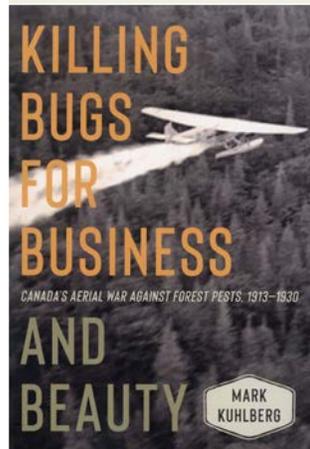


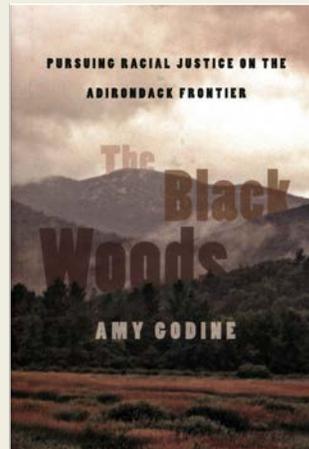
BOOKS

Each year, the Forest History Society recognizes a book that offers superior scholarship in forest and conservation history. The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award goes to an author or authors who have exhibited fresh insight into a topic and whose narrative analysis is clear, inventive, and thought-provoking. In 2023, Mark Kuhlberg won for his book, ***Killing Bugs for Business and Beauty: Canada's Aerial War Against Forest Pests, 1913–1930*** (University of Toronto Press, 2022). His book examines the beginning of Canada's aerial war against forest insects and how a tiny handful of officials came to lead the world with a made-in-Canada solution to the problem. Shedding light on a largely forgotten chapter in Canadian environmental history, Kuhlberg explores the theme of nature and its agency. The book highlights the shared impulses that often drove both the harvesters and the preservers of trees, and the acute dangers inherent in allowing emotional appeals instead of logic to drive environmental policy-making. It addresses both inter-governmental and intra-governmental relations, as well as pressure politics and lobbying. Including

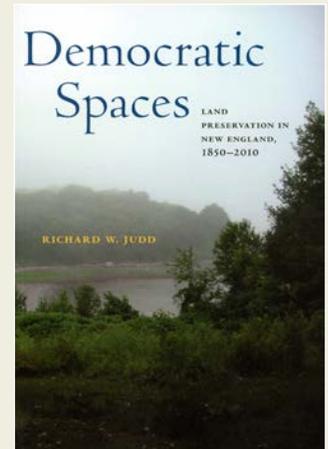


fascinating tales from Cape Breton Island, Muskoka, and Stanley Park, his work clearly demonstrates how class, region, and commercial interest intersected to determine the location and timing of aerial bombings.

In 2024, two authors were declared winners. Coincidentally, both books share a geographic focus on the United States' northeast. Amy Godine's ***The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier*** (Cornell University Press) documents how, in 1846 and 1847, three thousand Black New Yorkers were gifted with 120,000 acres of Adirondack land by Gerrit Smith, an upstate abolitionist and heir to an immense land fortune. On their new land they could hope to meet the \$250 property requirement New York imposed on Black prospective voters in 1821, and gain a cherished right

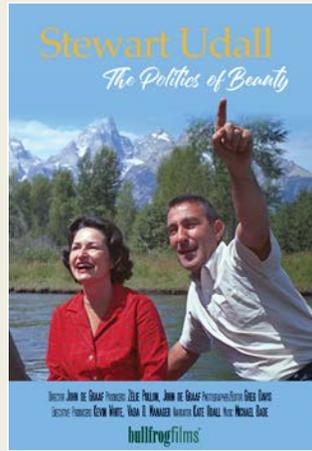
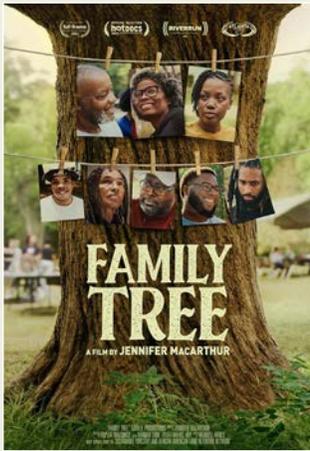


of citizenship, the ballot. Smith's suffrage-minded plan was endorsed by Frederick Douglass and New York's leading Black abolitionists. Smith's plan was prescient, anticipating Black suffrage reform, affirmative action, environmental distributive justice, and community-based racial equity more than a century before these were points of public policy. But when the response to Smith's offer fell radically short of his high hopes, Smith's zeal cooled. Timbuctoo, Freeman's Home, Blacksville, and other Black enclaves were forgotten. Local and regional historians have marginalized the Black experience for 150 years. Writer and independent scholar Amy Godine retrieves the robust story of Black pioneers who carved from the wilderness a future for their families and their civic rights, and returns these trailblazers



and their descendants to their rightful place in the Adirondack narrative. In doing so, she brings a critical racial lens to environmental history.

