AWARD

The Forest History Society bestows the honorary title of "Fellow of the Forest History Society" on persons who have provided many

years of outstanding leadership and service to the Society or many years of outstanding sustained contributions to the research, writing, or teaching of forest, conservation, or environmental history. This honor is the Society's highest award and is only given occasionally, sometimes posthumously. The Society is proud to announce the following were named as FHS Fellows:

- Henry I. Barclay III (2022)
- Hayes D. Brown II (2022)
- L. Michael Kelly (2022)
- Edward W. Phares (2022)
- Steven Anderson (2023)
- Douglas W. MacCleery (2023)
- Curt Meine (2023)
- Michelle Steen-Adams (2023)
- Mark Wilde (2023)
- Lynn Wilson (2023)

Forest Aesthetics

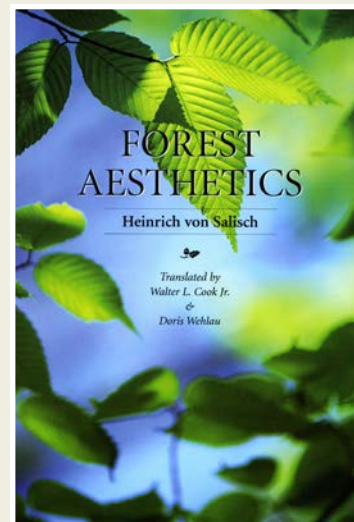
By Heinrich von Salisch

Translation by Walter L. Cook Jr. and Doris Wehlau

In 1902, Heinrich von Salisch, a forester and forest landowner in then-German Silesia, published a book decades ahead of its time. With *Forest Aesthetics*, Von Salisch rebelled against his profession's addiction to economic forestry and its attendant clearcutting by arguing that there was a middle ground. That through simple compromises, land managers could enhance the beauty of the forest without forgoing income. With its publication, von Salisch became the central promoter of aesthetics, trail maintenance, and forest health. Foresters will marvel at the similarities of problems and situations between Central European forestry of the late 19th century and American forestry today.



Order at ForestHistory.org/other-books/forest-aesthetics/ or scan the QR code



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