



FOREST HISTORY

SOCIETY

Forest Timeline Newsletter

February 2024

Greetings from the President

Dear Friends of FHS,

This month, I attended a conference at Harvard's Graduate School of Design called "[Forest Futures: Will the Forest Save Us All?](#)" On the opening night, William (Ned) Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, and Michelle Wu, the mayor of Boston, talked to a packed auditorium about the importance of trees to the city of Boston. We learned that in 1882, Harvard University transferred the land on which the arboretum stands—281 acres in the heart of Boston—to the city and negotiated a thousand-year lease. The cost of the arrangement—\$1 per year paid dutifully by the university to the city of Boston. Friedman's recounting of the agreement between Harvard and the city was met by appreciative laughter from the audience. Friedman's point was clear: Trees are vitally important to urban spaces, and through the care and maintenance of the arboretum, the city and university provide immeasurable benefit, not only to scientists who study its trees but also to the people of Boston. This theme was continued the following day as the landscape architects Amy Whitesides and Eric Kramer spoke of the urban forestry plans of the cities of Boston and Cambridge, respectively. Specifically, they and others throughout the country focus on how to address the unequal distribution of trees in our nation's cities.



Closer to home, Katie Rose Levin spoke on precisely this topic with a focus on Durham on our most [recent webinar](#). Her talk explained how a map of Durham's neighborhoods created by the federal government's Home Owners' Loan Corporation in the 1930s is still with us today. Contemporary aerial maps show that those areas of Durham that were "redlined" as too "hazardous" to receive federal loans have the fewest trees today. These same parts of our city were home to mostly Black residents then as they are today. Conversely, the neighborhoods that were deemed "good" lending prospects are lush with trees. These canopy coverage disparities have profound implications for residents—fewer trees means less shade, hotter temperatures, and worse air quality, which is especially

problematic as temperatures rise. Levin and her counterparts in Boston, Cambridge, and in cities throughout the country are now working to address these historical legacies by working closely with governments and local communities to plant trees that will thrive in our cities' neighborhoods.

As we celebrated Black History Month in February, I was reminded by these inspiring speakers of the power of historical understanding, scientific expertise, and dedicated community engagement to help address the injustices of the past. To return to the question posed by the conference: "Will the forest save us all?" Katie Rose Levin opened her talk with as good an answer as any: she stated that the aim of her work is to "understand ... our past in the present to create a beautifully forested future."

All my best,



Join Us for Our March Webinar

Join us for the webinar series

Conversations in Forest History

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis

"Black Pioneers in New York's Adirondack Wilderness: A 19th-Century Encounter" with Amy Godine March 12 at 1-2 PM ET

Conversations in Forest History brings you a new history of New York's Adirondack region. 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 would marginalize the Black experience for 150 years.

Drawing from her book *The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier* (Cornell, November 2023), writer and independent scholar Amy Godine will share 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.

Amy Godine is a writer, curator, and lecturer on the social history of the Adirondack region. She has been writing articles and speaking about social trends, marginalized communities, and ethnic and Black neighborhoods in the region since 1988.

Register Here

Support the Webinar Series

Doug MacCleery Named FHS Fellow



Douglas W. MacCleery has achieved much in forestry and made many contributions to forest history. For that, and for his many years of support and advocacy on behalf of the Forest History Society, Doug has been named **FHS Fellow**, the Society's highest award.

Doug's USDA Forest Service background includes field forester, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment and member of numerous committees for the review or analysis of

policies and strategies concerning forest resources. He worked in the private sector as a policy analyst for the National Forest Products Association in Washington, DC, and has done international forestry work.

Doug has been involved with FHS in one capacity or another for sixty years. He reports that he has been a member since his college days (joining probably about 1963), which may be a record. His service with FHS began after his retirement in 2010 from the Forest Service, when he was elected to the Board. He has served in various capacities from then until 2023 and was elected as Emeritus Board member at that time.

He has also made substantial contributions to the field of forest history. Chief among them is his seminal work [*American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery*](#), an early entry in our Issues Series. First published in 1992, he has revised and updated it several times. In all, it has sold more than 25,000 copies, a bestseller in academic publishing, and is standard reading in many university forestry and natural resource programs across the United States. He is also a coauthor of [*Pathway to Sustainability: Defining the Bounds on Forest Management*](#) and contributed his expertise to [*The Greatest Good*](#) film project in 2005.

For all this and more, we say, "Thank you, Doug! And congratulations!"

"Policies Reflect the Passions of People"

Norm and Debora Johnson visited the FHS Library and Archives to do research on their new book looking at the history of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Norm is also one of the authors of *The Making of the Northwest Forest Plan: The Wild Science of Saving Old Growth Ecosystems* that was published last year.