If you take a contemporary map of New England and scale it to the township level, it reveals a dense pattern of protected areas around almost every town and city in the region. Regardless of size, whether rural and urban, these green spaces represent more than a century of preservation efforts on the part of philanthropic foundations, planning professionals, state agencies, and most importantly, community-based conservation organizations. Taken together, they highlight one of the most significant advances in land stewardship in U.S. history while offering a fresh and original perspective on conservation history. Richard Judd's



Democratic Spaces: Land Preservation in New England (University of Massachusetts Press) explains how these protected places came into being and what they represent for New Englanders and the nation at large. While early New Englanders worked to save local fish, timber, and game resources from outside exploitation, no land-stewardship organizations existed before the founding of the Trustees of Public Reservations in Boston in 1891. Across a century of dramatic change, New England preservationists through this and other, smaller community-based land trusts preserved open spaces for an ever-widening circle of citizens.

FILMS

Family Tree (2024) explores sustainable forestry in North Carolina through the stories of two

Black families working to preserve their land and legacy. First-time director Jennifer MacArthur’s cinéma vérité approach reveals the considerable task of maintaining the land while navigating challenging family dynamics, unscrupulous developers, and changing environmental needs. Guided by forestry experts Sam Cook, Mavis Gragg, and Alton Perry, Tyrone and Edna Williams prepare their three sons to continue the family’s legacy by teaching them to balance economic potential with environmental protection. Newer owners Nikki and Natalie Jefferies learn from the experts that the work they are doing together, and with their father, will have far-reaching consequences in the future. *Family Tree* is available on Amazon Prime.

Stewart Udall was one of the most prominent and effective secretaries of the Department of the Interior

in American history. Yet his legacy is not well recognized. Director John de Graaf’s feature-length film **Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty** (2022) effectively corrects that oversight by examining the trajectory of Udall’s life from his childhood through his Mormon mission, his World War II service, his student years at the University of Arizona, his time in Congress, and then, most significantly, his years as Interior secretary under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations—the height of the environmental movement. Udall’s work during and after his time in office provides an excellent introduction to modern environmental politics as we follow how his ideas changed from being an Arizonan favoring power dams to a national figure fighting to protect the country’s natural wonders. After leaving office, he waged a long legal battle to win compensation for Navajo Indians and “downwinders” who acquired cancer from their exposure to radiation during the Cold War atomic bomb testing. His call for all Americans to move away from our emphasis on economic growth and consumerism toward quality of life, and a new political ethos centered on beauty, simplicity, appreciation of

nature and the arts, and a recognition of Earth’s limits is a message that still resonates today. Available for home purchase on Amazon; for screenings, visit bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/stew.html.

DIGITAL EXHIBITS

Two new digital exhibits produced by the Forest History Society, with support from the MillsDavis Foundation, bring to light two forgotten groups of woods workers in the American West. The story of **Chinese Loggers in the American West**, curated by Shing Yin Khor, begins in 1848, when Chinese people began immigrating in large numbers to the United States. They established large Chinatowns on both American coasts and found employment in American industry, first in mining and railroads, and then in logging. The work was varied but always hard, and racial discrimination often made daily life that much harder. Despite the widespread Chinese presence in logging camps throughout the Sierra Nevada, the history and context of Chinese forest workers in the American West has only been documented by a few scholars, including Sue Fawn Chung and Yen-Yen Chen.

Reclaiming Maxville: The Legacy of African Americans in a Lumber Town explores the brief history of an unusual mill company town in northeastern Oregon. In 1923, the Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company of Kansas City, Missouri, moved to Wallowa County to establish a headquarters and lumber camp. Very quickly, Maxville grew to 400 residents, becoming one of the largest towns in the region. And despite Oregon Exclusion laws aimed at preventing African Americans from settling in the state, Maxville would attract both Black and White lumber workers, who together would navigate the intricacies of segregation to form an interracial community. Ten years after its establishment, the Great Depression and changing trends in the lumber industry forced closure of the company town and mill. More recently, descendants of Maxville residents have worked to reclaim their history. The exhibit was curated by Yolanda Hester and Elizabeth Flowers of Frameworks and Narratives LLC, with advisement from Gwendolyn Trice and Sierra Newby-Smith of the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center. Both exhibits are available at foresthstory.org/digital-collections.



[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEBASE.GOV/CATALOG/ITEM/515DDC2F4E4B0F74B44720C63](https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/515DDC2F4E4B0F74B44720C63)

LEFT: Tie Sing, a 21-year veteran cook of the U.S. Geological Survey, in Yosemite National Park, 1909.



COURTESY OF MAXVILLE HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

BELOW: Residents of Maxville, Oregon.