

Annual Report 1996

THE FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY

is a nonprofit educational institution. Founded in 1946, it is dedicated to advancing historical understanding of human interactions with forested environments. The Society is a membership organization; dues range upward from \$35 annually.

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From the Chairman

BY EUGENE S. ROBBINS

As we enter our second half-century, the work of the Society has continued on several fronts. The selection process, conducted by your Board, is underway for the replacement of Pete Steen. Execution of the long range plan is a priority of the Durham staff. Also the Development Committee is beginning a new initiative to stimulate publication of more Issues Series titles.

Of primary concern is the selection of new leadership for the Society when Pete retires next year. The position has been advertised and applications received by the July 15 closing. The Search Committee is in the process of selecting the candidates qualified for the next level of screening from the long list of thirty-eight applicants.

Joining *Forest & Conservation History* with the American Society for Environmental History's *Environmental History Review* has proven successful. The new journal, *Environmental History*, is generating interest in terms of readership and manuscript submissions. Combining the journals also offers the opportunity for long range publication cost savings for both organizations.

Our highly successful Issues Series publication, *American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery* by Doug MacCleery, is in its fourth printing for a total of 28,000. The Development Committee is launching a fund raising effort to gain support for up to ten more topics of interest to all who are concerned about forest policy.

At its Calgary meeting, the Board debated an opportunity to assume publication of a magazine of topical forest related articles and forest history. Although the opportunity to extend our forest history readership through a periodic publication is of great interest to the Board, the offer was later withdrawn. Following the long range plan objectives, we have developed a schematic for a new educational program from the elementary school level to executive short courses. If funding develops, the primary school segment should be operating by year end.

We have an excellent library and archive—we continue to offer their services as one of our main assets. If you or someone you know are researching a forest history topic, we are online with bibliographic support. Look for us on the Internet at: iliad.lib.duke.edu then follow the menus: Other Duke Resources, Forest History Society. For World Wide Web clients (other than Netscape 2.0) the URL is: gopher://iliad.lib.duke.edu/11/eeOther_Duke_Resources/fhs. A web page is under development.

Look for us also at forestry conventions. We were at the 7th American Forest Congress with a special issue of the publication *American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery* and other information. The Society is growing and needs your support and that of your non-member friends.

Staff development continues and recognition of our excellent staff go with it. Pete Steen has been named one of three senior editors for the Oxford University Press *Companion to Forest and Trees*, to be published in the year 2000. He has also been named to the Society of American Foresters' Centennial Committee to plan its 100th anniversary also in 2000. Obviously Pete is not taking his retirement too seriously.

Librarian/Archivist Cheryl Oakes attended a week-long Teacher's Conservation Institute in Lufkin, Texas, as part of our new educational program. Assistant Archivist/Librarian Michele Justice participated in the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Washington, DC, helping us to keep up-to-date on changes brought about by the explosion of computer technology.

History is exciting stuff, and our organization is trying to make it possible for others to catch the Forest History Fever. Help us infect them. Pass the germ of history; it's an old idea that's time has come.

