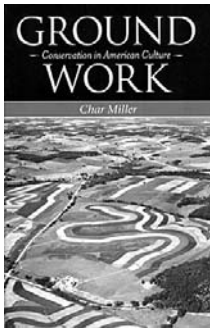


## BOOKS OF INTEREST

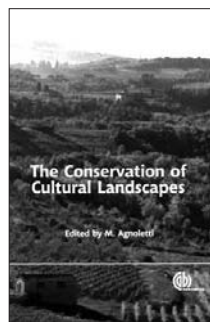
By Elizabeth Hull



The Forest History Society is pleased to announce its involvement with three recent publications in landscape and conservation history. The first is environmental/social historian Char Miller's latest book, entitled *Ground Work: Conservation in American Culture* (Durham, NC: Forest History Society, 2007). In this collection of essays, some of which have appeared in *Forest History Today*, Miller grapples with the relationships between culture and conservation, forestry, and land management in the United States, covering the late 19th through early 21st centuries. Essays analyze the roles of important figures like Bernhard Fernow, Gifford Pinchot, Charles Sargent, and John Muir; the history and current state of forestry education; contested policy issues, such as the U.S. Forest Service's handling of grazing on public rangelands; and representations of nature in photography and film. Miller, a professor of history and the director of Urban Studies at Trinity University, demonstrates his highly entertaining writing style as well as his remarkable ability to cast new light on familiar events and figures and to create a deeper and richer understanding of their significance, both in their times and in our own. His essays will prove stimulating to advanced undergraduate and graduate students in environmental and forest history and enlightening to general nonfiction readers.

Meanwhile, Forest History Society President Steven Anderson contributed an essay to the volume *The Conservation of Cultural Landscapes* (Oxford: CAB

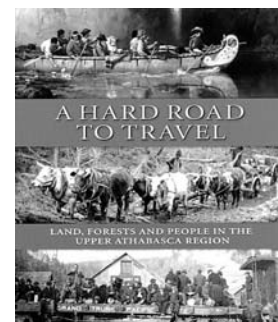
International, 2006), edited by Mauro Agnoletti. Using case studies from Europe and North America, this collection presents methods for analyzing, restoring and managing cultural landscapes threatened not only by development, but also by inappropriate agricultural, forest, and nature conservation policies. The authors address the central challenges of balancing historical restoration and preservation with



biodiversity and ecological sustainability, calling for the potential revision of past policies and orientations. Examples include Gary Blank's essay on two working forest landscapes in North Carolina; writings on parks, forests, and agricultural landscapes in Scandinavia and Italy; and Anderson's work on the role of land-use and landscape histories in current environmental decision-making. This practical volume will be of interest not only to those involved in the study, planning, and management of cultural landscapes, but to anyone concerned with broader topics related to forestry, nature conservation, and rural development.

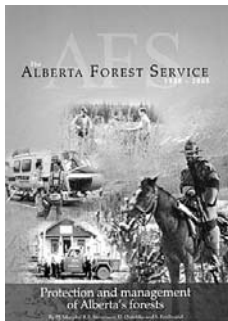
Also recently published by the Society (in cooperation with the Foothills Model Forest of Hinton, Alberta, Canada) is *A Hard Road to Travel: Lands, Forests and People in the Upper Athabasca Region* by Peter J. Murphy with Robert W. Udell, Robert E. Stevenson, and Thomas W. Peterson (Durham, NC, and Hinton, Alberta, Canada: Forest History Society and Foothills Model Forest, 2007). This detailed history of forests, forestry, and human interaction with the landscape in

the Upper Athabasca Region of Canada covers three broadly defined eras: the approximately 9,800 years before the arrival of Europeans, during which various peoples passed through the landscape; the period of European influence and fur trading from 1810 until the building of the Grand Trunk Railway; and the era of increased settlement, forest management, and industry after the railway



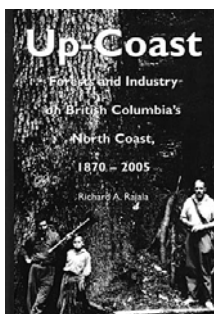
was in place. The book insightfully traces the evolving relationships between people and forests as humans first entered the area, and then stayed to struggle, survive, and eventually thrive. It includes coverage of industrial development, especially by the North Western Pulp & Power Company, and forest protection and management by the National Parks and Dominion Forest Reserves, and the Alberta Forest Service. The authors—local foresters and residents of the region—explore the struggle to balance resource use and conservation in a highly readable and informative style, supplemented by beautiful illustrative material.

