

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

From the Chairman

L. Michael Kelly

Greetings! I'm pleased to report that 2012 was another successful year for the Forest History Society. Our financial position is good, our collections are growing, researchers are visiting, publications are rolling off the presses, and our online presence is increasing. A few highlights are outlined below.

For the third straight year the Forest History Society exceeded its Annual Fund goal, thanks to our loyal and dedicated contributors. The Annual Fund is the mainstay of the Society's operations, and I wish to personally thank our donors for their continued support. We also recently completed funding for the new Walter S. Rosenberry Fellowship in Forest and Conservation History to be launched in 2013. Further details on our financial position can be found in Treasurer Henry Barclay's report on the adjoining page.

The Society's journal, *Environmental History*, published jointly with the American Society for Environmental History by Oxford University Press, continues to thrive and be recognized as an important academic resource. Current editor Nancy Langston has accepted a new position, and FHS board member and associate professor of history at Boise State University Lisa Brady has been appointed to succeed Nancy in 2013. We wish Nancy success in her new position at Michigan Tech University and welcome Lisa to the editor's chair.

Wood for Bioenergy, the ninth of our Issues Series books, was published this fall and is being widely distributed. Co-written by Brooks C. Mendell and Amanda H. Lang of Forisk Consulting, it is already being praised as an important resource in the ongoing national dialogue about alternative fuels and renewable energy. The Issues Series continues to be one of our greatest success stories, and additional books are already in the planning stages.

The Society was honored to be named the national archive for the American Tree Farm System, the largest and oldest sustainable family woodland system in America. Along with several other new collections, the Society also received the library of William E. Shands (1934–1994), who is regarded as one of the nation's leading experts in federal forest policy. With important collections like these arriving continually, space continues to be a serious limiting factor, and our headquarters building is filled to the brim with documents, films, photos, books, and other materials. The board and staff have been working hard to address the need for additional and improved space and progress continues



on the acquisition of land in Durham for a new building. We hope to be able to announce success on the land acquisition and the start of a capital campaign very soon.

Another ongoing Society initiative is the Canadian Forest History Preservation Project. This collaborative project with the Canadian Forest Service and the Network in Canadian History and Environment seeks to identify repositories for collections related to Canadian forest history that are in danger of loss or destruction. Surveys and assessments of archival repositories have been completed, are in progress, or are planned for each Canadian province. The desired end result is to guide materials, such as the recent gift of two

unique 1941 forest inventory maps in British Columbia, to the appropriate Canadian archive for archival preservation and access for research.

The fourteenth annual Lynn W. Day Distinguished Lectureship in Forest Conservation and History, jointly sponsored by FHS and Duke University, was held in November. Historian Richard White's lecture "If You Build It': The Transcontinental Railroads and the Environmental Consequences of Premature Development," along with previous Day lectures, is available for viewing on the Society's website.

I continue to be amazed by the excellent quality and useful content of the Society's many online offerings. I encourage you to take a look at one or more of these—whether the FHS website; "Peeling Back the Bark" blog; or Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, or YouTube pages—for interesting items and dialogue related to the Society's collections and forest history in general. An upcoming feature that will make use of the Society's significant photo collection is a Web portal for repeat (or "before and after") photography depicting environmental change over time, of which the Society has a significant collection. And finally on the technology front, the ongoing process of transferring all of the Society's searchable databases to a new content management system will further improve access to historical materials.

The Forest History Society has many accomplishments to be proud of and many exciting things on the horizon as it moves into the future. Thank you for your past and ongoing support. Please feel free to contact me at mkelly@forestinvest.com or President Anderson at stevens@duke.edu at any time with your thoughts or suggestions. □