



## The Forest Timeline

### President's Message



Dear Friends of FHS,

**Why did forester Sir Dietrich Brandis need an elephant, a bamboo stick, and a knife?**

If you were able to tune in to last week's Yale Forest Forum, you already know the answer to this question from Jameson Karns's fascinating talk on Dietrich Brandis's forestry legacy in 19th-century India and Burma.

If you missed it, don't worry—you can view recordings of all the YFF webinars and sign up for upcoming presentations [here](#). We have a fantastic lineup and are excited to be co-hosting this series as part of the Yale School of the Environment's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

Next month, we will bring Yale to the FHS! We are delighted to be hosting Dean Indy Burke of the Yale School of the Environment in conversation with Dean Lori Benneer of Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment with moderator Bettina Ring, President of SAF and State Director of the Nature Conservancy Virginia. As our annual Lynn W. Day lecture, the conversation will focus on "Tomorrow's Forests: **Natural Resource and Forestry Training for A Changing Environment.**" Please mark your calendars for November 11, 7 pm (6:15 reception). We hope you will join us, either in person in Durham or via livestream! (More details to come.)

And finally, we're delighted to let you know that FHS will be publishing a history of the Yale School of the Environment, co-authored by Jamie Lewis (FHS), Char Miller (Pomona College), Mark Ashton (Yale University), and Rachel Kline (formerly USFS). This work has been long in the making, and we're excited for its publication to help celebrate Yale's milestone anniversary.

I'm honored to be leading FHS, along with my colleagues at this exciting time in the organization's own history. As we approach our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I am committed to this work for which we're so ideally suited: telling the rich and deeply contextualized history of the important developments in forest, conservation, and environmental history.

In the meantime, we hope to see you in person next month in Connecticut as celebrations continue at [the annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters](#).

Happy fall, and be well,

Tania



## Yale Forest Forum Speaker Series, Fall 2025



The Yale Forest Forum is excited to announce the Fall 2025 speaker series, "A History of Scientific Forestry: From Extraction to Ecosystem Management." Webinars will take place on Thursdays from September 4 through December 4, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. U.S. ET.

This series builds on the spring 2025 pre-industrial forest history series and examines how European practices influenced the development of modern forestry in the U.S. It features scholars and practitioners from various fields, including forestry, history, ecology, sociology, and environmental studies.

This fall 2025 speaker series is co-hosted by The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment, Forest History Society, Society of American Foresters, and University of Minnesota.

Join us every Thursday from September 4 to December 4, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. U.S. ET. (Note that there will not be webinars on October 16 & 23 and November 27.)

[Register Now](#)

## FHS at the SAF Convention



The Forest History Society is proud to join the Society of American Foresters in celebrating its 125th anniversary at the 2025 SAF National Convention this October in Hartford, Connecticut. Visit our booth to explore our collections, publications, and programs, and learn more about how we preserve and share forest and conservation history. We look forward to connecting with you there!

## 51st Henry J. Oosting Memorial Lecture in Ecology at Duke University



### "Into the Clear Blue Sky: Restoring our Forests and Atmosphere"

with Dr. Rob Jackson, Stanford University

**Thu, 2 October 2025 | 4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**  
**Love Auditorium, Levine Science Research Center**  
**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS 3:45 P.M. - HALL OF SCIENCE, Duke**

