



The Forest Timeline



Tania & this year's ASEH-FHS Graduate Student Essay Prize winner, Andy Hoyt, at ASEH.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

It is gorgeous spring weather here in Durham as I write this, and I am pleased to look back on a productive and eventful month.

In early April, the Triangle Environmental Humanities group met at FHS to engage in a foraging activity led by Duke faculty members Christine Folch and Ryan Emanuel. Over the past academic year, the group brought together scholars from the area universities to discuss draft articles and chapters, course syllabi, and book projects. The meetings were co-hosted by FHS and met alternately at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, the North Carolina Museum for Natural Science in Raleigh, and here at FHS.



The Triangle Environmental Humanities group embarks on a foraging adventure at FHS.

Staff and members of our Board also traveled to the annual meeting of the Association for Environmental History (ASEH) in Pittsburgh. I was excited to participate in a panel on the history of fire in the U.S. with Northwestern historian and *New Yorker* contributor Daniel Immerwahr and Abby Cuniff, a PhD Candidate at UC Santa Cruz and this year's Walter S. Rosenberry Graduate Fellow. It was good to connect with our counterparts at ASEH and to see colleagues and friends who are making important contributions to environmental history. We are proud to co-publish *Environmental History* and grateful to all who make this exceptional journal possible, especially its editors, Mark Hersey and Stephen Brain, the University of Chicago Press, and all its contributors.

Finally, we were delighted to host our Board of Directors in Durham last week. As part of an immersive library experience, Board Members researched answers to reference questions with the guidance of our library and archives team. By sifting through historic images and primary sources, they caught glimpses of the rich history of our forests that is preserved in our collections and gained a deeper sense of what our holdings mean to researchers from all over the world. And, as you can see in the photo below, working with our Board is not only inspiring and vital for our organization but also fun! I am grateful to them for their generosity and dedication to FHS and to each of you for your ongoing support of our mission and work.

Wishing you a wonderful spring,
Tania

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tania'.

FHS Board of Directors Meeting



The FHS Board of Directors met in Durham on April 25-26 for its annual spring meeting.

Special Webinar Announcement:
**"Our Forests, Our Future': The History of the Society
of American Foresters" with Char Miller**
Hosted by Jamie Lewis

June 9, 2025 | 1-2 PM ET



The Society of American Foresters is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, SAF has published a collection of essays that look at the many facets of the organization's history, impact, and legacy in the new book *Our Forests, Our Future: Honoring the Past, Engaging the Present, and Leading to the Future*. Join historian Char Miller, the book's editor and a contributor, and FHS historian Jamie Lewis for a discussion about the book and SAF's history and future.



Char Miller is the W.M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis and History at Pomona College. His most recent books include *The Yale School of the Environment: The First 125 Years* (2025), *Burn Scars: A Documentary History of Fire Suppression, From Colonial Origins to the Resurgence of Cultural Burning* (2024), *Natural Consequences: Intimate Essays for a Planet in Peril* (2022), and *West Side Rising: How San Antonio's 1921 Flood Devastated a City and Sparked a Latino Environmental Justice Movement* (2021).

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FOREST HISTORY
Society

Join us for the webinar series

Conversations in Forest History

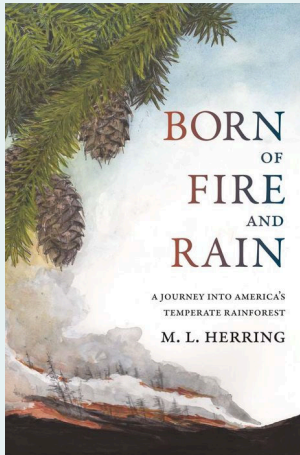
with Jamie Lewis

"Born of Fire and Rain: Journey into a Pacific Coastal Forest"

with M. L. Herring

May 19, 2025 at 1-2 pm ET

The seasonal zone of the Pacific temperate rainforest clings to the western edge of North America, between northern California and southern British Columbia. This is a place of volcanoes, wildfires, timber wars, disappearing owls, and some of the biggest, longest living trees in the world. These forests are also among the most timber-productive in the world, and productivity has its costs. The region weathered relentless logging during the 20th century. Eventually, the threat of losing species prompted paradigm-shattering shifts in ecological knowledge and changed how federal forests are managed. As a result, parts of this rainforest are among the most studied ecosystems in the world. M.L. (Peg) Herring will offer an illustrated tour of this resilient, in-temperate rainforest, its checkered past and its unknowable future.



