

*On November 10, 2006, the Forest History Society celebrated its 60th anniversary with a gala event at the Nasher Art Museum in Durham, North Carolina. U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth was invited as the keynote speaker because of the longstanding relationship between the federal agency and FHS, and in part because of his personal interest in forest and conservation history. Appointed chief in 2001, Bosworth presided over the Forest Service's centennial celebrations in 2005. In his remarks at the Forest History Society event, he discussed how the organization worked with his agency to mark the centennial as well as the many other ways the two continue to cooperate and collaborate.*

# THE ROLE OF HISTORY

*IN CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE*

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I'd like to start by thanking Steve Anderson for inviting me. I'd also like to congratulate the Forest History Society on its 60th anniversary. Last year, we celebrated our centennial at the Forest Service, and for a good part of our history we've had the privilege of partnering with the Forest History Society. If there's

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one thing we've learned in a hundred and one years of Forest Service history, it's the need to address change. We've seen a lot of changes in just the last 20 years:

- We've seen growing fire danger, the spread of invasive species, the loss of open space to development, and rising impacts from off-highway vehicle use and other kinds of unmanaged outdoor recreation.
- We've seen climate change become a household word and a growing concern for the future. Scientists and policymakers are now struggling to understand the huge potential of climate change to disrupt both ecosystems and economies.
- We've seen the American forest products industry fundamentally restructure itself. Globalization has changed wood markets worldwide, and that has enormous implications for forest management here in the United States.

These are just some of the changes we've seen. To understand what they mean for the future, we need a solid understanding of the past. Understanding the past can help us do what it takes to meet the challenges of the future. That's one reason why we need forest history.

But we also need history for something else: History tells us who we are. The stories of conservation leaders like Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, and Aldo Leopold inspire us to preserve our outdoor heritage as Americans. They make us value the natural resources we are charged with protecting. They motivate us to get out and do good things on the land.

That's why the work you do at the Forest History Society is so important. You maintain world-class archives for research on forest and conservation history. You support cutting-edge research and publications. You conduct oral histories with forestry and conservation professionals. And you are helping to educate the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

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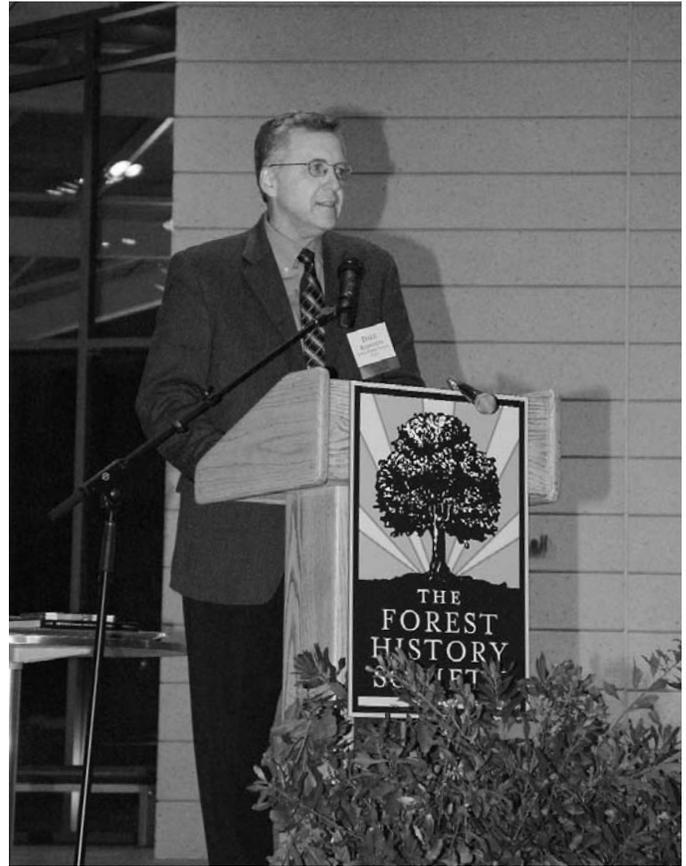
**BY FOREST SERVICE CHIEF DALE BOSWORTH**



Forest History Society Chairman of the Board Larry Tombaugh served as host of the banquet.

The Forest Service is proud to be your partner. Together, we are preserving and interpreting the history of American forests and forestry for future generations. I can say without hesitation that if it were not for the Forest History Society, the Forest Service wouldn't be where it is today with our own history program. Let me point out a few accomplishments so everyone here knows how much the Forest History Society has helped the American public.

- The Society has produced many publications related to the nation's forests over the years. For example, the Society recently helped the Forest Service recognize our centennial with a flurry of publications, including a reprint of Pete Steen's classic history of the U.S. Forest Service, the journals of former Chief Jack Ward Thomas, and *The Chiefs Remember*—a narrative based on oral histories of Forest Service Chiefs since 1950.
- The Society played a major role in helping to plan the Forest Service Centennial Congress in January of last year. The Society then published the proceedings from that Congress. Those proceedings will be a valuable resource for both scholars and policymakers for years to come.
- The Society took on the task of preserving and cataloging the Forest Service history collection, and a good part of it is now accessible on the Web. Those history webpages are now getting over 20,000 visits a month.
- The Society helped us put together an outstanding 2-hour documentary film on the history of the Forest Service called *The Greatest Good*. It premiered at our Centennial Congress



Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth delivered the keynote address at the gala.

