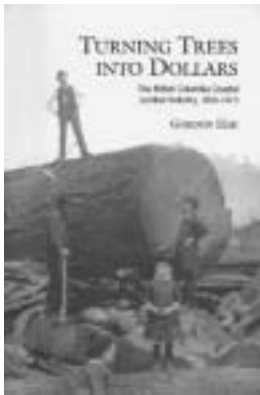
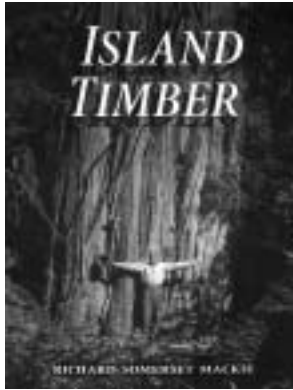


## BOOKS OF INTEREST

By Michele A. Justice



Lumbering has long been an important economic activity in British Columbia and there are two new books that illustrate the relevance of the industry to communities in the region. The brief history of Comox Logging Company, one of the largest logging companies along the coast of British Columbia during the early 20th century, is the focus of Richard Somerset Mackie's book ***Island Timber: A Social History of the Comox Logging Company, Vancouver Island*** (Victoria, B.C.: Sono Nis Press, 2000; paper \$39.95). Numerous historical photographs, descriptive text, and loggers' personal reminiscences combine in this engaging work to relate the story of the concern's rise to prominence at the turn of the century, its evolving significance to the livelihood of Vancouver Island communities, and its destruction during the Great Fire of 1938. Gordon Hak examines the economic history of the timber industry in

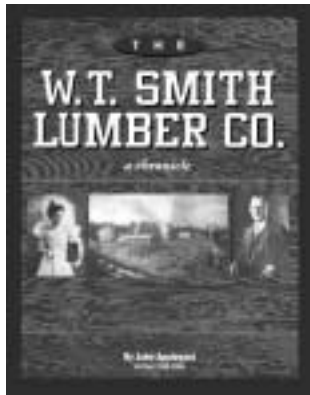
coastal British Columbia, Canada, in his book ***Turning Trees into Dollars: The British Columbia Coastal Lumber Industry, 1858-1913*** (Toronto, Ont.: University of Toronto Press, 2000; cloth \$65.00, paper \$22.95). With chapters on local lumber markets, logging and sawmill companies, government regulation of the industry, industrialization, and the structure and content of the industry's workforce, *Turning Trees into Dollars* focuses on the economic development of the industry, its importance to the economy of coastal British Columbia, and the influence of capitalism on logging practices in the region.

Two books published in 2000 analyze the historical circumstances surrounding disasters, providing insight into the myriad causes and consequences of such events. Author Ted Steinberg examines natural disasters that have occurred in the United States since the late nineteenth century in his book ***Acts of God: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in America*** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000; cloth \$27.50). Steinberg argues that the decisions of business leaders, planners, and policymakers over the past one hundred twenty years have exacerbated the impacts of earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes on American society, especially on persons with a low economic status. In her book ***Decade of Disaster*** (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000; cloth \$42.50, paper \$15.95), author Ann Larabee examines societal responses to health hazards and environmental degradation caused by five disasters that occurred during the 1980s: the nuclear meltdown in Chernobyl, Russia; the release of toxic chemicals at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, the Exxon Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska; the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle; and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Larabee delves into the resulting debates between disaster victims, government officials, corporations, academics, public interest

groups, the media, the medical community, and the general public. *Acts of God* and *Decade of Disaster* are complementary books that emphasize the role played by humans in the history of so-called "natural" disasters.



***Forever Green: The History and Hope of the American Forest*** (Atlanta, Ga.: Longstreet Press, 2001; cloth \$22.00) is a wide-ranging commentary on forests and forestry in the United States written by Chuck Leavell, owner of a tree farm near Macon, Georgia, known as Charlane Plantation. Leavell's primary career is that of a musician—he's a pianist who has worked with such well-known rock music bands as the Allman Brothers Band and the Rolling Stones—but his diligent work on his tree farm has earned him a reputation as a positive voice for the American tree farm industry and has resulted in numerous awards and citations, including twice being named Georgia Tree Farmer of the Year. *Forever Green* includes brief chapters on U.S. forest history, the many uses of trees, forest types, the origins of forest conservation, forest management, urban forestry, and forest certification. The text is supplemented with an appendix, a list of recommended readings, and historic photographs—some of which Leavell obtained from the Forest History Society. *Forever Green* ultimately promotes a common-sense approach to forestry and encourages public support for forest conservation.