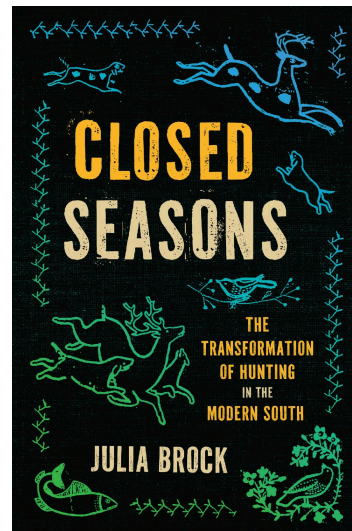
Dr. Robert B. Jackson and his lab examine the many ways people affect the Earth. They produce basic scientific knowledge and use it to help shape policies and reduce the environmental footprint of global warming and energy extraction. Currently examining the effects of climate change and drought on old-growth forests, Rob also works to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Global Carbon Project. Rob leads a project establishing an international network of methane tower measurements across the Amazon and more than 100 sites worldwide that measure and reduce methane emissions from oil and gas wells, city streets, and homes and buildings. Jackson's new book *Into the Clear Blue Sky* (Scribner) was named a "Top Science Book of 2024" by The Times. As an author, poet, and photographer, Rob's work is published from *Highlights for Children* and *The New York Times* to the *Washington Post* and *Nature and Science*. He is a recent Djerassi artist, Guggenheim Fellow, and Fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Geophysical Union, and Ecological Society of America. Jackson taught at Duke from 1999 to 2013.



## "The Transformation of Hunting and Forest Management in the Early 20th Century U.S. South" with Julia Brock

**October 6, 2025**  
**1-2 PM ET**

In her new book *Closed Seasons: The Transformation of Hunting in the Modern South*, historian Julia Brock traces the creation and evolution of game and fish laws in the Deep South from the Progressive Era to the 1930s, with a close eye on the social imagination of conservation advocates, the response by everyday southerners, the changing field of wildlife science, and the increasing role of the federal government in wildlife protection. She'll introduce these themes in her talk and also consider how forestry and forestry laws were featured—or not—in the new game and fish commissions established in this era.



**Julia Brock** is an associate professor of history at the University of Alabama, where she coordinates a Public History Concentration. *Closed Seasons: The Transformation of Hunting in the Modern South* (UNC Press 2025) is her first book and is now available [from the publisher](#).

**This webinar is approved for 1 hour of CFE credit from the Society of American Foresters!**

[Register Now](#)

## New Blog Posts on "Peeling Back the Bark"

These blog posts are the third & fourth in a five-part series written by Yale School of the Environment students enrolled in a graduate seminar that accompanied the spring 2025 Yale Forest Forum, "A History of People, Forests, and Forestry."

### "Forests, Laws, and Peoples' Rights: Snapshots of Forestry History" by Miki Nakano

Today, forests are home to roughly 600 million Indigenous and tribal peoples (Colchester 2025). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that one-third of the global population relies on forest goods and services for their livelihoods, food security, and nutrition (Jin 2025). Since the colonial era, exclusionary, extractive, and capitalist policies have guided forest management practices particularly in the tropics...[Continue Reading](#)







### Amazonian Forest Farming: Records of the Past Inform Management of Today by Sophia Roberts

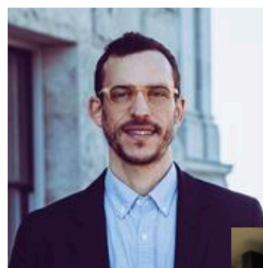
The Amazon forest basin boasts an incredible diversity of plants and animals, including more than 16,000 species of trees alone. Spanning eight different countries, at 5.5 million square kilometers, it is the world's largest tropical rainforest, a critical biodiversity hotspot and carbon sink that helps regulate the planet's climate and oxygen supply. As it turns out, the composition of the Amazon's vast forests that we know today is thanks in large part to people. In fact...  
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## 2025 Blegen & Collier Award Winners



### 2025 John M. Collier Award Winner: Sophie Hartley

Hartley's article, "What's Killing All the Beech Trees?" published in *The Boston Globe Magazine*, explains the science behind the growing nematode threat to one of America's best-known trees, detailing how the disease works and the unique threat it poses to eastern forests. With deep reporting on both lab science and forest management, Hartley makes a compelling case for the cause of saving the Beech tree on an international level and for the value of long-term research data to help find an answer to the problem.



