



The Forest Timeline

President's Message



Dear Friends of FHS,

Fall is upon us here in North Carolina, and with it comes a busy and exciting season at the Forest History Society.

Two weeks ago, FHS once again attended the annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters in Hartford, Connecticut. The gathering was a special occasion that brought together hundreds of professionals from all over the country to meet and exchange ideas and information on cutting-edge science, policy, and forest management practices. I am still so deeply impressed by the range of backgrounds, skills, and approaches those who care for our forests and natural resources bring to their profession. I was especially moved to be reminded once again how much they care about history.

It was also a time to celebrate the important anniversaries we have been highlighting over the course of this year – of SAF, the Yale School of the Environment, the Weyerhaeuser Company, and American Forests. The expo hall was populated by striking displays of trees that illustrated the history of forestry and of SAF in the U.S. We are proud that the archival information featured on these trees came from our collections at FHS.

For the first time this year, we offered free student memberships. Laura Hayden, FHS Director of Development, and I had the pleasure of meeting dozens of early-career professionals from across the country who stopped by our booth. We welcome you to the FHS family and extend our deepest thanks to all the FHS supporters who make this kind of outreach possible!

Wishing you a wonderful fall,
Tania



2025 Lynn W. Day Distinguished Lectureship in Forest & Conservation History

"Tomorrow's Planet: Preparing Future Natural Resources and Forestry Leaders"

November 11, 2025 | 7 PM ET

The Forest History Society is proud to announce the 2025 Lynn W. Day Lectureship in Forest and Conservation History will be a moderated discussion with three leading educators in the natural resources field. Join Bettina Ring, President of the Society of American Foresters and the Virginia State Director at The Nature Conservancy, as she talks with Indy Burke (Dean of the Yale School of the Environment), Sam Cook (Executive Director of Forest Assets at NC State University), and Lori Benneer (Dean of the Nicholas School for the Environment) about what it may take to prepare the next generation of stewards of the global environment.

Reception starts at 6 PM ET followed by the panel discussion at 7 PM ET.

In-Person Registration

Zoom Registration

The Lynn W. Day Distinguished Lectureship in Forest and Conservation History is a collaborative effort between the Forest History Society and Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and its Department of History.

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 October 30 to December 4, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. U.S. ET. (Note that there will not be a webinar on November 27.)

[Register Now](#)

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PRESS

Announcing a new series:

Ecologia

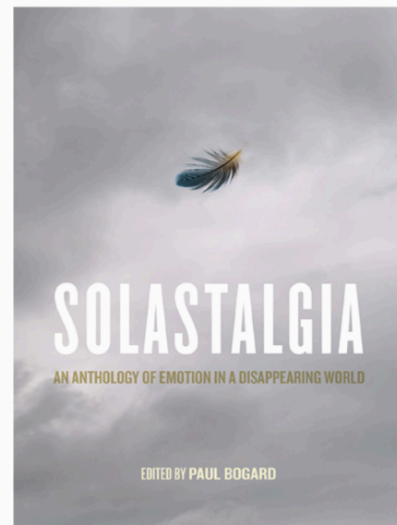
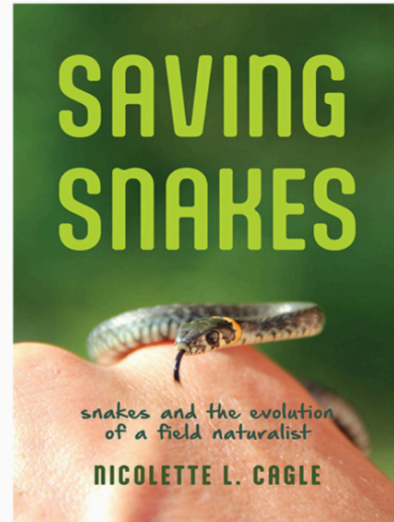
Ecologia aims to celebrate the joy and beauty of life on earth, to illuminate hidden aspects of environmental relationships, and to inspire new thinking about how life in all its myriad forms may thrive. This series seeks to publish narrative-driven works in nature writing, literary science, and environmental journalism. The editors welcome creative nonfiction manuscripts by scientists, naturalists, creative environmental writers, conservationists, and journalists driven by a passion for writing and a curiosity for exploring complex relationships within ecological systems. Manuscripts with broad public and classroom appeal are especially encouraged, as are works grounded in marginalized and/or misunderstood cultures, geographies, organisms, and traditions.

