

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009

## From the Chairman

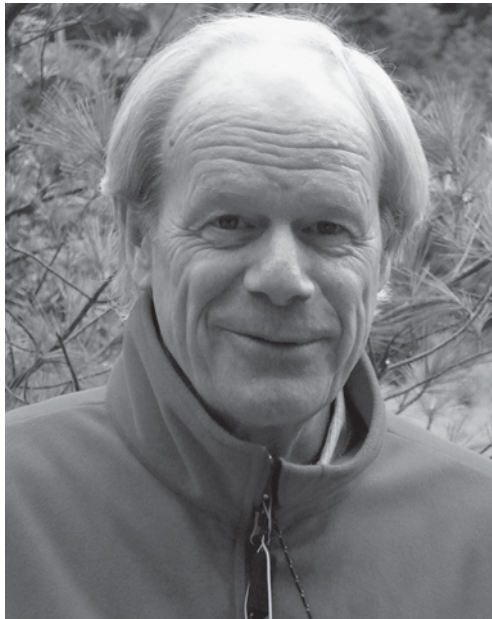
Scott McCampbell

This year Scott Wallinger completed three years as Chairman of the Board of the Forest History Society and passed the baton in October to me, a veteran of several years on the Board and the finance committee. Some long-serving Board members have also retired and have been followed by highly experienced new members. Together with President Steve Anderson and Vice President Raymond Carnley, these new directors ensure that FHS continues to have a diversity of experienced and committed leaders.

Experience and leadership are important as the Society navigates a time of significant change. The economic recession and its effect on financial markets reduced the value of our endowment, but our assets are recovering steadily with the oversight of our finance committee, led by Treasurer Henry Barclay, and the skill of Bernstein Global Wealth Management. We are exercising strong fiduciary responsibility for the funds entrusted to us to help sustain our work.

Working with our colleagues from the American Society of Environmental History, we are implementing an important change in the way the journal *Environmental History* is published jointly for our members. For more than a decade, the journal has been managed by an independent editor and editorial board and then produced and distributed by FHS. The publication of scholarly journals is changing rapidly, as is the way they are sold to libraries and other institutions. Beginning in 2010, the journal will be produced in partnership with Oxford University Press. The editorial process will continue unchanged. Over time, this will reduce the cost of publication, should enhance international distribution, and free FHS staff to focus on other important facets of our mission.

Changes in the world of digital and other electronic media offer



exciting new ways to extend FHS resources to members and others who want to know more about forest history. Our website offers new functions and access features. Our blog is attracting ever-growing attention as people who never before knew about FHS are drawn to its content. Our photos on Flickr allow even more new people to learn about our deep archive of historical forestry images. Our presence in Wikipedia brings new people to FHS as a source of factual information. In these and other ways, we steadily expand the base of people who know about FHS, use our resources, and—some of whom, we hope—will become regular supporters.

In 2010 we will revisit our Strategic Plan to ensure that our priorities are clear and congruent with our mission.

At our core, we are an archive of written, pictorial, and oral history that constitutes an invaluable resource for the many forest historians, policy makers, and students who draw upon it. We are also a source of accurate information that is relevant to contemporary forest issues at the forefront of our world and society. Our role is ever more important as a growing and increasingly urban nation continues to rely on its forests for forest products, water, wildlife, energy, biodiversity, and green space.

As part of our response to this demographic change, we decided to formally close our *Stories of the Forest* campaign. Over the past decade we substantially achieved its goals; at the same time, our needs continued to evolve. Continued growth of our endowment will remain a high priority as we look ahead, and our new Strategic Plan will ensure that our specific goals fully match the needs and opportunities we see.

*By learning from the past, we shape our future:* that is our credo. We follow it ourselves as we grow. □