Overlapping this work in both content and authorship is *The Alberta Forest Service, 1930–2005: Protection and Management of Alberta's Forests* (Edmonton: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Government of Alberta, Canada, 2006), by P. J. Murphy, Robert E. Stevenson, Dennis Quintilio, and Steve Ferdinand. The authors of this study, all veterans of Alberta's forest management and fire protection communities, relate the history of forest management and protection in Alberta from the



early days of aboriginal land use and settlement through 2005, using primary documents, maps, personal anecdotes, scientific data, as well as numerous historic photographs as illustrations. This important volume covers the birth of the Alberta Forest Service in 1930, fire lookouts and communications, use of aircraft, forest research, the development of forest industries, and land use management, among other topics. Also included are a chapter devoted to the personal reflections of various leaders of the Alberta Forest Service, lists of ranger stations and cabins, images of displays at the AFS Museum in Hinton, and reproductions of promotional fire prevention and resource management posters.

Richard A. Rajala's *Up-Coast: Forests and Industry on British Columbia's North Coast, 1870–2005* (Victoria: Royal BC Museum, 2006) continues the theme of Canadian forestry, providing the first comprehensive history of British Columbia's central-and-north-coast forest industry. Rajala, a previous winner of the Forest History Society's Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award, explores the relationship of coastal people and communities to the forest



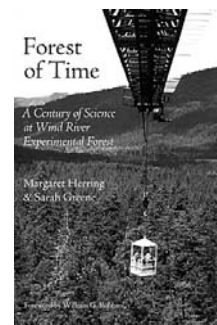
from the late 19th century to the present, integrating social, political, and environmental themes. His account traces the development of the region's early industry into a diverse structure involving sawmills, tie and pole producers, and handloggers, then examines government policies favoring the interests of large pulp-

and-paper firms at the beginning of the 20th century and the turn to sustained-yield forestry after World War II. Relating these developments to a tradition of protest against capitalist inequality, *Up-Coast* also discusses the activism of First Nations, unions, and communities against corporate exploitation of laborers and natural resources. Rajala's penetrating analysis grapples with the complex and ongoing struggle for a more equitable and sustainable relationship between humans and forests in British Columbia.

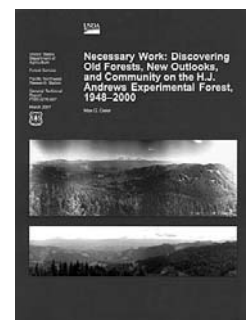
Forest science and experimental forestry in the U.S. have come a long way since their beginnings in the early 20th century, as is apparent in three recently released historical studies of American research forests. In *The Duke Forest at 75: A Resource for All Seasons* (Durham, NC: Office of the Duke Forest, 2006), Ida Phillips Lynch chronicles the development of the largest private research forest in North Carolina and one



of the largest in the country, from its 1931 founding by Clarence F. Korstian to the present. Lynch explores the rich natural and cultural history of the forest and provides an in-depth look at the groundbreaking roles it has played over the years as a research hub, outdoor classroom, working forest, recreational resource, and historic site. Based on interviews with Duke faculty and administrators, local government officials, neighboring landowners and others who have been connected with Duke Forest, the book includes discussions of natural history, ecology, the forest's relationship to the university and community, as well as maps and guides to recreation, cultural resources, and historic sites within the Forest. Margaret Herring and Sarah Greene offer a similar exploration of one of the oldest research forests in the U.S., the Wind River Experimental Forest in Stabler, Washington, in *Forest of Time: A Century of Science at Wind River Experimental Forest* (Corvallis: Oregon State University Press,



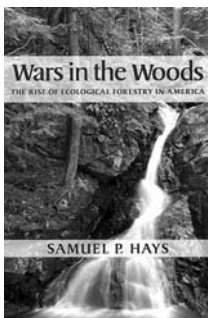
2007). Founded in 1908 by the U.S. Forest Service to study Douglas fir, Wind River soon became a laboratory for studying tree development, old-growth ecosystems, and the connection between forests and atmosphere. Focusing largely on the evolution of forest science at Wind River, Herring and Greene tell an insightful "story of discovery and blindness, of opportunities taken and missed." Lastly, in the USDA Forest Service technical report entitled *Necessary Work: Discovering Old Forests, New Outlooks, and Community on the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest, 1948–2000* (General Technical Report PNW-GTR-687. Portland, OR: USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, 2007), Max G. Geier examines the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest in Oregon's central Cascade Range. Geier explores the inner workings and structure of the forest ecology community known as the Andrews Group, using oral histories and archival research. He uncovers the origins of the U.S. Forest Service decision to establish the forest, looks at emerging links between long-term research and interdisciplinary science, and analyzes how those links shaped the group's response to concerns



about logging in old-growth forests during the 1980s and 1990s. The complete text of *Necessary Work* is available online at: [www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/gtr687/](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/gtr687/).

