

# Sowing the Seeds of Forest Conservation: Fred Besley and the Maryland Story, 1906–1923

GEOFFREY L. BUCKLEY and J. MORGAN GROVE

*“We are no longer so rich that we can afford to waste our heritage.”*

— Fred Besley

During the first decade of the twentieth century, Maryland began in earnest to deal with a problem that government officials and conservationists were increasingly coming to view as a serious one. For more than 250 years, changes brought about by settlement, agricultural expansion, and industrialization had reduced forest cover across the state dramatically, altering forest composition and depleting the supply of important commercial species. In 1906 the State Board of Forestry was established and Fred Wilson Besley—an early graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and a protégé of Gifford Pinchot’s—was appointed Maryland’s first state forester. Over the next few decades, Besley and his staff worked assiduously to introduce professional forestry to the state, to establish a system of multi-purpose forest reserves, and to educate the general public, especially the private landowner, on the benefits of conservative forest management.<sup>1</sup>

While much scholarly attention over the years has been devoted to our national parks and forests, considerably less has been dedicated to studying public lands movements at the state level. Although over thirty years old, Ralph R. Widner, ed., *Forests and Forestry in the American States: A Reference Anthology* and Freeman Tilden’s *The State Parks: Their Meaning in American Life* remain the standard works in this field. A recent flurry of activity suggests a rekindled interest in state management of public lands. Contributions to the literature include, among others: Thomas R. Cox, *The Park Builders: A History of State Parks in the Pacific Northwest*; Neil Rolde, *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries*; Paul Schneider, *The Adirondacks: A History of America’s First Wilderness*; James Wright Steely, *Parks for Texas: Enduring Landscapes of the New Deal*; and Phillip G. Terrie, *Contested Terrain: A New History of Nature and People in the Adirondacks*.<sup>2</sup>

*Geoffrey L. Buckley teaches geography at Ohio University. J. Morgan Grove is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service in Vermont.*

As the titles listed above clearly indicate, much of what has been written has focused specifically on the establishment of state parks and not on the development of state forestry programs, although the two were often closely linked. Relying chiefly on State Board of Forestry documents and newspaper accounts, this paper aims to cast light on this neglected chapter of conservation history. More specifically, it examines the circumstances under which a professional forestry agency came to be established in Maryland, which was one of several states in the vanguard of the state forestry movement, by concentrating on the conservation strategies adopted by this fledgling agency and the leadership provided by Besley during the critical period from inception in 1906 to government reorganization in 1923.<sup>3</sup>

### A National Overview

Beginning in the late eighteenth century, the U.S. Government embarked upon a program of transferring land from public to private ownership. By 1900 more than a billion acres of the public domain or half the land area of the contiguous forty-eight states had been transferred to private hands. From the nation's earliest days, political philosophers such as Thomas Jefferson believed that in a largely agrarian society, the private ownership of a farm—individual control of production—would help assure personal liberty, dignity, and economic security for the country's citizens. Unfortunately, the conversion of land into private property had many unintended social and ecological consequences. In the case of forested lands, significant wealth was created quickly by cutting down and marketing logs from vast forests, but the communities that developed and prospered around logging operations only lasted as long as the sustaining resource. When the forests were gone, the companies and their capital moved, leaving behind economically depleted communities with devastated landscapes. This pattern of "boom" and "bust" economic development, land abandonment, and degraded landscapes caused severe problems of rural, community, and regional social instability.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the social consequences of changes in property regimes, logging, massive wildfires, and wildlife loss called into question the notion that forests were inexhaustible. Lumber production increased dramatically between 1850 and 1910, from 5.4 billion board feet to 44.5 billion board feet per year, a rate more than double the rate of population growth during that time. The volume of harvested timber greatly exceeded that of forest growth, yet no provisions for reforestation existed, and aside from a few experimental programs, no one practiced long-term forest management. Increased logging coupled with the absence of reforestation led to the loss in some areas of nearly 80 percent of forested lands within forty or fifty years. Fire was also an extensive problem.