Series Editors:

Paul Bogard, Nicolette Cagle, and Jennifer Westerman

Proposals should be sent to:

Angie Hogan, Senior Editor: arh2h@virginia.edu
and ecologiauvapress@gmail.com



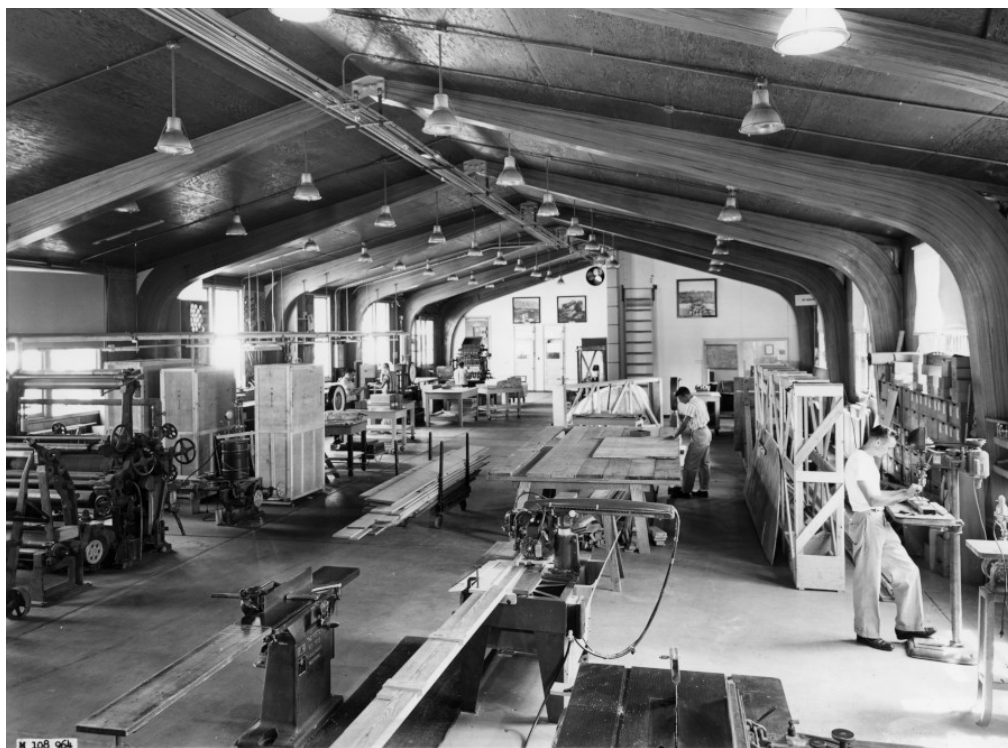
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FHS Board of Directors Meeting

The FHS Board of Directors met at FHS in Durham, NC for their annual fall meeting on October 31-November 1, 2025.



This Month in Forest History



- October 1, 1909: The [Forest Products Laboratory](#) begins operation in Madison, Wisconsin.

Also in October:

- October 8, 1871: The [Peshtigo Fire](#) breaks out in northeastern Wisconsin.

- **October 14, 1994:** The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) Board of Directors adopts "[Sustainable Forestry Initiative Principles and Implementation Guidelines](#)." Designed as a code of conduct for the U.S. forest products industry, [the program](#) would become one of the world's largest sustainable forestry and certification programs.
- **October 17, 1916:** The [Pisgah National Forest](#) is established. This was the first forest created almost entirely from the purchase of privately-owned land (Vanderbilt's Biltmore Forest) and the first forest established in the East under the Weeks Act.
- **October 28, 1921:** The [Appalachian Section of the Society of American Foresters](#) is organized at a meeting of 15 foresters in Asheville, NC. J.S. Holmes is elected the first president.



Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, we are able to host researchers, curate invaluable collections, and deliver programming that brings forest history to life. Your contributions directly enable scholars, foresters, environmentalists, policymakers, and students to engage with our archives and uncover lessons that continue to influence present-day decision-making.

Together, we can nurture those shaping the forests of tomorrow. Renew your support today, and thank you!

Donate online, or contact [Laura Hayden](#), FHS's Director of Development, to explore more ways to give to FHS!

[Donate](#)

From the Archives



Forestry exhibits at Dorton Arena during the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh, October 1963. The theme of the 1963 State Fair was "Miracle of the Forest."
(FHS1630)

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