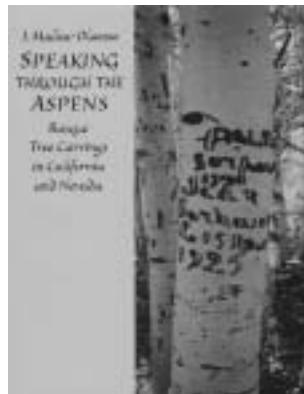


John T. Appleyard's recently published book ***The W. T. Smith Lumber Co.: A Chronicle*** (Pensacola, Florida: Appleyard Agency, 2000; 850-494-2194; cloth \$35.00, paper \$28.00) provides a detailed description of the history of the W. T. Smith Lumber Company since its founding in Chapman, Alabama, in 1891. Although originally organized by different owners, J. Greeley McGowin and several associates purchased the company in 1905, and the McGowin family ran the enterprise throughout the twentieth century until they sold it to Union Camp Corporation in 1966. This book contains chapters on such subjects as logging methods, sawmilling operations, lumber sales, timberland ownership, forest policies, labor relations, the company's role in the development of the local community, and the lives and activities of company owners, officers, and directors. Photographs and illustrations supplement the text. Persons interested in the history of lumbering in the southern United States or the role played by the McGowin family in that history should enjoy reading this new publication.



***Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation*** (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001; cloth \$39.95) by Karl Jacoby studies the impact

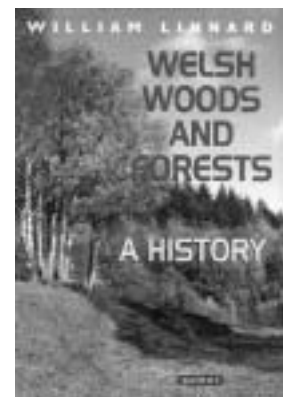
of the criminalization of traditional natural resource utilization practices in Adirondack, Yellowstone, and Grand Canyon national parks on local communities during the late 19th and 20th centuries. Jacoby states that contrary to the popular belief that there was a unified conservation movement in the United States without any organized opposition, many members of rural societies in these newly established park regions continued their traditional fishing, hunting, trapping, and timber removal practices well after government regulation of natural resources on the public lands made such activities illegal. Examining the consequences of national conservation policy and the resulting conflicts that arose within rural communities, this work offers a fresh insight into the significance of class, economic status, gender, and race to the history of the American conservation movement.



J. Mallea-Olaetxe analyzes a unique form of material culture in his new book ***Speaking through the Aspens: Basque Tree Carvings in California and Nevada*** (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2000; cloth \$39.95). The author's research compares the content and structure of thousands of arborglyphs left by Basque shepherders on aspen trees in the mountains of California and Nevada primarily during the 1920s and 1930s. Such tree carving artifacts reveal a wealth of information about the lives of the Basque in the American West, including data on the structure of their language, their political beliefs, their attitudes toward sexuality, and their cultural traditions. Mallea-Olaetxe's detailed study includes numerous photographs and illustrations as well as several appendices that provide biographical data about Basque shepherders in the region. This examination of twentieth-century Basque cultural history in the western United States is a

work of arborglyph research that piques one's interest in a field seldom studied.

In the autobiographical work ***Crackers in the Glade: Life and Times in the Old Everglades*** (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000; cloth \$29.95), author Rob Storter reminisces about his travels and experiences as a fisherman and a guide in the Florida Everglades throughout the twentieth century. Born and raised in Everglade, Florida, Storter (1894-1987) spent his entire life exploring this wetland region in southwestern Florida. In this book, editor Betty Savidge Briggs has compiled a comprehensive collection of Storter's stories and anecdotes describing such varied topics as the flora and fauna native to Florida's swamplands; subsistence fishing; commercialization of the fishing industry; and the impacts of development and tourism on local communities and the environment. Peppered with pictures drawn by Storter himself, *Crackers in the Glade* reveals the author's first-hand knowledge of the region's history and serves as a unique homage to life in the Everglades during the pioneer days of the early and mid-twentieth century.



William Linnard examines the history and utilization of woodlands in the country of Wales from the Ice Age through the late 20th century in his book ***Welsh Woods and Forests: A History*** (Ceredigion, Wales: Gomer Press, 2000; cloth £19.95). Originally published in 1982, this updated edition includes additional historical material, numerous illustrations, and new chapters describing famous trees of Wales and developments in Welsh forestry not covered in the original version. Touching on the subjects of wood utilization, the use of forests as hunting grounds, the development of forest-based industries, organized tree planting, nurseries, forest

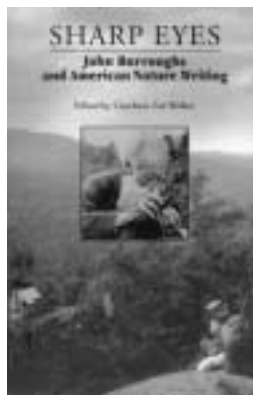
management on public and private lands, big and famous trees, and the establishment of a Forestry Commission, *Welsh Woods and Forests* provides a broad historical overview of the importance of forests and forestry to Welsh society since pre-historic times.