### 2025 Theodore C. Blegen Winners: Eric Herschthal & John Brooke

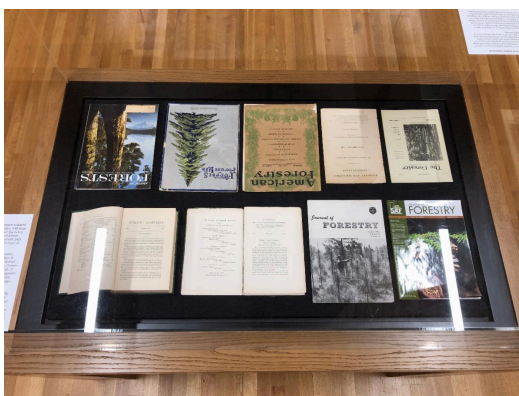
Herschthal and Brooke's article, "The Plantation Carbon Complex: Slavery and the Origins of Climate Change in the Early Modern British Atlantic," published in *The William and Mary Quarterly*, reconstructs agricultural land use emissions from enslaved labor plantations to consider the impact of the British Atlantic world plantation economy on climate change. It is both a place-based environmental history and an introduction to the pre-history of global capitalism's impact on the environment, revealing the concrete ways in which plantation agriculture and the exploitative labor of slavery are at the root of the global emissions crisis.

# New Exhibit: "Preserving the Legacy of American Forestry"

A new exhibit, "Preserving the Legacy of American Forestry: Celebrating the Milestone Anniversaries of American Forests, the Society of American Foresters, and the Weyerhaeuser Company," is now open in the L. Michael & Karen C. Kelly Exhibit Hall at the Forest History Society!

This exhibit explores the last 150 years of U.S. forest history as told through materials from the Forest History Society's three largest collections: American Forests (formerly the American Forestry Association), marking its 150th anniversary, and the Society of American Foresters and the Weyerhaeuser Company, both celebrating their 125th anniversaries. Come explore the exhibit at 2925 Academy Road, Durham, NC during our regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

This exhibit was researched, written, and designed by Josefina Pohlhammer, a public history master's student at North Carolina State University. Funding for Josefina's internship was provided in part by donors to the Steven Anderson Internship in Forest History. Thank you!



**Bell Travel Grant Researchers**



Karen Kovaka (right), an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego traveled to FHS along with her PhD student Mika Smith (left) to explore the role of the timber industry in advocating for fire suppression policy during the latter half of the 20th century. While researching in our collections, their focus evolved—they found that as the federal government transitioned to ecosystem management, the forestry industry responded by developing their own forest management plans.

Both Karen and Mika were surprised to discover just how integrated the approach was between industry and associations. The timber industry was involved in forestry schools, overseeing projects (including projects for the U.S. Forest Service) and making recommendations for their funding. It is clear from the correspondence in the collections, they said, that this new ecosystem-centered approach to forestry was a very integrated effort.

During their time at FHS, Kovaka & Smith primarily used the records of the National Forest Products Association and the American Forest Council, including Douglas Crutchfield's papers. They also looked at records from the Society of American Foresters and Art Cooper's papers.

## This Month in Forest History





- **September 1, 1898:** The [Biltmore Forest School](#), the first forestry school in the United States, opens its doors to students.

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#### Also in September:

- **September 10, 1875:** The American Forestry Association (now American Forests) is founded in Chicago. [Click here](#) to explore some photos from the collection.
- **September 15, 1971:** The [Woodsy Owl character is officially announced](#) and debuted in a Washington D.C. press conference.
- **September 24, 1963:** The [Pinchot Institute is dedicated](#) at Grey Towers by President John F. Kennedy.
- **September 27, 1962:** Houghton Mifflin publishes Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.

## From the Archives





[Balloon logging](#) demonstration by Bohemia Lumber Company in cooperation with Goodyear Aerospace Corp. in western Oregon, September 1964.

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