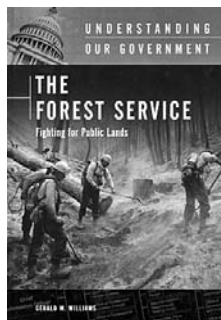
Another valuable contribution to the field of American forest history is Samuel P. Hays' new book *Wars in the Woods: The*

*Rise of Ecological Forestry in America* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007). This thoughtful study examines conflicts over forest preservation in America since the Forest Management Act of 1897, highlighting tensions between what Hays calls “ecological forestry” and “commodity forestry.” An insider’s account from a prominent environmental historian and committed environmentalist, *Wars in the Woods* studies the roles of the wood products industry and the U.S. Forest Service in the advancement of ecological forestry and comprehensively analyzes the emergence of many grassroots, scientific, and advocacy organizations designed to combat the lumber



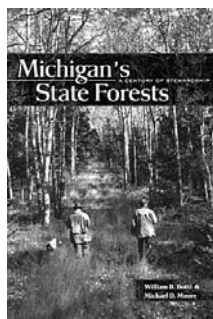
industry and other special interest groups, as well as to promote legislation to protect forests, parks, and wildlife habitats. Reviewing current forestry practices, Hays describes an increased focus on ecological forestry in areas such as biodiversity, structural diversity, soil conservation, native forests, and old growth, but cites recent federal easing of protections as a challenge to the progress made in the last decades of the 20th century. Hays expertly combines scholarly investigation and personal insight, providing a useful framework for the critical evaluation of forest management policy and the future study and protection of forest resources. Eye-opening, thoroughly researched, and well written, *Wars in the Woods* will undoubtedly prove an important and lasting work.

Few studies of the U.S. Forest Service have examined its role as an agency operating within the larger context of the federal government, and none so comprehensively as Gerald R. Williams’s *The Forest Service: Fighting for Public Lands* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007). In this addition to the *Understanding Our Government* series, Williams traces the agency’s history from the late 19th century through its 100th anniversary in 2005, providing an in-depth

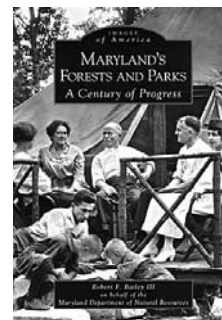


and inside look at the Forest Service’s structure, function, cooperation with states and other nations, controversies, and role in American culture. Chapters outline its three branches (management of national forest system, research and development, and state and private forestry) and relationships with other federal agencies, identify future issues and challenges facing the agency, and provide selected biographies of prominent people. Williams offers particular insight as a 30-year Forest Service employee, whose last job before retiring was as the agency’s national historian. The Forest Service manages 193 million acres and employs 30,000 people; Williams’ work is indispensable for understanding this large and influential agency overseeing public lands.

On the state level, William B. Botti and Michael D. Moore, two former employees of Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources, provide a useful history of that state’s forest system from the late 19th century through the 2000s entitled *Michigan’s State Forests: A Century of Stewardship* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2006). In spirited detail, the authors recount the story of how cutover wilderness areas, many of which were burned by



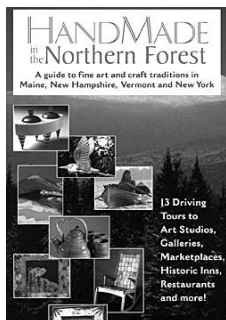
the fires of 1871, were converted into productive and protected public lands over the course of the following century. Michigan’s forests today hold great potential for continued economic development and enhancing quality of life. *Maryland’s*



*Forests and Parks: A Century of Progress* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006) and *Pennsylvania Wilds: Images from the Allegheny National Forest* (Bradford, PA: Forest Press, 2006) offer more visually-oriented exploration of the forest history of those states. The Maryland volume, written by Robert F. Bailey III on behalf of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, is part of the *Images of America* series, and comprises an extended photographic essay illustrating the history of Maryland’s forests and parks from the beginning of the 20th century to the early 21st. Photographs include depictions of improvements made in the parks by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and 1940s, forestry practices, fire lookouts, fire suppression, sawmills, important figures, outdoor recreation, and striking scenes. *Pennsylvania Wilds* includes text by Lisa Gensheimer and photos by Ed Bernik and documents Pennsylvania’s Allegheny National Forest in photographs and prose. Gensheimer’s essay traces the natural and human history of the forest from the arrival of its first inhabitants 7,000 years ago up through the present. Bernik’s evocative photographs depict the forest’s landscapes, buildings, animals, and people. The accompanying “Forest Companion” CD