***Making Waves: The Origins and Future of Greenpeace*** (New York: Black Rose Books, 2001; paper \$19.99) is the recently published memoir of Jim Bohlen (b. 1926), a research scientist and one of the founders of the environmental organization Greenpeace. Although an American by birth, in the late 1960s Bohlen moved his family to Vancouver, Canada, where he and his wife continued the anti-war and environmental activism they had engaged in for years in the United States. Along with Paul Cote (b. 1948) and Irving Stowe (1915–1974), Bohlen founded in 1971 the organization that is known today as Greenpeace. Although this work is a personal account of the history of the organization to the present day, *Making Waves* includes discussion of such topics as the identity and motivations of Greenpeace members, the development of campaign methods used by the group, and the evolution of the organization's administrative structure and function.



Forest Service historian Gerald Williams is the author of ***The USDA Forest Service—The First Century*** (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Forest Service, 2000; report FS-650), which provides a general overview of the history of this U.S. government agency since its establishment in 1905. The book covers such topics as the role of forestry in the American conservation movement beginning in the late nineteenth century; the administrative development of the agency; the evolution of the agency's forest management policy; and the political challenges

faced by the Forest Service during the environmental era of the late twentieth century. This government report contains numerous photographs and illustrations and includes sections describing the various agendas of all former Forest Service chiefs from Gifford Pinchot to Mike Dombeck. Persons interested in a more anecdotal history of the U.S. Forest Service might enjoy perusing ***What Did We Get Ourselves Into? Stories by Forest Service Wives*** (Missoula, Mont.: Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association, Inc., in association with Stoneysdale Press Publishing Company, 2000). In this work, wives of former U.S. Forest Service employees reminisce about their everyday lives, describing their feelings of isolation, adventurous experiences, relationships with their husbands, and impressions of the various landscapes in which they lived.



***Sharp Eyes: John Burroughs and American Nature Writing*** (Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 2000; paper \$24.95) is a recently published biographical work containing essays written by numerous authors exploring the life and work of American naturalist and nature writer John Burroughs (1837-1921). Editor Charlotte Zoë Walker has included writings on such topics as the author's life experiences, the development of his literary voice, and the influence of contemporaries Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and John Muir on his observations of natural history and his philosophy of nature. A critical examination of John Burroughs revealing the importance of his work in modern American literature, this book should appeal to nature writers, literary scholars, and lay people alike.

***Deadfall: Generations of Logging in the Pacific Northwest*** (Missoula, Mont.:

Mountain Press, 2001; paper \$14.00) by James Le Monds documents the central role of logging in the author's family history since the early 20th century. Through stories about his grandfathers, father, uncles, and cousins, James LeMonds describes changes in the logging industry of southwestern Washington State over the course of the century, focusing especially on Weyerhaeuser Company's influence on the development of the industry.

Dennis Richardson presents a collection of seventy-two writings compiled from his long career as a forester, professor, and director of the New Zealand Forest Research Institute in his book ***Forestry, People and Places: Essays and Presents upon Various Occasions Written for the Entertainment of the Author and Printed for the Amusement of his Grandchildren and a Few Friends Prejudiced in his Favor*** (Rotorua, New Zealand: Business Media Services Limited, 2000). The publication is divided into three sections containing general essays, scholarly articles published in professional journals, and addresses presented on sometimes controversial topics related to forestry. Although focusing primarily on New Zealand, Richardson also relates his observations about forestry issues important to China and other nations throughout the Pacific Basin. The range of topics discussed includes forest management, agroforestry, forest economics, plantation forestry, non-wood forest products, forestry education, forestry research, forest products research, and forest policy. Photographs, charts, and an index supplement Richardson's lively text, which represents a unique view of New Zealand forest history.

***Planning a Wilderness: Regenerating the Great Lakes Cutover Region*** (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001; cloth \$29.95) by journalist James Kates chronicles the efforts of writers and editors to promote reforestation and land use planning in northern Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin after the logging boom of the late nineteenth century denuded the land. Drawn from his 1997 dissertation "Making a Middle Landscape: Writers, Editors, and the Re-imagining of the Northern Forest, 1919–1933", the book focuses on the use of frontier individualism mythology by popular novelists, magazine journalists, and academics to

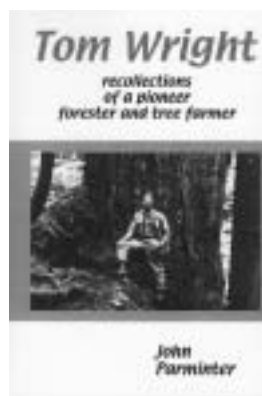
influence public opinion in favor of centralized reforestation projects and multiple use forest policies during the years between World War I and the mid-1930s. Planning measures promoted and ultimately enacted in this era included rural zoning, game management, and fire protection. Kates argues that such management efforts ironically led to increased government control of land use and the implementation of development projects that favored large-scale, sustained economic production rather than projects that supported the traditional subsistence lifestyle of the pioneering yeoman farmer. In 1996 the Forest History Society awarded Kates an Alfred D. Bell Travel Grant in support of his dissertation research.



