



March 2024

Greetings from the President

Greetings from FHS,

March is Women's History Month, and I was delighted to take part in an event to celebrate women in forestry at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. The event was organized by EcoAction Arlington and featured a screening of the short documentary film, "Forest Her: The Next Wave of Conservation," by filmmaker Cheryle Franceschi. The documentary covered featured female leaders in forestry and conservation. Among them was Melody Mobley, the first Black woman to join the U.S. Forest Service. (Pictured above L to R: Tania Munz, Elenor Hodges (Executive Director of EcoAction Arlington) & Melody Mobley.) I enjoyed the film and excellent conversation that followed and was especially pleased to connect with Mobley and Franceschi, who both have ties to the FHS. Franceschi spoke enthusiastically about her time at FHS working with our staff to do research for her films.



And while Mobley has left her Forest Service uniform and forestry tools to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, she has gifted her papers to the FHS. We are so grateful to her and the many individuals and their family members who have entrusted their personal and professional papers to us. Altogether, the FHS holds over 110 collections by individuals in addition to its extensive corporate and organizational holdings. As a historian who has spent years working in archives, I know how invaluable these kinds of collections are—they allow us to reconstruct the compelling

stories of the past from the traces left behind in letters to colleagues and friends, diaries, or research notes.

I am proud that we safeguard this important heritage at the FHS in Durham. And while we can't know the precise questions that future researchers, writers, and scholars will bring to these sources, we can do our part to preserve the stories of Mobley and others, who were the pioneers and leaders of their fields.

I hope you too had a chance this month to celebrate the women in your life and all they've accomplished!

All my best,



To learn more about the *Forest Her* film screening event hosted by EcoAction Arlington, [click here](#).

Join Us for Our April Webinar

Join us for the webinar series

Conversations in Forest History

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis

"Contemplative Forestry: Lessons from Monastic Landscapes Past and Present" with Jason Brown April 24 at 1-2 PM ET

Join us on Apr. 24 at 1:00 PM EDT for our next one-hour webinar featuring Jason Brown. For centuries, Christian monks have embraced sustainable forestry practices to protect the land around their monasteries. Today, in the United States and elsewhere, monasteries face challenges to managing their lands similar to those of secular landowners, including feeling pressure to sell their lands and managing for climate change. But monasteries have additional challenges associated with being a religious order. Join Jason Brown, author of the new book *Dwelling in the Wilderness: Modern Monks in the American West* (Trinity University Press, 2023), as he discusses the history of monastic forestry and explores some lessons for our times.



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

[Register Here](#)

Join FHS at the ASEH conference!

FHS will be at ASEH 2024 in Denver from April 3-6, 2024! Stop by our booth to meet FHS president Tania Munz or FHS historian Jamie Lewis to learn more about FHS, discuss your research and reference inquiries, learn about our travel grants and publications, and renew your membership.

FHS is sponsoring the closing reception on Saturday April 6 from 7-9pm, immediately following the awards ceremony, when the [Leopold-Hidy award](#) article winner will be announced!

On Friday morning, Jamie is moderating the panel “Extracting Forest Knowledge: Race, Class, and Gender in Early American Forestry” featuring two FHS board members (Rachel Kline and Ruth Anna Stolk) and one recent Bell Travel Grant recipient (Jason Newton).

Visit [ASEH 2024](#) to register and view the program.



Bell Travel Grant Recipients @ FHS

The Forest History Society annually offers a number of competitive Alfred D. Bell Jr., Travel Grants to support travel and lodging expenses of up to \$950.00 incurred by researchers conducting in-depth studies at the Society's **Alvin J. Huss Archives** and **Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Library**. FHS established the award to honor the memory of wholesale lumberman, forest industry editor, and former FHS vice president **Alfred D. Bell Jr.**, who died in 1985.



Sumin Myung is a PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins University.

Part of Sumin's research is on the critical role of U.S. forest scientists and foresters in the institutionalization of scientific forestry in postwar South Korea through training of Korean scientists at U.S. universities. Sumin is also looking at breeding, genetics, and ecological/physiological studies of the following tree species: *Pinus rigida*, *Pinus taeda*, *Pinus strobus*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, and *Quercus rubra*.



Jack Hanly is a PhD candidate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Jack is researching the rise of the U.S. environmental movement as it intersected with and challenged architecture, real estate, and infrastructure development in the 1960s and 70s.

The archives at the Forest History Society will provide essential support for Jack's dissertation project, particularly the Weyerhaeuser Company Records and the Wayne D. Iverson Papers held in the FHS Archives.

[Apply for a Bell Travel Grant](#)

FHS Blog *Peeling Back the Bark* Latest Posts

"Remembering Estella Leopold and Her Defense of the Eocene"
by Char Miller

"Pauline Bunyans and WWII Victory Lumber"
by Eben Lehman



Environmental historian Char Miller has shared his reflections on the conservation work of Estella Bergere Leopold, the prominent paleoecologist and conservationist, who died on February 25, 2024, at age 97.



World War II created a shortage of workers along with a national need to produce lumber for military efforts. During the war, *Weyerhaeuser News*, the lumber company's magazine, ran features highlighting the work done by the women who took over for the men who were called to serve.

[Read the Blog](#)



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

[Unsubscribe james.lewis@duke.edu](mailto:james.lewis@duke.edu)

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