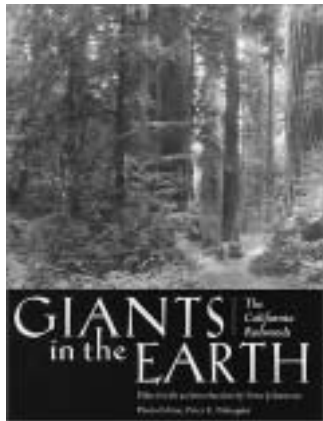


## BOOKS OF INTEREST

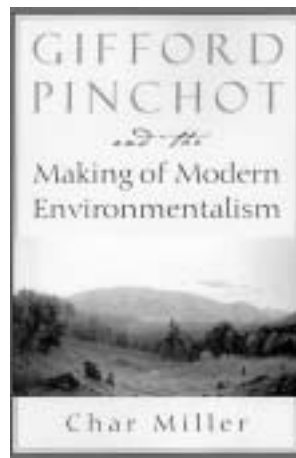
By Michele A. Justice



Heyday Books has recently published an anthology with a forest theme that should be of interest to readers who enjoy prose and poetry. ***Giants in the Earth: The California Redwoods*** (Berkeley, Calif.: Heyday Books, 2001; paperback \$18.00), edited by Peter Johnstone, includes selected literary writings by such authors as Walt Whitman (1819–1892), Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894), Mary Austin (1868–1934), Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930), Jack Kerouac (1922–1969), Jack London (1876–1916), John Muir (1838–1914), and others. The chosen selections all contain a focus on redwood trees and giant sequoias found in central and northern California and discuss such things as tree symbolism, the natural history of these two species, the lumber industry's early dependence on the "giants," preservation of stately redwood and sequoia groves, and the awe-inspiring presence of these broad, towering trees. Includes a photographic essay by Peter E. Palmquist. This work is an interesting literary collection that demonstrates the broad appeal of redwoods and giant sequoias to people with diverse interests, backgrounds, and political views.

Environmental historian and long-time Forest History Society member Char Miller adds to his impressive body of scholarship with the 2001 publication of his new biography of the first chief of the United States Forest Service. In ***Gifford Pinchot and the***

***Making of Modern Environmentalism*** (Washington, D.C. Island Press, 2001; hard-back \$28.00), Miller examines all aspects of the life of Gifford Pinchot (1865–1946), discussing such topics as his family background, his choice of forestry as a profession, the development of his conservation ethic, his work as chief of the U.S.

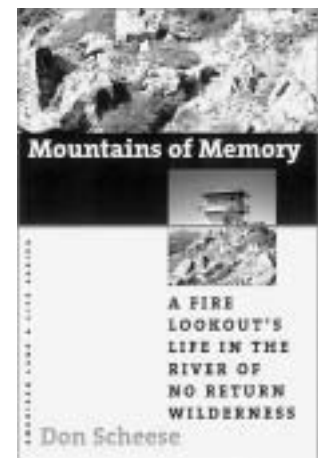


Forest Service, his often stormy relationships with numerous presidents of the United States, and his service to the state of Pennsylvania as a two-time governor. Supplemented with photographs, bibliographic notes, and an index, this biography incorporates analysis from the study of "recently discovered" archival documents, thus providing a fresh assessment of the life and work of the most well-known forester the United States has ever had.



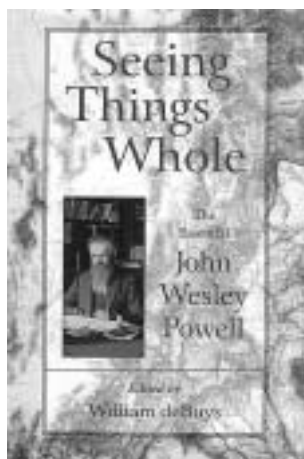
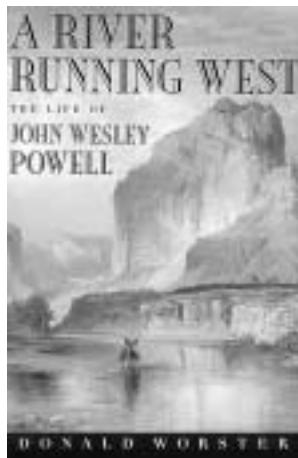
***75 Years of Research in the Woods: A History of Petawawa Forest Experiment***

