AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Forest History Society awards and fellowships are fully supported by endowment. The awards program enables the Society to recognize research and writing in forest and conservation history and stimulate further research into our understanding of the relationships between people and forests. High standards for selection reflect equally upon the recipient and the Society. Following is a list of awards for 1999.

RALPH HIDY AWARD
The Hidy Award, recognizing superior scholarship published in Environmental History, is biennial in coordination with the Aldo Leopold Award, sponsored by the American Society for Environmental History. The Hidy Award will be granted in the year 2000 for articles published in the 1999 volume year. This year ASEH presented the Aldo Leopold Award to Brian Black for his article "Oil Creek as Industrial Apparatus: Re-creating the Industrial Process Through the Landscape of Pennsylvania’s Oil Boom," Vol. 3(2):210–229, April 1998.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN AWARD
The Blegen Award recognizes the best article in a journal other than Environmental History. This year the award is given to Joseph E. Taylor III for his article in the Western Historical Quarterly Vol. 29 (Winter 1998): 437–457, entitled "El Nino and Vanishing Salmon: Culture, Nature, History, and the Politics of Blame." The article is a highly unusual and nuanced study of the impact of large scale natural forces on two Pacific coast resource-dependent communities. The article moves from large-scale observation to discrete community-level analysis of the political assignment of human blame for salmon declines in Oregon (1877) and Washington state (1926). The author argues that the true cause of the decline was climatic: shifts in ocean currents—El Nino (which in 1877 also caused droughts in Australia and India). From that knowledge, the author views, not just community reactions and contemporary assignments of blame, but also the subsequent historiographic interpretation and academic proportioning of blame, all of which occurred with a key factor, shifting ocean currents, unaddressed. This article’s value, in the face of current climatic change arguments, is worthy of wide readership.

CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER BOOK AWARD
Richard A. Rajala was chosen to receive the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award for best book on forest and conservation history for the two-year period 1997–1998. The winner is a previous recipient of the 1994 Blegen Award and the 1990 Hidy Award. Rajala’s book, Clearcutting the Pacific Rain Forest: Production Science, and Regulation, is original, insightful, and particularly impressive in the way it integrates logging technology, labor theory, and the intricacies of a century of regulation. His use of primary sources for British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon is thorough and illuminating, while his use of theory is intelligent without being pedantic. By comparing the experience of Canada and the United States as a single forest ecosystem, Rajala shows how powerful the forces of developing technologies were in altering Douglas-fir forests and economies. The book is unique in how it argues the reverse of common perception—Rajala argues that logging technologies shaped forest science and forestry education, not the reverse.

F.K. WEYERHAEUSER FELLOWSHIP
The F.K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship is awarded to a Duke University student whose research is historical in nature and related to forestry, land-use, or the environment. This year’s recipient is Jason S. McClachlan, working towards a Ph.D. in Botany. His proposal, “Seed Dispersal: Setting the Pace of Long-term Forest Dynamics,” intends to investigate the role of seed dispersal in determining the response of three tree species in southern New England to the largest environmental changes of the last 10,000 years: climate change at the end of the last glaciation and the imposition of European land-use during the last 300 years. Forest managers need to understand how forests will respond to interactions between changing climate and changing land-use patterns in the future. Examining the record of forest response to these environmental forces in the past can provide information on the rate and magnitude of change to expect, and seed dispersal can provide a common biological mechanism underlying such change.

JOHN M. COLLIER JOURNALISM AWARD
The John M. Collier Award recognizes the author of the best article on forest and conservation history published in newspapers, trade press, or general circulation magazines. The 1999 recipient of the Collier Award is Paul Nussbaum for his August 16, 1998 article in the Philadelphia Inquirer entitled “A lush renewal for Pa. forests.” Mr. Nussbaum tells the story of the resurgence of forests in Pennsylvania following intense harvesting at the beginning of the century. He effectively uses trends in forest land area, population shifts, and illustrations to discuss the reciprocal relationship of forests and people. It is a well-researched article that is a wonderful example of how journalism can improve public awareness and inform decision-making.

ALFRED D. BELL, JR. TRAVEL GRANTS
Alfred D. Bell, Jr travel grants are awarded to enable researchers to use the FHS library and archives. Bell Fellows for the last year included:

Neil Maher, Ph.D. student in history at New York University, studied the influence of the Civilian Conservation Corps on the Conservation and Environmental movements. He contends that the CCC helped to convert the earlier Conservation...
Movement from its elitist roots to a more egalitarian and popular activity resulting in the Environmental Movement of the mid-twentieth century.

William Boyd, a doctoral candidate at U.C. Berkeley, used the collections of the Society of American Foresters, the American Forestry Association, and the National Forest Products Association to document the history of industrial forestry and private forestry practices in the South.

Terence Kehoe, a visiting assistant professor at Wake Forest University, worked on a book-length study of the North American pulp and paper industry and its interaction with the environment, spanning the period from the late 19th century to the late 20th century. He looked at how the industry’s policies in the areas of forest management, air and water pollution, and paper as a solid waste have evolved over time in response to technological innovations, business imperatives, political pressures, environmental damage, and other factors.

James E. Fickle, professor of history, University of Memphis, continued work on the history of the Society of American Foresters for several upcoming publications.

Donald R. Theo, historian for the Society of American Foresters, prepared a history of that organization and its role in the profession of forestry.

Terry Thompson, writer and photographer, worked on a centennial history of the Lumbermen’s Club of Memphis, Tennessee. He found evidence of their activities in directories, journals, oral histories, and photographs.

Tycho de Boer, doctoral candidate in American history at Vanderbilt University, began his dissertation work on “The Longleaf Pine Forest in the History of the American South.” He hopes to discover if historical land use in the area varied significantly from patterns in other parts of the country.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR


The Role of Boreal Forests and Forestry in the Global Carbon Budget. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Carbon Conference Coordinator; 5320-122 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6H 3S5; carbon@nofc.forestry.ca/carbon; http://www.nofc.forestry.ca/carbon.


The Internet and Conservation: Opportunities and Threats. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Contact: James Levitt; icp@ksg.harvard.edu.

Canadian Institute of Forestry Annual General Meeting. “Unchartered Waters: 2000 and Beyond.” Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Contact: Jim Taylor; CIF 2000 National Meeting, Western Newfoundland Model Forest, Forest Centre, University Drive, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, P.O. Box 68, Corner Brook, NF, A2H 6C3; jtaylor@wnmf.com or Len Moores; l.moores@thezone.net; http://home.thezone.net/~bprimmer/cifnf/2000agm.htm.

August 7–12, 2000.
XXI IUFRO World Congress. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Contact: Dr. Abdul Rahim Nik; IUFRO World Congress/FRIM; 52109 Kuala Lumpur; Malaysia; 60-363-0 2135/6352564; iufroxxi@frim.gov.my; http://frim.gov.my/iufro.html.

September 4–8, 2000.
Reunion 2000. National Forest Service Reunion. Missoula, Montana. Contact: James Freeman, 1637 Red Crow Road, Victor, MT 59875; (406) 961-3959; jfreeman@bitterroot.net.

Tenth national conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists. East Lansing, Michigan. Contact: Beth Parke, P.O. Box 27280, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0280; (215) 836-9970; sej@sej.org; http://www.sej.org/conferences.


March 28–April 1, 2001.
Joint Forest History Society and American Society for Environmental History Conference. Durham, North Carolina. Contact: Steven Anderson, Forest History Society; 701 Vickers Ave., Durham, NC; (919) 682-9319; stevena@duke.edu.