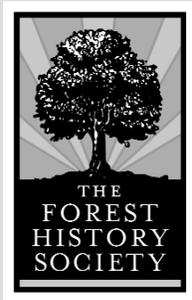
last year. The Society then took the extra step of publishing an impressive companion book to the film, written by the FHS historian Jamie Lewis.

- One of the findings that came out of our Centennial Congress was the need to improve conservation education in schools, and the Forest History Society is doing just that. Based on *The Greatest Good* documentary film, we asked the Society to add three new modules to its middle school curriculum, including one on private forests and one on fires.

I could go on—we depend on the Forest History Society to conduct many of our oral histories; the Society is taking the lead role in documenting the history of the Forest Inventory Analysis program; the Society is completing a new book on the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry; and the Society is working with our Eastern Region to post 6,000 historical photographs on your website. When this is done next year, it will represent the largest collection of Forest Service photos anywhere on the Internet.

If anyone here is not taking advantage of the Forest History Society's services, you should. I am sure you will be as impressed as we have been.

Let me just end by wishing the Forest History Society continued success in its next 60 years. I am sure that our partnership will endure and grow. We share a common belief—a belief that our past holds the key to our future—to protecting America's heritage of forests and forestry for future generations. That shared belief makes our partnership strong. □



# FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

1946 to 2006

**1946** Founded as the Forest Products History Foundation, a special project of the Minnesota Historical Society with Rodney C. Loehr as director.



1948 logo



Rodney C. Loehr

**1950** Loehr returns to full-time teaching at the University of Minnesota, reporting twenty Society publications.

Assets of \$11,000.

**1952** Elwood R. Maunder recruited as Loehr's successor. Society published *Forests for the Future: The Story of Sustained Yield...*, its first booklength work.

**1953** Renamed the American Forest History Foundation.

First oral history interview conducted; more than 300 will follow.



Elwood R. Maunder

**1953** Began certification program for forest history repositories across U.S. and Canada to receive archival materials.

**1955** Became independent of the Minnesota Historical Society.

**1956** Published *Forest History Sources of the United States and Canada*, the Society's first major reference work.

**1957** Renamed Forest History Society, becoming a membership organization.



1957 logo

Began publishing *Forest History Newsletter*.



Accessioned records of the Society of American Foresters, first major collection.

**1958** Newsletter replaced by *Forest History*, an illustrated quarterly journal.

**1960** Began bibliographic compilation as parallel project to archival guide.



1961 logo

**1964** Moved to Yale University and became affiliated with the School of Forestry and University Library.

**1966** Published first conference proceedings to be followed by others.

**1969** Moved to the University of California at Santa Cruz.

**1972** Creation of two awards for best forest history articles.

**1974** *Forest History* renamed *Journal of Forest History*.



**1976** Creation of biennial book award.

**1977** Began publication of *Cruiser*, the Society newsletter.

**1978** Maunder retires, to be succeeded by Harold K. Steen.



Harold K. Steen

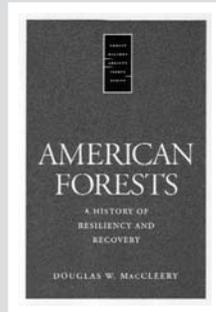
Assets of \$148,000.

- 1979** Endowment drive earned first \$1 million.
- Began active involvement with International Union of Forestry Research Organizations.
- 1981** Produced "Timber on the Move," the first of two films.
- 1984** Society acquired its first computers.
- Society moved to Durham, North Carolina, purchased headquarters building, and became affiliated with Duke University.
- 1986** Established the F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship.
- 1987** Established the John M. Collier Award for Forest History Journalism.
- 1988** Durham headquarters refurbished and doubled in size.
- 1990** Journal renamed *Forest & Conservation History*.



- 1990** Established the Alfred D. Bell Travel Grants.
- 1991** Biennial book award renamed in honor of Charles A. Weyerhaeuser.

- 1993** Creation of Forest History Society Issues Series; *American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery* is first book in series.



- 1994** Searchable bibliography and archival guide databases posted on the Internet.

- 1995** Began publishing *Forest History Today*.

*Forest & Conservation History* replaced by *Environmental History*, copublished with American Society for Environmental History (ASEH).

Began work on middle school environmental education curriculum.

Steen's official title changed from "executive director" to "president."

- 1997** Steen retires, to be succeeded by Steven Anderson.



Steven Anderson

Assets of \$5.5 million.

- 1999** Began publication of *Forest Timeline*, the Society newsletter.
- 2000** Society established Lynn W. Day Endowment for Forest History Publications and the

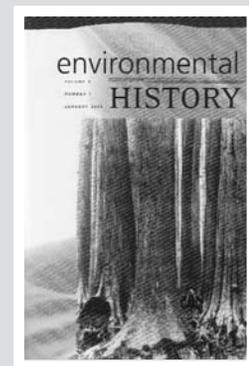
Alvin J. Huss Endowment for Digitization and Outreach of the archives.

The Society began project to digitize its photograph collection in its Alvin J. Huss Archives.

- 2001** The Society and ASEH merged respective awards for best history article into the Leopold-Hidy Award.

Middle school environmental education curriculum "If Trees Could Talk" made available on Internet.

- 2003** The journal *Environmental History* made available online through the History Cooperative.



- 2004** The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award changed to annual award.

- 2005** Along with the ASEH and the European Society for Environmental History, the Society establishes the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations and plans the first World Congress in Environmental History for 2009.

- 2006** The Society's publications exceeds 200 books, manuscripts, and published oral histories.

The Society's 60th anniversary marked by keynote address by U.S. Forest Service chief Dale Bosworth at banquet.

Assets of \$8.5 million.