



The Forest Timeline



President's Message

As I look at the year ahead, I am excited for what's in store for the Forest History Society in 2025. Some of the most important organizations to have shaped our forests will be observing milestone anniversaries this year.

This month, I will share two of those anniversaries with you (stay tuned for additional anniversary announcements next month).

First, I'd like to wish a happy 125th anniversary to the **Society of American Foresters (SAF)**! Founded in 1900 by a young Gifford Pinchot, SAF has been central to forestry in the United States, and we are pleased to serve as the organization's archival repository. I am especially delighted to let you know that [this collection has now been fully processed](#). We are deeply grateful to SAF for entrusting their history to us and making the processing of this important collection possible.

Also celebrating their 125th anniversary is the **Weyerhaeuser Company**. Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Sr. founded the company by purchasing 900,000 acres from Northern Pacific Railways. The [Weyerhaeuser Company records](#) comprise the largest and most researched collections at FHS. (Keep reading for more Weyerhaeuser history!)

We are excited to help these organizations discover their histories, celebrate their accomplishments, and take honest stock of their pasts. Decisions about forests don't just happen outside among the trees—they are shaped in profound ways by the communities and institutions that foster their study and management.

We look forward to seeing (and collecting!) what the future holds for these organizations. Happy New Year and Happy Birthday!

All my best,
Tania



Yale Forestry Forum

A History of People, Forests, and Forestry

Thursdays, Jan. 23 - Apr. 24, 2025

Péter Szabó and Tania Munz on the first Yale Forestry Forum webinar.

The Forest History Society is excited to announce a new weekly webinar series co-hosted with [The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment!](#)

Humans have interacted with forests since time immemorial. The evolution of humanity's connections to forests illuminates how we interact with nature in a changing climate today. By understanding our past, we can contextualize our present situation and inform current and future decision-making.

The spring 2025 Yale Forest Forum speaker series will examine the interactions between forests and people in the pre-industrial period. Attendees will gain an understanding of the origins of pre-industrial forest practices worldwide and how those practices are connected to people and place.

Available now: [Watch the January 23 webinar with Péter Szabó and Tania Munz](#)

Join us every Thursday from February 6 to April 24 from 12:00-1:00pm U.S. ET. (Note that there will not be webinars on March 13 and 20.)

[Learn More](#)

FHS Announces Graduate Fellowships

F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship

The F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellowship annually provides a \$10,000 stipend to support the research of a **Duke University** graduate student whose work relates to forest and conservation history. The project must focus on the relationships between humans, forests, and related resources over time.

The deadline for 2025 submissions is **March 1.**

[Learn More](#)

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Walter S. Rosenberry Fellowship

Offered by the FHS, the Walter S. Rosenberry Fellowship provides a \$15,000 stipend to support the doctoral research of a graduate student attending a university in North America whose project contributes to forest and conservation history. Research focus on the historic relationships between humans, forests, and related resources is required.

The deadline for 2025 submissions is **March 15.**

[Learn More](#)

[Apply Online](#)



The banner features a portrait of Jamie Lewis on the left. To the right, the Forest History Society logo is displayed above the text: "Join us for the webinar series", "Conversations in Forest History", and "with Jamie Lewis". The background shows a misty forest landscape.

"Timber Market Cycles: 200 Years in the US South's Forest Products Industry"

with Marshall Thomas

February 20, 2025 at 1-2 pm ET



If past is prologue, then understanding our economic past can help us better understand what may lie ahead for the forest products industry.

Join Marshall Thomas, president of F&W Forestry, as he discusses the business concept of the product life cycle and examines the naval stores industry and the Southern lumber boom of the 1800s. In analyzing the forest products industry over the last 200 years, some interesting comparisons between the past and the present were discovered, along with lessons for the forestry community for actions today that could help with current depressed markets and position forests and forest industry to help the world meet its carbon neutral goals.