***Station and Petawawa National Forestry Institute, 1918 to 1993*** (Burnstown, Ont.: General Store Publishing House, 2002; paper \$29.95 CDN) examines the pioneering research efforts conducted at the Petawawa Research Forest in Ontario, Canada, throughout much of the twentieth century. In this book author Ian Cameron Munro Place describes changes in the condition of forest resources in southeastern Ontario; the origins of forest conservation in Canada; the establishment and evolution of research at the Petawawa Forest Experiment Station and its successor organization, the Petawawa National Forestry Institute; and changes in land use and forest management resulting from the research efforts of this first Canadian forest experiment station. The book focuses on the role played by the many people who have worked at or visited the station throughout its history. Proceeds from the sale of this book will support the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest.



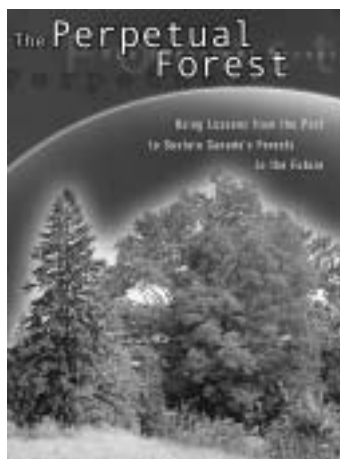
One of the most visible symbols of twentieth-century efforts to protect forests from damaging fires is the fire tower. Don Scheese, a professor of English and director of the Environmental Studies Program at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, served as a fire lookout for the United States Forest Service in central Idaho in the 1980s. In his new book

**Mountains of Memory: A Fire Lookout's Life in the River of No Return Wilderness** (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2001; hardback \$47.95, paperback \$19.95), Scheese merges nostalgia with natural history, reminiscing about his experiences as a lookout in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Topics include his thoughts about the meaning and value of wilderness, the many tasks required of a fire lookout, and the environmental history of this forested region in Idaho. The advent of aerial fire detection has led to few fire towers being manned in the United States today, and many towers have been left unattended or have been completely disassembled. Works such as *Mountains of Memory* therefore take on a new significance as they describe the unique history of these material culture artifacts that until recently played such a central role in forest fire protection in the American West.



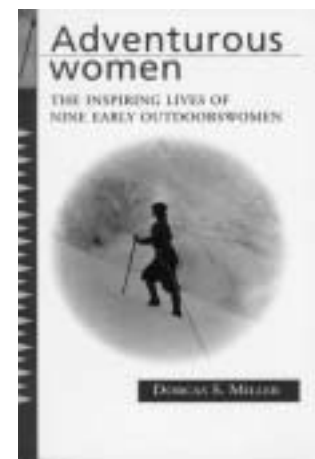
There are two new books on the market that flush out the significance of John Wesley Powell (1834–1902) in the conservation history of the United States. ***A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*** (New York: Oxford University

Press, 2001; cloth \$35.00), written by American environmental historian Donald Worster, examines in rich detail the many adventures, discoveries, and experiences that enhanced Powell's deep appreciation for the natural world of the western United States. Focusing specifically on Powell's 1869 expedition down the Colorado River and his exploration of Arizona's Grand Canyon, *A River Running West* reveals how Powell's various interactions with the environment led to the development of a strong conservation ethic that shaped not only Powell's leadership of the U.S. Geological Survey but also the evolution of American conservation policy for more than a century. Illustrations, maps, notes, a bibliography, and an index supplement the text of this 673-page biography. ***Seeing Things Whole: The Essential John Wesley Powell*** (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2001; hardback \$27.50), edited by William deBuys, presents selected writings by John Wesley Powell that were drawn from correspondence, reports, and magazine articles that he wrote throughout his colorful life. The editor supplements the excerpts with a biographical chronology of Powell's life, a list of Powell's many publications, a bibliography, an index, and several colorful maps. This volume of selected materials written by Powell supplements the scholarship of Donald Worster, providing an interesting, in-depth view of the thoughts and experiences of one of the nation's foremost nineteenth-century experts on arid lands.