Stephen Pyne's latest study of wildland fire history focuses on the devastating fires that swept through much of the United States, and especially Idaho and Montana, during the summer of 1910. ***Year of the Fires: The Story of the Great Fires of 1910*** (New York: Viking, 2001; cloth \$25.95) examines the natural and human-induced causes of the fires; the heroic and often futile efforts of forest rangers, soldiers, and civilians to fight the conflagrations; and the resulting national fire policy debate that still resounds today. *Year of the Fires* includes an in-depth look at the experiences of forest ranger Ed Pulaski's firefighting crew on 20–21 August 1910 in northern Idaho, where Pulaski directed the group to take refuge from a blow-up in a mine shaft, thereby saving the lives of all but five of his crew. Historic photographs, notes, a bibliographic note, and an index supplement the text. Pyne, recognized by many as the foremost authority on wildland fire history, is the author of the Forest History Society's Issues Series

booklet titled *America's Fires: Management on Wildlands and Forests* (Durham, N.C.: Forest History Society, 1997).

Readers interested in novels that depict life and work in the Canadian lumber industry should appreciate Bill Endert's book ***The Timbercruisers*** (Sechelt, B.C.: Capricorn Book Publishing, 2000; paper \$9.95 plus \$3.95 shipping). Although a fictional work about Ed van Zeeland's life in the Canadian woods, *The Timbercruisers* nevertheless incorporates many of Endert's own personal experiences as a Dutch immigrant and timber cruiser working in the forests of British Columbia, Canada, beginning in 1960. In two hundred twenty-two pages Endert employs a realistic storyline to faithfully recreate the lifestyle he experienced and remembers fondly.



John Parminter—fire ecologist, forest researcher, and founding member of the Forest History Association of British Columbia—has written a short biography of Thomas George Wright (b. 1916), arguably the first industrial forester in British Columbia, Canada. Based on writings by Wright, articles about Wright, and interviews with friends and colleagues, ***Tom Wright: Recollections of a Pioneer Forester and Tree Farmer*** (Victoria, B.C.: Forest History Association of British Columbia in cooperation with Trafford Publishing, 2000; paper \$15.00 CDN) chronicles the life of this American-born forester who began his forestry career in the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps. Wright was a lecturer in forest economics at the University of British Columbia and a consulting forester with the forest products company Bloedel, Stewart &

Welch, Ltd., during the late 1930s and early 1940s. From 1947 to 1962 Wright served as chief forester of Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Canfor), where he focused his efforts on old-growth forestry research and industrial forestry. Wright assumed the position of Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia in 1962, but returned to Canfor in 1964 to take over as general manager of Coast Logging and Forestry, a position he held until 1972.

***Old Trees: The Illustrated History of Logging the Virgin Timber in the Southeastern U.S.*** (Crawfordville, Fla.: SP Publishing, 2000; paper \$20.00; 850-421-7420) by Pete Gerrell surveys the history of the logging and sawmill industries in the southeastern United States. Discusses such topics as the use of the two-man pit saw, large steam-operated logging equipment, and sawmills that operated in the region. Early U.S. Forest Service statistics, photographs, drawings, advertisements, jokes, and personal stories help round out this work. Gerrell is a sixth-generation native of Wakulla County, Florida, where his family lived in the pine flatwoods associated with the naval stores and timber industries.

Canadian forester Ken A. Armson draws on his more than fifty years' experience as a forester, researcher, and professor of forestry to reflect upon the unique features and characteristics of forest regions throughout the province of Ontario, Canada, in his new book ***Ontario Forests: A Historical Perspective*** (Toronto, Ont.: Fitzhenry & Whiteside and the Ontario Forestry Association, 2001; paper \$32.95 CDN). Providing a general historical overview of Ontario's forests from before European settlement in the seventeenth century to the present time, Armson discusses a broad range of topics, including glaciation, climate change, soil structures, tree species, vegetation change, aboriginal land use, European settlement and land use, the origins and development of the newsprint and lumber industries, and forest conservation. The work is available only in paperback and includes notes, a selected bibliography, a glossary, an index, and numerous charts, tables, maps, and photographs, both modern and historic.