M. L. Herring is an emerita professor of science communication at Oregon State University. Her work focuses on the public understanding of science, particularly the science that supports policy and management of public lands. She co-edited the book *Bioregional Assessments: Science at the Crossroads of Management and Policy* (Island Press, 1999) that defined the era of landscape-scale, science-based investigations for developing policy. Her newest book, *Born of Fire and Rain* (Yale University Press, 2024), takes readers deep into the Pacific temperate rainforest to glimpse what it means to be a forest on a rapidly changing planet.

[Register Now](#)

This Month in Forest History

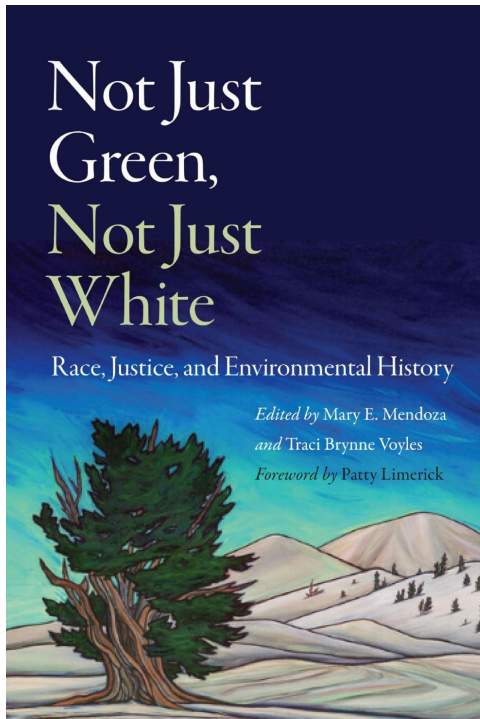


- **April 5, 1895:** Forester [Carl Schenck arrives in America](#) from Germany. Schenck was brought to the U.S. by George Vanderbilt, who hired Schenck to manage the more than 100,000 acres of forest at his Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

Also in April:

- **April 10, 1872:** Nebraskans plant more than a million trees in celebration of the first Arbor Day. [Julius Sterling Morton](#), agriculturalist, newspaper editor, and former governor of the Nebraska Territory, first proposed and promoted the day. In 1885, the date was changed to April 22 in honor of Morton's birthday. As a national U.S. holiday, Arbor Day is now celebrated on the last Friday in April.
- **April 13, 1899:** Tahoe National Forest in California is established under the name Lake Tahoe National Forest by presidential proclamation. (See more below!)
- **April 15, 1920:** [William B. Greeley](#) is named as chief of the Forest Service, replacing the retiring Henry S. Graves.
- **April 18, 1906:** The Great San Francisco Earthquake and fires devastate the San Francisco Bay area of California. The Redwood Car Shippers Bureau prepares a [small photo album](#) depicting the damage and promoting redwood as a fire-retardant construction material.
- **April 28, 1920:** The [Monongahela National Forest](#) is established.

Book of the Month



Not Just Green, Not Just White: Race, Justice, and Environmental History by Mary E. Mendoza & Traci Brynne Voyles

Not Just Green, Not Just White brings together a group of diverse contributors to explore the rich intersections between race and environment. Together these contributors demonstrate that the field of environmental history, with its core questions and critical engagement with the nonhuman world, provides a fertile context for understanding racism and ongoing colonialism as power structures in the United States.

Look for this book in your local library, bookstore, or directly from the publisher.

[Read More](#)

From the Archives



Sierra Buttes Lookout, 1923. Tahoe National Forest, California.
(From the California National Forests Lantern Slide Collection)

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