Marshall D. Thomas is President of F&W Forestry, an international forest resource management company headquartered in Georgia. Marshall began his career with F&W in 1978 as a field and technical forester, eventually rising through the company's ranks to head of the organization. Since 1988, he has led F&W through rapid growth and service-area expansion, including numerous offices in the US, Uruguay, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Europe.

[Register Now](#)

Bell Grant Researcher



The Forest History Society awards several Bell Travel Grants each year to researchers who use FHS resources to support their work. Our most recent recipient, **Logan Istre**, a PhD Candidate in U.S. History at Louisiana State University, traveled to FHS for research on his dissertation project that looks at the development of scientific, progressive agriculture between 1862-1922.

Part of his work examines the rise of the forest conservation movement as beginning with the environmental concerns among progressive agriculturists. At FHS, Logan spent time with the [American Forestry Association Records](#) looking at key figures such as John A. Warder, Bernard Fernow, J. Sterling Morton, George H. Wirt, and others.

[Apply for a Bell Grant](#)

Read the Latest from the "Peeling Back the Bark" Blog

**"Remembering Westvaco's Christmas Classics Book Series" by
James Lewis**

In 1958, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company started a holiday tradition that lasted half a century. Company CEO David Luke initiated the American Classics Series (also known as the Christmas Classics), published annually through 2007. According to Scott Wallinger, a former Westvaco company officer...

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"Hollywood in Flames" by Stephen J. Pyne

Guest Contributor Stephen Pyne originally published this essay in December 2024, just weeks before wildfires struck the cities of Altadena and Pacific Palisades in the Los Angeles area in January 2025. He writes, "It's not enough that Los Angeles sits in the shadow of the greatest geologic fault in North America, that its Mediterranean climate renders drought common and climatic averages meaningless, that its surrounding mountains slough off debris flows, channel foehn winds, hold in polluted air, and echo in reply every environmental insult residents shout at it. Los Angeles also holds Hollywood..."

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This Month in Forest History...

January 3, 1900: Frederick Weyerhaeuser purchases 900,000 acres (1,406 square miles) of timberland in Washington for \$5,400,000 - one of the largest single land transfers in American history. This purchase would lead to the incorporation of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company fifteen days later on January 18, 1900.

[Read More](#)

Also in January:

- *January 19, 1812:* John Aston Warder, [founder and first president of the American Forestry Association, is born](#) in Philadelphia. **This year, [American Forests](#) will celebrate its 125th anniversary.**
- *January 12, 1876:* The Minnesota Forestry Association is formed with the purpose of promoting the planting of trees & the general practice of forestry. This was the first state forestry association.
- *January 29, 1935:* The Society of American Foresters (SAF) [presents its first award](#), the William Schlich Memorial Award, to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

From the Archives

Dr. Austin Cary with venus fly trap, near Wilmington, North Carolina, January 1925.
(From North Carolina Forest Service Photograph Collection, Image ID# CD765)

[Read More](#)

Our Donors Are Special!

We are so grateful to our supporters. If you are not already a donor to the Forest History Society, please consider starting 2025 with a gift and join the many others who make it possible for us to collect, preserve and share our treasured forest and conservation history with everyone. **We have many new projects in the works and need your support today!**

Ruth Anna Stolk



"The archives, library and staff helped me interpret a missing piece of my own family's forestry history. I knew my grandfather was a new American forester in 1900, but his diaries and field notes might as well have been in a foreign language.

The FHS helped me appreciate and investigate the many clues he left behind. Now I feel grounded in the culture of my grandfather's era, and with a better understanding of American conservation. I will be able to pass on what I've learned at FHS to the next generation of my family, and to my colleagues in conservation.

FHS also provided a safe intellectual haven to 'detox' from my own frenetic conservation career. At the FHS library, there is no experience that can match reading and thinking by natural light in an airy reading room looking out into the understory of an NC forest."

[Donate Today](#)

Join us at the Library or online at foresthistor.org.

Reach out to our staff for research and reference assistance here:
library@foresthistor.org



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