

# EDITOR'S NOTE

by James G. Lewis

**R**adical in the Ranks is not only the title of our first feature article from Frederick H. Swanson. It might also be considered the de facto theme of this issue. Swanson uses the phrase to describe Guy M. Brandborg and his fight with the U.S. Forest Service, his employer for forty years, over its forest management practices on the Bitterroot National Forest. Several of the protagonists in our other articles were also radicals within their ranks—individuals who had the vision and courage to challenge the status quo. In Brandborg's case, his challenge of the Forest Service's timber policy on the Bitterroot in the late 1960s embroiled the agency in a controversy that drew national media attention. Swanson sheds new light on this pivotal moment in forest history by focusing on Brandborg and his role in the clearcutting controversy. Accompanying this article is **Closure...**, an excerpt from Lou Romero's reminiscence of serving on the auger crew that dug the holes on the Bitterroot clearcut. His first-person account of the controversy and his later reflections add another personal dimension to this story.

Another radical in the ranks of foresters was Heinrich von Salisch. The nineteenth-century Prussian forester first published *Forest Aesthetics* in 1885 to promote his position that aesthetic values should be an integral part of the forest management equation. Walter Cook and Doris Wehlauf have translated the 1902 edition of von Salisch's text, which is now available from the Forest History Society. In this eponymous essay, Cook reflects on his 1993 trip to von Salisch's home in what is now Poland, the points on which he and von Salisch agree and differ on forest aesthetics, and what this obscure text from more than a century ago can tell us about how to manage forests today.

Radical is not usually a word associated with the Weyerhaeuser Company. But it was how some in professional forestry viewed the timber company's High Yield Forestry program in the late 1960s. Ted Nelson draws on oral histories conducted by the company to reexamine the **Weyerhaeuser Company and Sustained-yield Forestry**. Radical is also not a word associated with the U.S. Congress. James R. Skillen, however, implies it would be radical indeed for Congress to take the initial step toward reassessing our environmental policy by appointing **The Next Public Land Commission**. We are overdue for another commission, and Skillen offers some suggestions for how the next one might proceed once Congress takes what is for it the bold step of nonpartisan action.

From Down Under come two contributions. In **Contested Visions and the Australian Forestry School**, John Dargavel looks at how the animus between Charles Lane Poole and Harold Swain shaped professional forestry and forestry education in Australia in the early twentieth century. He also explores the striking parallels between Australian and American forestry history. Robin Hodge offers a Biographical Portrait of an early conservation leader in New Zealand. In 1925 **Pérrine Moncrieff** published her adopted country's first practical pocket field guide to birds. In the male-dominated ornithology field, the mere fact that Moncrieff was female made her a radical by definition. Her book, which influenced the next generation of conservationists, was just one of her many accomplishments.

Speaking of bird guides, Thomas Dunlap traces their evolution in the United States in his illustrated essay, **Inventing the Birdwatching Field Guide**. As someone who knows little about birdwatching, I found this history quite fascinating. The illustrations he has provided really bring the discussion to life, as do the ones in Chris Worrell's article, **Expanding the Range**. Worrell revisits Joxe Mallea-Olaetxe's article on arboglyphs, or tree carvings, from our 2001 issue as his starting point for a discussion of the topic. Worrell brings to light scholarship on carvings made by people other than the Basque shepherders of the American Southwest Mallea-Olaetxe has studied. I guarantee the identity of one carver will surprise you.

An upcoming trip to Portland, Oregon, for the American Society for Environmental History annual meeting inspired the piece about **Timberline Lodge** for History on the Road. I was fortunate enough to spend a couple of hours there in 2007. At the time, though, I had little idea of the hotel's rich history or the historical importance of the artwork that is its décor. I wanted to learn more about both before visiting again. There's nothing like diving into the literature about a landmark beforehand to help you get the most out of the visit. Many thanks to Jerry Williams for sharing his photos with us.

If you have an opinion—whether positive or negative—about any of these articles, you are invited to send me an email. But why not join us in the social media revolution and blog or tweet about an article? You can link to an article or to the entire issue on our website in your posting. Who knows—friends and colleagues might consider you a radical within the ranks for doing so. □

*Beginning with this issue, we are assigning a volume and issue number to Forest History Today, and are doing so retroactively. Consequently, this is volume number 15, issue numbers 1 & 2 (Spring/Fall 2009). This will make it easier for indexing and cataloging purposes, as well as for scholars wishing to cite the publication.*