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Cradle of Forestry in America: The Biltmore Forest School, 1898–1913 by Carl Alwin Schenck

Carl Alwin Schenck’s memoirs of his 15-year experience at North Carolina’s Biltmore Estate have been reprinted by the Forest History Society and the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association. Timely for the centennial celebration of the first forestry school in North America, the 224-page book provides colorful accounts of Schenck’s efforts to bring forestry to the estate, his relationships with Pinchot, Fernow, and Vanderbilt, and the struggle to bring forestry education to the United States.

Foresters and forestry students will find insights to the development of the forestry profession and lessons that are pertinent to forest management issues. Historians will gain insight into the development of the early conservation movement in America. Schenck’s vision, energy, and enthusiasm for training young foresters a century ago give us all a remarkable legacy.

Available for $9.95 plus shipping and handling from the Forest History Society.

Evolution of Tropical Forestry: Puerto Rico and Beyond by Frank H. Wadsworth

Rarely does a day pass without a newspaper article addressing the loss of the world’s forests. Tropical forests attract the most attention. While there is an abundance of available information and misinformation, there are few words of wisdom. In this abridged version of an oral history interview conducted by FHS, Wadsworth reflects on the evolution of tropical research, and many of the people and organizations involved. He covers the status of tropical forest research and the successes and failures of the Tropical Forest Experiment Station in Puerto Rico, UN based agencies, the Canal Zone, and non-governmental organizations, among other topics. This is a must read for those who want insight into the successes and failures of the past to better understand today.

Dr. Frank H. Wadsworth conducted research on the management of tropical forests for over 50 years with the US Forest Service in Puerto Rico. He is known as one of the world’s leading experts on tropical forest management. His recently released book, Forest Production for Tropical America (USDA Agricultural Handbook 710), is testimony to his well-earned reputation.

This small volume is available from the Forest History Society for the cost of shipping and handling.

Forest Service Research: Finding Answers to Conservation Questions by Harold K. Steen

“Recently, the Forest Service has embarked on what could be called a voyage ‘beyond the maps.’ Ecosystem management, sustainability, biodiversity, forest health—these concepts are taking the agency outside its traditional boundaries…” Thus begins the report from the 1995 Forest Service and Policy Roundtable, where “integrating science into land management decision making was the key topic.” Clearly, by the century’s end, the Forest Service research program was seen as an equal partner to the agency’s management and outreach activities, a condition that did not hold as the century began. But the story begins much earlier.”

This new 100-page historical overview traces the early years of Forest Service research efforts, how it strived for independence, the expansion of research efforts, and how the research has related to the environment. Author Harold K. Steen takes readers on a journey around the country and through 100 years of Forest Service challenges and contributions.

Available from the Forest History Society for $10.95 plus shipping and handling.
Plantation Forestry in The Amazon: The Jari Experience by Clayton E. Posey, Robert J. Gilvary, John C. Welker, and L. N. Thompson; edited by Harold K. Steen, Forest History Society

In the mid-1960s, Daniel K. Ludwig purchased three million acres along the Jari River, a major tributary to the lower Amazon. During the next decade, a little less than 10 percent of the area was cleared of its native forest and replaced with fast-growing plantations of gmelina (*Gmelina arborea*), pine (*Pinus caribaea hondurensis*), and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus deglupta*). With a reliable supply of fiber established, Ludwig constructed a full-sized pulpmill and a power plant in Japan and had them moved to Jari and placed on awaiting foundations.

Complicated shifts in the world’s economy in the early 1980s compelled Ludwig to sell the vast enterprise to a consortium of Brazilian companies, an enterprise that operates today. Harshly criticized in the forestry, financial, and environmental literature of the time, Ludwig’s Jari venture appears to show that plantation forestry in the Amazon is viable, but also capital-intensive.

Anyone interested in plantation forestry in the tropics would benefit by this unique account and window into the Jari experience. The lessons of one of the largest plantation forestry efforts in the world are presented from the perspective of a forest geneticist, civil engineer, forest economist, and a hardwood forester who worked on the project.

Available from the Forest History Society for $12.95 plus shipping and handling.

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The Southern Appalachians: A History of the Landscape by Susan L. Yarnell

Susan Yarnell has written a compact environmental history which traces the role of humans in landscape change in the southern Appalachians from about 12,000 years ago—when humans first arrived—to the present. *The Southern Appalachians: A History of the Landscape* describes the increasing and significant effect that native Indians had upon the land, especially with the development of agriculture/horticulture between 2,500 and 1,000 B.C. Yarnell describes the well-developed exchange network and complex social structure established before the Europeans arrived. In the 1500s, Europeans and Africans accelerated the introduction of new species of plants and animals, new technologies, and new diseases. The report chronicles how 70 percent of the region’s forests were harvested by the time the national forests in the area were established and follows the subsequent growth of conservation efforts in the 20th century.

Published as General Technical Report SRS-18 by the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, the work was written through a grant to the Forest History Society. Up to two copies can be obtained free of charge from the Southern Research Station Communications Office, P.O. Box 2680, Asheville, NC 28802; (828) 257-4392. The document is also available on-line at www.srs.fs.fed.us.
AMERICAN FORESTS: A History of Resiliency and Recovery by Douglas W. MacCleery

Many of today’s forestry debates hinge on “how much there is” and “how much there was.” *American Forests* documents the changes our nation’s forests have experienced from colonial times to the present. It presents a baseline for discussion. Included in this 58-page text are the extent of U.S. forests prior to European settlement; native American peoples’ effects on the forest; population and agricultural expansion; uses of the forest for fuel, ironmaking, transportation, and expanded lumber production; and early conservation efforts. It contains 13 photographs and 18 figures and graphs. Four-color cover.

FOREST PHARMACY: Medicinal Plants in American Forests by Steven Foster

The identification of taxol as a potential cancer fighting compound highlighted American interest in plant-derived medicines. The bark of the Pacific yew, a relatively neglected though not rare tree, is the source for taxol. Once scientists discovered taxol’s effect, the need for a sustainable supply of the raw material became clear. The balance between resource extraction and human benefit took center stage. This booklet identifies 120 trees, herbaceous plants and shrubs listed for their medicinal values. Another 14 plants are discussed in detail including ginseng, goldenseal, passionflower, mayapple, bloodroot, and others. Contains 17 photographs and 4 tables. Four-color cover.

NEWSPRINT: Canadian Supply and American Demand by Thomas R. Roach

Newsprint documents the growth of the Canadian newsprint industry and its traditional reliance on U.S. markets. In more recent years, significant market shifts, a strong Canadian dollar, and environmental concerns have brought newsprint’s future into question. The author discusses export restrictions and tariffs; government intervention, the changing structure of Canadian forests; international competitiveness and new approaches to fiber production. The 56-page volume includes 19 color figures and 7 tables. Four-color cover.

AMERICA’S FIRES: Management on Wildlands and Forests by Stephen J. Pyne

Fire is at the heart of many forest health and sustainability issues being discussed today. Written by the authoritative expert on the subject, this booklet documents the extraordinarily successful twentieth century campaign to prevent and suppress wildland and forest fires. Ironically, this fire exclusion has altered ecosystems in ways that increase forest susceptibility to fires and also to insect attacks. Healthy forests in America require fire. At the same time urban expansion into wildland areas has caused logistical nightmares in fighting wild fires. The result, in some cases, has been saving individual homes while fires rage on to destroy valuable timber and recreational resources. Contains 18 photographs and 21 maps and figures. Four-color cover.

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See page 61 for more information.

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