Norm is a retired professor of Forestry Resources



in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. He received his PhD in Forest Management in Oregon and moved onto Utah State where he developed FORPLAN, a linear, programming-based, harvest-scheduling model, that at the time, was pivotal for forest planning analysis.

That was 50 years ago and much has changed and evolved in the planning and use of national forest lands. With his visit to the FHS Archives, Norm had the opportunity to research the unique materials held here that were integral to the policy development and legislation that was signed into law. Those materials include the [Arthur Cooper Collection](#) and the [U.S. Forest Service History Reference Collection](#) as well as the [Robert Wolf Collection](#). About his experience at FHS, Norm shared: “I was able to discover buried gems in correspondence between Art Cooper and

wildlife biologist William Webb that have never been recorded into the public history before. This is big! I’m excited to put it into our new book.”

He continued: “The materials at the Forest History Society are a veritable treasure trove for anyone researching forest topics. The records held here are part of the historic record at a crucial time in forest land policy development. These records will continue to inform the research that is performed by scientists, scholars and forestry professionals now and into the future. Policies and plans will always need to be revised and new forest related topics will come to surface, whether it’s climate change, wildlife, timber, and beyond.” And as Norm eloquently put it for us, **“Policies reflect the passions of people and that is what you find in the papers held at the FHS. Using the records held at FHS we can bring history to life.”** (Pictured above is Norm with Art Cooper, who lives near the FHS headquarters.)

Forest History Library Intern Joins FHS



Thanks to the generous support of our donors in support of the Steve Anderson Internship in Forest History program, Jed Edwards (pictured here on his first day in FHS Archives digitization room) has joined us to assist in the processing records in the [Society of American Foresters](#) archival collection.

Having interns working at FHS helps us to increase our capacity in support our small Library and Archives staff. Interns can assist with information requests, processing archival collections, developing digital exhibits, and library cataloging. Not only is it greatly beneficial to the FHS staff, the intern has the opportunity for real world, hands-on work of a specialty library and archive.

Jed comes to us with a background in English and History from Guilford College, and is now pursuing his Master’s of Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jed has a special interest in Special Collections and Archives. We are thrilled to have Jed here and will keep you posted on his progress on the project. Welcome, Jed!

FHS Blog *Peeling Back the Bark* Latest Post "Life and Lunch: Alfred Eisenstaedt's Weyerhaeuser Timber Crew Photographs" by Eben Lehman

"In December 1954, *Life* magazine photographer **Alfred Eisenstaedt** journeyed into the woods near Snoqualmie Falls, Washington, for an unusual assignment. His subjects were a Weyerhaeuser Timber Company logging crew. But instead of photographing them felling trees, the men would appear in a magazine photo essay of Americans doing what millions did everyday—eating lunch." *Why that activity, you ask? Click below to find out!*



Keep Reading!

Let Your Values Live On

**Let Your Values Live On by Leaving a
Bequest to the FHS!**

Have you considered making a lasting gift to the Forest History Society? Gift planning of all sizes will have a lasting impact on the Society's ability to continue to protect, conserve, and share the documents of forest and conservation



history. FHS will continue conserving and protecting these vital records, making them available to scholars, students, and forest and conservation professionals. Having access to these documents will impact future policy and decision making around natural resource management and practice, helping to keep our forests healthy and productive for years to come.

Gifts Through Your Will or Trust - Making a bequest to FHS is as simple as notifying your attorney or a trusted online will-making website. Choose a specific dollar amount or percentage.

Retirement Plan Designations - If you have retirement assets such as an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) or similar plan, you can name FHS as a beneficiary. When the time comes, FHS will receive all or a percentage of your plan. This gift is even simpler to make than a bequest –

just update your designations with your plan administrator or online. As with a bequest, you can change your designations if you so choose.

Letting us know you've taken the generous step of remembering the FHS in your will is always up to you. But, we'd love to be able to show our gratitude and keep you updated on the work.

“With my planned gift to the Forest History Society, I am providing for my children’s future and doing something for the greater good of forestry.

It’s a wonderful feeling!”

- Richard B.

Click the link below to learn more or contact Laura Hayden at FHS directly at (919) 660-0552 or email Laura.Hayden@foresthistor.org

Explore Legacy Giving at
FHS



Forest History Society | 2925 Academy Rd., Durham, NC 27705

[Unsubscribe_james.lewis@duke.edu](mailto:unsubscribe_james.lewis@duke.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by laura@foresthistorysociety.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!