Forest History Society board member Mike Apsey, along with Don Laishley, Vidar Nordin, and Gilbert Paillé, authored in 2000 a bilingual overview of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Canadian forest his-

tory titled ***The Perpetual Forest: Using Lessons from the Past to Sustain Canada's Forests in the Future*** (contact Mike Apsey at [ska@islandnet.com](mailto:ska@islandnet.com); no charge). Presented in both the English and French languages, *The Perpetual Forest* discusses a wide range of topics, including education, forest research, forest policy and planning, silvicultural techniques, timber harvesting methods, logging equipment and machinery, forest conservation, and sustained-yield forestry. This work succinctly traces the evolution of forestry in Canada since the early nineteenth century, promoting a message of sustainability for the future.



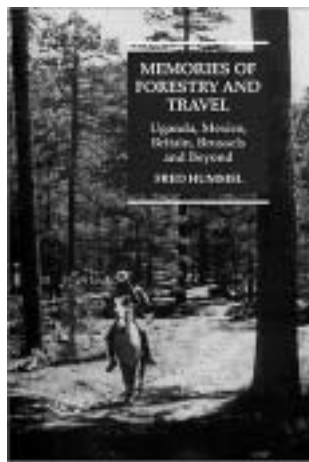
***Adventurous Women: The Inspiring Lives of Nine Early Outdoorswomen*** (Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Pub. Co., 2000; paperback \$19.95) and ***Lumber Queen: The Life of Woodswoman Ruth Ayer Park*** (Warner, N.H.: Moose Country Press, 2001; paperback \$16.00) are two recently published works relating the experiences of North American women who spent much of their lives in "the great outdoors" at a time when few women were known for such. In *Adventurous Women*, author Dorcas S. Miller provides biographical sketches of

nine American and Canadian outdoorswomen born in the mid- to late nineteenth century and presents excerpts from their varied writings. Included are a canoeist, a wilderness guide, a mountaineer, a wife who accompanied her husband on wildlife study trips, a mother who enjoyed camping with her young daughter in Wyoming, an author of articles about scenic landscapes, and others who simply enjoyed traveling and experiencing rugged environments. Photographs, notes, a bibliography, an index, and a chronological list of important events in women's world history and milestones in the lives of these nine outdoorswomen round out the work. Complementing Miller's book is Ellen Anderson's biography of Ruth Ayer Park (1885–1980), a Vassar College graduate who entered her family's failing New Hampshire lumber business in a desperate attempt to pull the company out of debt. After years of serving as a logging boss and directing company operations, Park was able to sell the Park Lumber Company at enough of a profit to free the family from its burdensome financial obligations. *Lumber Queen* includes biographical information about Park; an "historical fiction" that recounts the story of her life by "filling in" information where no recorded information could be found; a collection of lumberjack tales written by Ruth Park; and excerpts from letters written by Park to friends and family. *Adventurous Women* and *Lumber Queen* are intriguing accounts that illustrate the diverse roles played by women in the history of human interaction with the environment.



Technical aspects of the fire history of Australia are outlined in a new book edited by environmental scientists Ross A. Bradstock, Jann E. Williams, and A.

Malcolm Gill. *Flammable Australia: The Fire Regimes and Biodiversity of a Continent* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002; hardback \$130.00) contains eighteen chapters contributed by Australian scientists and ecologists on the topic of fire regimes in grassland, shrubland, woodland, and forest ecosystems around the continent, primarily during the twentieth century. An introductory article by A. Peter Kershaw, James S. Clark, A. Malcolm Gill, and Donna M. D'Costa entitled "A History of Fire in Australia" discusses the role of climate and human activities in starting fires in Australia from the prehistoric era to the present. *Flammable Australia* synthesizes current knowledge of fire ecology and examines the effectiveness of contemporary land management applications in conserving the diverse range of plant and animal life that has resulted from the cumulative impacts of fire. This work is a comprehensive study of a key ecological process at work across the continent of Australia that fully explores the historical role of fire in creating and maintaining biodiversity.



