



April 2024

Greetings from the President

Greetings from FHS,

We are ending April newly inspired and deeply grateful to our Board of Directors, who spent last weekend with us at the Forest History Society for their semi-annual meeting. In addition to the Board and Committee meetings, the program included a tour of a new exhibit in the L. Michael and Karen C. Kelly Exhibit Hall on the rich history of forest products advertising and a hands-on immersive experience in our archives and library.

As part of their archival tour, Board members were able to experience how materials come to us before they are processed. When boxes come to our archive for safekeeping, they often have endured a period of neglect. Rescued from under a desk in a barn or forgotten in a warehouse, these materials often hold an eclectic mix of materials—historic photos are tucked next to maps, correspondence, and newspaper clippings. Eben Lehman, FHS Director of the Library and Archives, encouraged our visitors to riffle through a few unprocessed boxes and explained what it takes to gain intellectual control over such materials—each document, photo, or map needs to be examined and assessed for their condition, sometimes cleaned, and then placed in an acid-free folder or box. Every item is carefully recorded in a finding aid that helps researchers understand the contents and order of a collection in a way that seems self-evident and belies the occasional jumble in which they arrive at our doors.



In the Library, FHS Librarian Lauren Bissonette sent Board Members on a scavenger hunt across bookshelves, filing cabinets, and journals to sleuth out the answers to actual reference questions our library team has fielded in recent months. How, for example, can I find information on the women who have served in the U.S. Forest Service? Or what were bathrooms like in our national parks of the early-twentieth century? Each week our staff receive questions from researchers from across the world who are in search of answers to questions that span a vast range of topics and must be tracked down in books, papers, and databases.

Last week, Board members also spent time in our dedicated oral history studio. Windowless and sealed off from the sounds and activities of the rest of the building, this space was especially designed to record the stories and recollections of people who have

lived through the most important moments in forest and conservation history. FHS Historian, Jamie Lewis, explained that the FHS oral history program dates to the early 1950s and contains over 400 recorded accounts. Oral histories can provide invaluable texture and nuance from those who shaped our past. How people felt or what the “mood” surrounded an important decision or event was like is often absent or only imperfectly captured in the written record. Oral histories can provide invaluable content and context to historians; these sources will become ever-more important to future historians, as more recent decisions took place over email or phone and are easily lost to future generations.

It was rewarding and fun to see the library through the eyes of our Board members, and we hope they enjoyed it as much as we did. We are deeply grateful to them for their time, expertise, and generous support of our work. We were glad to share with them our day-to-day work and are inspired by their enthusiasm and excitement over what lies ahead. And if you would like to come visit us in Durham, please do. You are always welcome in our beautiful library.

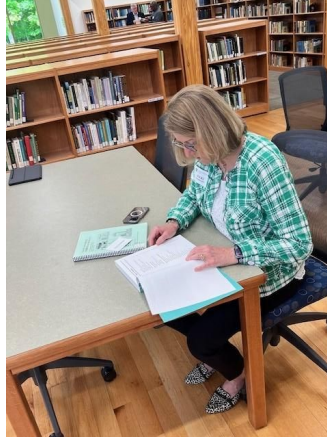
All my best,



April 26-27, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting @ FHS



From left to right: Sam Cook, Mark Hersey, Tom Temple, Brent Keefer, Don Motanic, Rachel Kline, Peter Mertz, Suzanne Cuthbert, Clark Seely, Rebecca Barnard, Lynne Heasley, Vicki Christiansen, Tania Munz, Jon Prather, Ned Childs, Fred Piasecki, Paul Sutter and Ruth Anna Stolk.



Vicki Christiansen begins her search to answer a research question.



Forest Products advertising Exhibit now on display. [Click here](#) to listen.



Don Motanic, Paul Sutter and Ned Childs explore Dierks Lumber Co. records.



Daowei Zhang and Suzanne Cuthbert with Archivist, Eben Lehman.



Fred Piasecki (foreground) with Clark Seely and Sam Cook researching materials in the library.



Fred Piasecki, Ruth Anna Stolk and Ned Childs enjoy a break.

Join Us for Our May Webinar

**"Forest and Industry in the Late Soviet Union"
with Elena Kochetkova
May 14 at 1-2:15 PM ET**

Join us for the webinar series

Conversations in Forest History

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis

Russia has more than one-fifth of the world's forest areas, which contain more than 55% of the world's conifers, and 11% of the world's biomass. Yet, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, their forests are "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." Historian Elena Kochetkova will help us better understand this important part of the Russian economy and the world's ecosystem by discussing how the Soviet economy developed a unique approach toward

forest resources after the Second World War.

