



July 2024

Greetings from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of the Forest History Society. We had a record-breaking year with our annual fund, which concluded with the end of our fiscal year on June 30th. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$602,439—more than any other annual fund campaign in FHS history. Additionally, we shattered previous records with an extraordinary \$86,953 raised on our Day of Giving.

As I conclude my first year at FHS, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the future. The funds raised through our annual fund campaign are crucial for our operations. I want to share a comment we received from one of our supporters which makes me feel very proud of what FHS is doing for the field of forest and conservation history due to your support!



"The Forest History Society provides me with a factual lens for viewing what my predecessors did, thought, and valued. The Society has a most important mission, to maintain the archival record of who, what, why, and when we humans affected the course of forest development, highlighting the role of forests in society, and telling the story of the women and men who played significant roles in that history." J.S.

Because of your support, we can continue to tell the stories of how people and forests have interacted over time. These lessons from the past not only help us celebrate our shared passion for forests, they also help inform how we approach decisions about our forests today and into the future.

From all of us at FHS, thank you for helping us close out the year in such spectacular fashion!

Tania

2024 Walter S. Rosenberry Fellowship Recipient - Abby Cunniff

The Forest History Society announces this year's recipient of the [Walter S. Rosenberry Fellowship](#), **Abby Cunniff**, a PhD candidate at the University of California Santa Cruz in the Environmental Studies Department. Her dissertation focuses on how incarcerated workers became a critical workforce in high-profile wildfires and year-round forestry for the state of California.

Walter S. Rosenberry (1931-2005), a long-time supporter and Forest History Society Board member, provided the Society's first endowment in support of its awards program. Rosenberry received a BA degree in history from Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude in 1953. He taught English and history at the Kent Denver School from 1959 to 1981. In addition to his career in teaching, Rosenberry was known widely for his community service and philanthropy.



2024 Theodore C. Blegen Award Winner - Kara Murphy Schlichting



The Forest History Society announces this year's winner of the Theodore C. Blegen Award, **Kara Murphy Schlichting**, an Associate Professor of History at Queens College, CUNY, for her article in the *Pacific Historical Review* entitled "The Narrowing of Broad Beach: Coastal Change and Public Beaches in Malibu, California."

The Forest History Society's Theodore C. Blegen Award recognizes the best scholarship in forest and conservation history published in a journal other than *Environmental History*. FHS initiated the award in 1972. Named for [Theodore C. Blegen](#), one of the founders of the Forest History Society, the Blegen award consists of a \$500 cash award and a plaque. Editors of scholarly journals in the fields of forest and conservation history

annually submit up to two articles from their publications for award consideration.

Conversations in Forest History **Returns in August!**

On August 5, 1949, a fire was spotted at Mann Gulch near Helena, Montana. The U.S. Forest Service dispatched a team of 15 smokejumpers who were met by a fire guard from a nearby campground. When the fire blew up, thirteen firefighters were killed, three escaped. While the Forest Service studied what happened and revised its training and safety measures, few outside the agency remembered the tragedy. Not until Norman Maclean published a meditation on it, *Young Men and Fire*, that the event connected with national and cultural interests—and it continues to do so more than thirty years later.



Join fire historian Stephen Pyne and host Jamie Lewis on August 5th at 1 pm ET as they discuss the Mann Gulch fire on its 75th anniversary and how Maclean's book affected the American fire community. If you want to learn about it beforehand, the FHS website has a [Mann Gulch page](#) with a summary of what happened and several articles on the incident by Stephen, Jamie, and others, along with other information and photo galleries about the history of smokejumping.

Stephen Pyne is a fire historian, an emeritus professor at Arizona State University, and the author of *The Northern Rockies: A Fire Survey* (which includes an essay on Mann Gulch and Norman Maclean) and most recently *Five Suns: A Fire History of Mexico*. Jamie has written about the fire for the [FHS blog](#) and served as an advisor on a [documentary film](#) about it.

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Bell Travel Grant Recipients

The Forest History Society awards several [Bell Travel Grants](#) each year to researchers who use FHS resources to support their work.



Joe Semkiu is a doctoral candidate at USC. His dissertation is on American radio culture in the 1940s. One of the artists he is researching appeared in some of [Westvaco's](#) marketing materials, some of which are held here at the FHS Archives. In particular, he is examining their photographs and promotional materials.



Henry Jacob is a PhD student at Yale University researching the professionalization of agriculture in the 19th and 20th century. He is specifically interested in tropical forestry in regions like Panama. He is using FHS collections including [Thomas Gill](#), [Marion Clawson](#), [Gordon Fox](#), and the [International Society of Tropical Foresters](#) to get a sense of how and why the ISTF was established and the social and environmental aspects of forestry in these regions.

Thank You!

Because of you, we set a new record in our annual fundraising campaign this year! We raised \$602,439 amounting to 116% of our goal! Your generous support allows us to bring historical knowledge to researchers and students and helps us keep access to our collections free and open to all. Thank you!



FHS Awarded as Grant Partner to Rescue Legacy Tropical Environmental Datasets

The [Ravi & Naina Patel Foundation](#) has awarded \$100,000 for the legacy tropical environmental data project (LTED). The goal of the project is to rescue tropical forest and environmental datasets that are still on paper or in older digital formats and in danger of being lost and make them available for use. Key partners in the project include the

[Organization of Tropical Studies](#), [Bangor University](#) library in Wales, UK and the Forest History Society. All partners are committed to work towards ensuring legacy data from tropical forests are made open access to the widest possible audience of scientists, policy makers, land owners, local communities, and others for studies and projects aimed at conservation and climate change mitigation.

FHS Hosts Student Model UN Group



Each year, the [Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center](#) in Durham, NC plans 6 weeks of leadership & community service programming for high school students during the summer. This year, the Forest History Society hosted a Student Model UN program from July 15th to 18th.

The TNVLC's Student Model UN program is designed to develop student leadership and diplomatic debate skills, build confidence in public speaking, and immerse students in real-world contemporary global issues to create more engaged students. Through this program, students learn how Model United Nations can be used as a vehicle for learning about the world around us, civic engagement, and personal growth.

The Forest History Society summer hours are M-Th, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM ET and Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM ET. Regular hours will resume September 2nd. Visiting the headquarters on a Friday after 12 PM is available by request. Please call our main office number at (919) 682-9319.

Thank you for your continued interest in forest and conservation history and look for your next issues of *Forest Timeline* in September 2024!



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