Bavarian forester Frederick Cornelius Hummel (b. 1915) recounts the broad range of his experience as a forester in regions around the world in his 2001 book *Memories of Forestry and Travel: Uganda, Mexico, Britain, Brussels and Beyond* (New York: Radcliffe Press, 2001; hardback \$49.50). Hummel describes his formative years in Bavaria and England in the 1920s; his forestry education at Oxford University in the 1930s; his work for the Colonial Forestry Service in Uganda in the early 1940s; his career with the Forestry Commission in Great Britain from 1946 to 1961; his work as co-director of the National Forestry Inventory in Mexico in

the early 1960s; and his leadership of the European Commission's Forestry Division in Brussels, Belgium, from 1973 to 1980, when he retired. Other topics covered include his period of service in the King's African Rifles during World War II, encounters with wildlife in Africa, international conservation efforts, and his family life. Hummel's memoir provides unique insight into the similarities and differences between twentieth-century forestry operations in Europe, Africa, and North America.

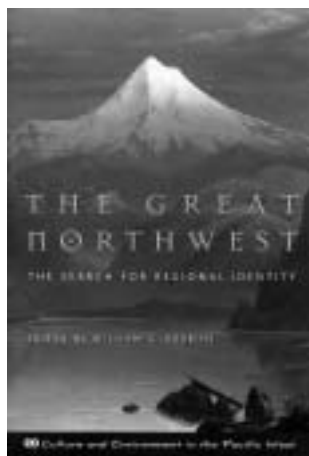
The worldwide history of human interaction with the environment forms the central thesis of three books published in the field of environmental history within the last two years. *People as an Agent of Environmental Change* (Oxford, England: Oxbow Books, 2000), edited by Rebecca A. Nicholson and Terence Patrick O'Connor, contains papers presented at a 1995 symposium organized by the Association for Environmental Archaeology. The papers include scholarly case studies examining archaeological evidence of human impact on nature around the world, primarily during prehistoric and ancient times. Many of the contributing authors use extensive palynological and paleoecological data to support their theses. A more humanities-based approach to studying world environmental history is employed by historian J. Donald Hughes in his work *An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life* (New York: Routledge, 2001). Hughes examines both the role of the environment in shaping the development of world civilizations and the numerous ways in which humans have affected the environment during various periods of history ranging from ancient times to the present. Topics include urbanization, population growth, industrialization, land use practices, and the emergence of the modern conservation and environmental movements. A more in-depth study of recent world environmental history is offered in historian J. R. McNeil's book *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2000). McNeil discusses worldwide public concern about such issues as land use, water management, pollution, soil degradation, acid rain, climate change, and natural resources

management over the last 100 years. These three books are representative of a relatively new focus on the world environment in the field of environmental history.



In *The Great Northwest: The Search for Regional Identity* (Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2001; paperback), editor William G. Robbins presents a collection of writings about the ways in which the connections between culture and the environment have helped shape a regional identity and sense of place in the Pacific Northwest of the United States and Canada. Essays included in this edited book examine the reflection of shared cultural experiences in the economics, politics, and social relations of the region. Selections focus on such topics such as water resources development, perceptions of nature, land settlement, gold mining,

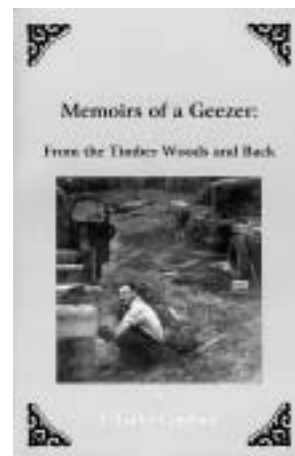
the timber industry, and race relations. A work that illustrates the many complex issues relating to studies of place and regional identity, *The Great Northwest* is



one of the more recent books published in the Culture and Environment in the Pacific West series, which broadly studies cultural and environmental relationships in the western United States.

*Memoirs of a Geezer: From the Timber Woods and Back* (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Company, 2001; paperback) is a recently published autobiography by Dr. Edwin Luther Copeland (b. 1916), a Baptist missionary who was born in Dreenen, West Virginia, in a “shanty car”—a small, portable house built for employees of large lumber companies operating mills in the woods. Copeland

describes the various jobs his father did as a woodworker for several West Virginia lumber companies, and discusses the types of work he, his brother, and his



father did after they formed L. L. Copeland and Sons, a small logging contract firm, when he was almost twenty years old. Upon graduating from high school, Copeland attended several colleges and eventually received a doctorate in the field of religion from Yale University. He served as a missionary to Japan twice and has spent his entire life following the Baptist faith. *Memoirs of a Geezer* is an entertaining, first-hand account of one man’s interesting life. Several photographs from the Forest History Society Archives are included in this text. □



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