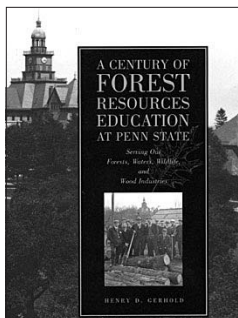


allows readers to explore the biology, geology, and history of the Allegheny National Forest interactively. Of interest to north-eastern travelers will be *HandMade in the Northern Forest: A Guide to Fine Art and Craft Traditions in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York* (Concord, NH: Northern Forest Center, Businesses for the

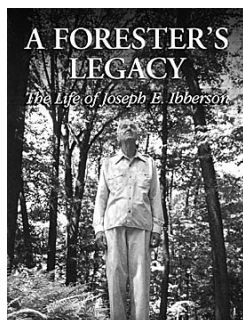


Northern Forest, 2006), the first-ever driving guide to the Northern Forest's arts and crafts venues. This guidebook to the landscape, arts and crafts, and cultural heritage of northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York's Adirondacks and Tug Hill regions includes 13 driving tours, highlighting 19th and 20th century historic attractions and the studios of traditional artists who have drawn upon the Northern Forest as a source of raw material as well as inspiration for their work. Included are intriguing anecdotes from forest history and local lore. Together these four resources offer fresh ways to explore the powerful connections between people and landscape in the northern states.

Continuing the investigation of Pennsylvania history are not one but two new books by Henry D. Gerhold, Penn State Professor of Forest Genetics since 1956. The first, entitled *A Century of Forest Resources Education at Penn State: Serving Our Forests, Waters, Wildlife, and Wood Industries* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007), presents the history of the Pennsylvania State School of Forest Resources on the occasion of the centennial of its founding in 1907. Gerhold

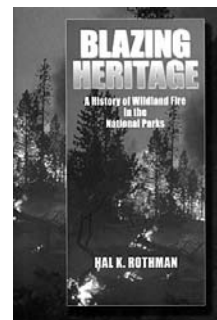


examines events leading up to the school's founding and traces progress in its programs, curricula, research, and facilities over the century of its existence. The book covers student recruitment, enrollment, and placement; student activities and organizations; extension and outreach;



and biographical sketches of graduates, faculty, administrators, and pioneers in forestry education in Pennsylvania. Gerhold's final chapter, entitled "Looking Ahead," provides a strategic plan for the school's future. One of Penn State's most notable alumnus is Joseph E. Ibberson, who graduated from the Ranger school and is the subject of Gerhold's *A Forester's Legacy: The Life of Joseph E. Ibberson, Forester, Tree Farmer, Philanthropist* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Pennsylvania Forestry Association with Stackpole Books, 2007). This biography highlights Ibberson's professional life, which began in 1948 with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and was spent in modernizing forestland management, preservation, and pest management. *A Forester's Legacy* also pays homage to the philanthropic work Ibberson undertook later in life, donating large properties as conservation areas and endowing forestry professorships. Gerhold presents an inspiring account of the life of this respected figure in Pennsylvania natural resources management.

A series of highly destructive wildfires in the western U.S. in the 1990s and 2000s has brought the difficult relationship between humans and fire to the forefront of public interest and policy concerns. Two of the most prominent and insightful scholars in environmental history have entered the fray: Hal K. Rothman in *Blazing Heritage: A History of Wildland Fires in the National Parks* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), and Stephen J. Pyne in *Tending Fire: Coping with America's Wildfires* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2006). Rothman's *Blazing Heritage* is the only comprehensive account of how fire has been managed, and mismanaged, in the national parks. Beginning with the establishment of Yellowstone in 1872 and continuing into the twenty-first century, the book traces two distinct epochs of fire management. In the first era from the 1870s until 1967,



suppression—putting out all fires—dominated national park history. While at the time this was considered progressive thinking, it created enormous ecological problems—large amounts of combustible material became commonplace on public lands, creating fuel for any fires that did occur. The solution introduced was fire, set for management purposes. As Rothman discusses, however, this approach



has its own dangers—the effects of which are continuing to be felt. In *Tending Fire*, Stephen Pyne provides a broader context for modern debates over wildfire in America, examining the history of ideas about fire from ancient times, but focusing primarily on the 19th and 20th centuries. In this probing synthesis, Pyne explores not only the past but the present and future of fire politics, offering options for dealing with fire while recognizing its ecological importance. Pyne (once a fire fighter himself, now a professor at Arizona State University) argues we should expand beyond scientific solutions to include considerations of ethics, economics, and landscape aesthetics. Together, Rothman and Pyne offer a rich education for anyone interested in fire, fire policy, or human attempts to control the uncontrollable. Both studies are grounded in the basic understanding that, as Pyne writes, "Fire isn't listening. It doesn't feel our pain. It doesn't care.... It understands a language of wind, drought, woods, grass, brush, and terrain, and it will ignore anything stated otherwise." □