

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**F**orest 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 2001.

### RALPH W. HIDY AWARD

The Ralph W. Hidy Award recognizes superior scholarship in the journal *Environmental History*, published jointly by the Forest History Society and the American Society for Environmental History. From the inception of the journal in 1996 the Hidy Award has been given in alternate years with the Leopold Award given by ASEH. This year, ASEH presented the Aldo Leopold Award to Chad Montrie for his article "Expedient Environmentalism: Opposition to Coal Surface Mining in Appalachia and the United Mine Workers of America, 1945-1977" 5 (Jan. 2000), pp. 75-98. Beginning in 2002 the Ralph Hidy Award and the Aldo Leopold Award will be awarded annually as the Leopold-Hidy award as a collaborative effort of FHS and ASEH.

### THEODORE C. BLEGEN AWARD

The Theodore C. Blegen Award recognizes the best article in a journal other than *Environmental History*. The 2001 recipient of the Blegen Award is Andrew H. Fisher, for his article "Working in the Indian Way: The Southwest Forest Firefighter Program and Native American Wage Labor," published in *Arizona History* (Summer 2000) 41(2): 121-148. With a clear vision and graceful manner Andrew Fisher shows how Native Americans incorporated firefighting for government agencies into their own traditions, reshaping it to meet cultural and economic needs. Fisher guides the reader through the theoretical constructs of academic discourse, over racial stereotypes and down cultural trails blazed by the Southwest Forest Fighter Program

and Mescalero Apache "Redhats" in 1948. Other crews followed—Arapaho, Hopi, Jemez Pueblo, Navajo, Shoshoni, and Zuni. The story answers significant questions of identity and purpose. It shows how and why these men came to this seasonal work; how it connects to group identity, is an extension of warrior traditions, helps to protect the community and serves as an important part of the reservation economy. Fisher explores both the myth and reality of the Native American firefighters, and argues that here is something rare, a Native American-government partnership that serves both equally. If a student of forest history were to read only one article on Native American firefighters it should be this one. This is Andrew Fisher's second Blegen award, and he continues to set standards of excellence for new scholarship.

### JOHN M. COLLIER JOURNALISM AWARD

The John M. Collier Journalism Award recognizes the author of the best article on forest and conservation history published in newspapers, trade press, or general circulation magazines. The 2001 Collier Award was awarded to Sherry Devlin for her four-part series published August 20-22, 2000 in the *Missoulian* entitled "The Big Burn of 1910." Her exhaustively researched, carefully crafted stories revealed the huge, unstoppable fires to be a recurring, natural event, rather than a freak catastrophe or, as others alleged, the result of recent mismanagement of national forests. Devlin's "Big Burn" series stands out as a superb example of environmental reporting. Her series led readers to a more complete and sophisticated understanding of Western forests and wildfire.

### CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER BOOK AWARD

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award for best book in forest and conservation history is biennial, granted in odd number years. For the second time in the history of the award there are dual winners. The 2001 Weyerhaeuser Book Award recipi-

ents are John R. McNeill, for his book *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2000) and Mark Feige for his *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1999).

In its sweeping coverage, global perspective, and clear and well-argued thesis—that the twentieth century witnessed the most dramatic environmental changes in world history—McNeill's *Something New Under the Sun* provides perspective, insight, and comprehensive treatment of environmental history in recent times. Comprehensive in scope, the author knits scientific, political, demographic, and cultural themes into a coherent overview. The book is not only important for its treatment of particular subjects such as air and water pollution, dams and water development, energy and wetlands, and invasive species, it is also an essential text in the growing emergence of international environmental history, which is arguably now at the cutting edge of the field.

Feige, in *Irrigated Eden*, takes on an old topic in environmental history, irrigation, and sees it with fresh eyes and keen insight. He integrates the impact of changing modes of production, and the impact on social, economic, and political relationships, with the more intangible world of ideology and myth in a most innovative manner. While the older histories viewed irrigation as part of mankind's obvious conquest of nature, Feige sees the forces of nature enduring against human determination to subdue it. In his careful look at this particular land and waterscape in Idaho, Feige offers a view of environmental change that makes nature as large of an agent in that change as human will. By placing nature so close to the forefront of his narrative, he challenges the traditional conception of humans conquering the desert with dams and canals and irrigation ditches. It is a book with wide applications, not simply to the particular subject of reclamation, but to the broader understanding of how much humans can and have altered the natural world.

**F.K. WEYERHAEUSER FELLOWSHIP**

The F.K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship is awarded annually to a student at the FHS university affiliate, Duke University, whose research is historical in nature and related to forestry, land-use, or the environment. The 2001–2002 Fellowship was awarded to **Scott Bodien**, a Masters student in the Nicholas School of the Environment who will investigate and write the history of the Duke University Forest. Focusing on both the history of land-use practices over time and the social interactions surrounding the forest, the work has the potential to contribute significantly to the body of knowledge in forest and conservation history. It will particularly resonate with the larger Duke Community while dealing substantively with the history of research on the forest, making it a valuable resource for other university forest management programs.

**ALFRED D. BELL, JR. TRAVEL GRANTS**

Alfred D. Bell, Jr., travel grants enable researchers to use the FHS library and

archives. Bell Fellows for 2001 included:

**Ravi Rajan**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, considered the training of foresters and priorities in forestry research in the U.S. from 1875 to 1950. He is working on a book about the origins and spread of tropical forestry and wanted to compare his findings to the pattern established in the U.S.

**Roland "Rocky" Barker**, environmental writer for the Idaho Statesman in Boise, ID, used oral histories, company files, and government publications to add to his store of information on the Central Idaho Primitive Area.

**Jose Padua**, Professor at the Rural University of Rio de Janeiro investigated the FHS collections related to Brazil. He also discussed opportunities to contribute citations regarding South America to the FHS annotated bibliographic database.

**Kevin Marsh**, doctoral candidate in history at Washington State University, examined

the perspectives of professional foresters and the forest products industry on wilderness designation on national forest lands in the Cascade Mountains from the 1950s to the 1980s. He used the records of the American Forest & Paper Association, the Society of American Foresters, and the Western Timber Association as well as oral histories, industry journals, and manuscripts.

**Jay Turner, Ph.D.** student in history from Princeton worked on his dissertation on the implementation of the 1964 Wilderness Act by federal land management agencies. He found the Forest Service History collection most useful as well as several archival collections such as American Forests, American Forest & Paper Association, and Society of American Foresters.

**Don Simmons**, Assistant Director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, is working on a history of labor issues including unionization in the Southern pulpwood industry. He examined the records of the American Pulpwood Association and other organizations and individuals involved. □

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