



January 2024

Greetings from the President

Dear Friends of FHS,

As the days get longer and the cold begins to lift, the hustle and bustle of the holidays is starting to recede to make way for this new year, 2024.

At the Forest History Society, our plans for the year are already well underway. Besides our regular business of budgets, meetings, and schedules, we are looking forward to some exciting new programs in the months ahead. We are planning the launch of another digital exhibit on nineteenth-century Chinese loggers who lived and worked on the West Coast of the United States. This exhibit will be accompanied by beautiful photos that captured the life of this community. We also look forward to hosting our Board of Directors for an in-person meeting in Durham in the spring.



Finally, we are planning a series of webinars that will launch in the summer under the theme of *Forest Optimism*. You may have heard of Earth Optimism or Ocean Optimism. This initiative will follow a similar rationale—we know that there are many challenges facing our forests and our global environment, and it is easy to feel overwhelmed and only focus on the difficulties. And while we acknowledge the very real challenges we face, we also believe that it is important to not lose sight of the positive—the many things that *are* working and the good that individuals, nonprofits, and companies are doing to manage our forests for the future. We plan to highlight some of those stories in our webinars under the theme of *Forest Optimism* this summer.

Those are just a few highlights of what lies ahead. We hope you'll stay tuned for an exciting new year at the Forest History Society!

All my best,

Join Us for Our February Webinar

Conversations in Forest History

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis

"Managing Our Urban Forests in A Changing Climate" with Katie Rose Levin

Feb. 22, 2024 12-1 PM Eastern Time

Conversations in Forest History brings you "Managing Our Urban Forests in A Changing Climate". The vast majority of Americans live in an urban/suburban environment, where trees have historically thrived with little care and scant attention to soil. With increased population, intense urbanization, and climate change, this is no longer the case. Join us Feb. 22 from noon to 1 pm ET to learn about the historical reasons for trees *not* being planted in some parts of Durham and other cities, and the technology urban foresters are using to successfully plant and manage trees in this newly complex environment. We'll discuss the technological and social components that determine where trees thrive—or where they die.



Katie Rose Levin teaches urban forestry and greenspace management at Duke University. She runs her own consulting company, City Leaf Works, and helped found two tree planting organizations, Trees for the Triangle and TreesDurham. Katie Rose is a Board-Certified Master Arborist with a Master's of Forestry and a Master's of Environmental Management.

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

[Register Here](#)

Welcome Back, Andi!

Andrea Kolarova, a recent Master of Forestry graduate from the Nicholas School of the Environment, has joined the FHS staff part-time to work on the digitization of the Weyerhaeuser Company Records, which contains more than a century of advertising material. Andi reflected on the project: "I am digitizing these records to provide online access to many of these magazine and newspaper ads, commissioned artwork, and other supporting documents that built the distinct eras of Weyerhaeuser advertising. The goal is to create a digital exhibit reflecting the company's leadership in the forest industry and to showcase Weyerhaeuser's commitment to the environment, sustainability, the forest industry, and its human communities."



Andi also offered: "It is especially interesting to see what practices and innovations have been advertised through the years. For example, Weyerhaeuser once advertised the intentional retention of legacy trees to naturally reseed their logged areas as a significant step towards creating a permanent forest products industry. Nowadays, natural reseeding in an intensively managed forest would be unimaginable! Through years of research and selective breeding, seedlings are now grown in nurseries before being artificially planted in recently logged areas. These improved stock seedlings were selected for their genetic advantages, resulting in faster and better yields compared to wild-type trees. I can't help but wonder what practices and innovations we advertise today will be altered and improved upon as we continue to learn more about our working forests."

Before starting her master's degree program, Andi interned with FHS and processed materials relating to and created the digital exhibit about the [The Oberlaender Trust and American Forestry](#).

Congratulations to Our New FHS Fellows!

The Forest History Society bestows as its highest honor the title of "Fellow of the Forest History Society" upon 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. At our October 2023 board meeting in Boston, it was our great honor to recognize two worthy recipients: Lynn Wilson, former FHS Chair, and Mark Wilde, Emeritus board member.



Lynn distinguished herself through her leadership as Vice Chair, Chair, and Immediate Past Chair of the FHS Board



Mark has been one of the Society's most active and generous leaders. He is also Director Emeritus and served as honorary

of Directors. She led the Society through COVID-19 with exceptional vision, working with the CEO, staff, and board to ensure continuity of operations. During Lynn's tenure, several major once-in-a-lifetime changes occurred at FHS. She helped the writing of a new Strategic Plan and chaired the CEO Search Committee, leading to the most important decision FHS has made in 27 years. During her time on the FHS board she served on the Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, and Development Committee. Lynn is pictured here with Bob Izlar, who succeeded her as Chair.

co-chair of the Society's recent Building on History \$7M campaign to construct the new headquarters located in Durham, NC. Mark served on the FHS Board from 2002–2011 and subsequently was elected as Co-Vice-Chair for an additional three years. He contributed time to the Development, Finance, Awards, and Programs Committees. At the October board meeting, he gave the keynote address at the opening reception. FHS thanks Mark for his dedication, passion and support of the Society! Mark is pictured here with Bob Izlar, former Chair of FHS.

Congratulations to Lynn and Mark from everyone at FHS! We are deeply grateful for all that you have done for the Forest History Society!

Robert K. Winters Photographs Digitized



Forest survey crew at work in second-growth sawlog-size cypress timber that is girdled and will be logged this year. Photograph taken in floatroad. Lake Mongualois. 1934.

Robert K. Winters (1902–1999) had a 42-year career with the U.S. Forest Service, ending with his retirement in 1967. The later parts of his career were spent specializing in international forestry, but his early years were spent in the deep south. After receiving his PhD in forestry from the University of Michigan in 1930, Winters was stationed at the Southern Research Station in New Orleans. Winters would work out of the Southern Research Station from 1930 to 1939, doing forestry research and participating in numerous forest surveys throughout the South. Part of his duties during this time also included serving as one of the Forest Service's official photographers. You can read about his early career [here](#) in an article in *Forest History Today*.

His collection at FHS includes many of his photographs from the 1930s, depicting forest surveys, tree types, forestry work, and logging practices in Louisiana, Mississippi, and

other locations in the southern U.S. A selection of over 200 photos from this collection have been recently digitized and added to the online FHS Image Database. Explore the collection below and read the corresponding Blog post by FHS staff Archivist, Eben Lehman for an enhanced experience.

[Explore the Collection](#)

[Read "Down on the Bayou" Blog Post](#)

[Use the Finding Aid](#)

Did you know?

A **finding aid** is a document written by archivists that describes the history of an archival collection and the arrangement of material. Finding aids help a user navigate the contents of the collection and identify material relevant to their research.

Time To Renew Your Membership?

Your ongoing annual support allows us to continue the work at the FHS. From digitizing photos, receiving and processing collections, host scholars and researchers and provide excellent programming like our *Conversations in Forest History* webinar series. We are a 501(c)3 charitable organization that is almost entirely privately funded and we can't do it without you. Renew your contribution today using the link below. Thank you!



[Renew Your Membership!](#)



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