Elena Kochetkova is a historian of the economy, environment, technology, and state socialism at the University of Bergen in Norway. Elena's new book *The Green Power of Socialism: Wood, Forest, and the Making of Soviet Industrially Embedded Ecology* (MIT Press, 2024) examines the relationship between nature and humans under state socialism by looking at the industrial role of Soviet forests.



This webinar is approved for 1 hour of CFE credit in Category 1.

[Register Here](#)

[Support the Webinar Series](#)

2024 Leopold-Hidy Article Award Winner

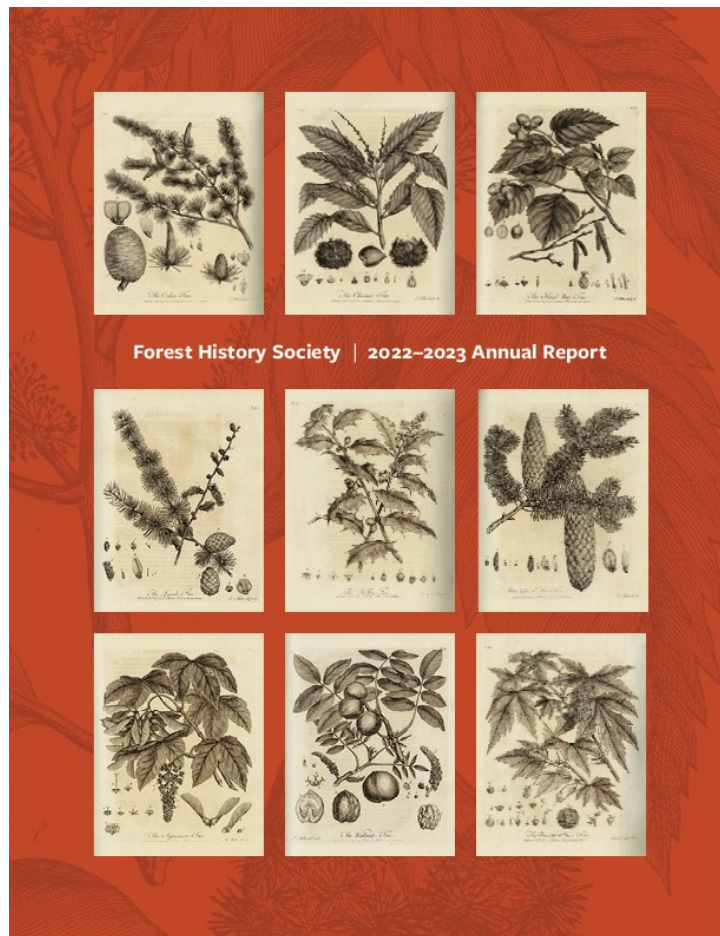


The Forest History Society (FHS) and the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) annually present the Leopold-Hidy Award to honor the best article in the journal they co-publish, *Environmental History*. This year's recipient is Hayley Negrin, an assistant professor of history at the University of Illinois in Chicago, for her article: "Return to the Yeokanta/River: Powhatan Women and Environmental Treaty Making in Early America," published in the July 2023 issue of *Environmental History*.

(Pictured above: This year's Leopold-Hidy Award winner, Hayley Negrin, with Mark Hersey and Stephen Brain, the editors of *Environmental History*, and Tania Munz, FHS President & CEO.)

[Learn more](#)

2022-2023 FHS Annual Report



[Read the Report](#)

Matching Gift Campaign Begins June 1st!

FOREST OPTIMISM



DAY OF GIVING
FOREST HISTORY
SOCIETY
#FORESTOPTIMISM

Our generous donors have pledged \$40,000 in Matching Gift funds! They have challenged us to raise an additional \$40,000 during our Matching gift campaign which kicks off June 1st. Every dollar you donate will be matched dollar for dollar - doubling the impact of your contribution, which means your gift will allow us to process *twice* as many forest and conservation history records, and prepare them for digitization so they are accessible to all. During the month of June we will be hosting a series of webinars with the theme of **Forest Optimism**: telling stories of what is working across the spectrum of forestry and related research, industry, land management and conservation efforts. Speakers will include: Troy Harris with Russell Gentry, Jad Daley, Laurie Wayburn and Sam Cook with guest hosts Lynn Wilson and Peter Stein. Stay tuned!



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