Forest fires frequently consumed between twenty and fifty million acres per year (an area equal to the size of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware combined). The loss of forest cover led to severe flooding during wet seasons, drought during dry seasons, soil erosion, and the loss of streams and rivers for transportation because of siltation. Previously abundant wildlife species were severely depleted or brought to near extinction—whitetail deer, wild turkey, pronghorn, moose, black bear, bighorn sheep, bison, beaver, herons, egrets, ibises, and the passenger pigeon—while the great auk was already extinct. Taken together, these changes set the stage for the American Conservation Movement.<sup>5</sup>

By the late nineteenth century it had become increasingly clear to Congress that the transfer of public lands into private ownership, and the subsequent abandonment of private lands, had created severe social and environmental consequences. The realization prompted Congress to recognize the need to retain some of the nation's lands in "public ownership" and manage them in the "public interest" as a buffer against complete privatization of all land. In 1891, President Benjamin Harrison established the first forest reserve, Yellowstone Park Timber Reserve, on federal land in Wyoming. Between 1891 and 1897, Presidents Harrison and Grover Cleveland set aside nearly 39.5 million more acres. In 1897 Congress established a mandate for managing the reserves with the purpose of their management (an authority system) specifically "to preserve and protect the forests" from forest fires and commercial exploitation, to "secure favorable conditions of water flows," and to "furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of the citizens of the United States based upon sound, scientific principles." By 1907, Congress had renamed the reserves "national forests" and given Gifford Pinchot the title of Chief Forester of the United States Department of Agriculture forest service. The concept of public ownership of land had been established.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to managing federal forestlands, Pinchot's "scientific forestry" emphasized research and extension. For instance, while Chief of the Division of Forestry, Pinchot instructed his bureau to investigate the causes of forest fire and its consequences, examine problems associated with tree planting and reforestation, develop new uses for forest waste materials, and conduct "investigations in the chemistry of maple sugar, tree diseases, and methods of extracting turpentine." To educate the general public and private forest industries about scientific forest management, Pinchot offered the assistance of federal foresters. By 1905 owners of nearly three million acres had applied to the Division of Forestry to take advantage of this opportunity. Underlying the promotion of scientific forestry was a dramatic shift in the way political decisions were reached and carried out. As historian Samuel P. Hays notes, "Conservationists were led by people who promoted the 'rational' use of resources with a focus on efficiency, planning for future use, and the application of expertise to broad na-

tional problems. But they also promoted a system of decision-making consistent with that spirit, a process by which the expert would decide in terms of the most efficient dovetailing of all competing resource users according to criteria which were considered to be objective, rational, and above the give-and-take of political conflict. In short, they sought to substitute one system of decision-making, that inherent in the spirit of modern science and technology, for another, that inherent in the give-and-take among lesser groupings of influence freely competing within the larger system.”<sup>7</sup>

Of course, the forest service was not the only government agency concerned with the loss of forest resources, scientific forestry, and the changing dynamics of political decision-making. Much was happening at the state level as well, although initiative and progress varied considerably from one state to the next.

### The Roots of Forest Conservation in Maryland

In 1921, the National Conference on State Parks met for the first time in Des Moines, Iowa. The purpose of this gathering of some two hundred conservationists was “to urge upon our governments, local, county, state, and national, the acquisition of additional land and water areas suitable for recreation, for the study of natural history and its scientific aspects, and the preservation of wild life, as a form of the conservation of our natural resources; . . . to encourage the interest of non-governmental agencies and individuals in acquiring, maintaining and dedicating for public uses similar areas; and in educating the citizens of the United States in the values and uses of recreational areas.” Realizing that America’s increasing demand for recreational space could not be met simply by expanding the national park system, and further, that not all land suitable for a wide variety of recreational activities possessed the scenic value generally required for designation as a national park, those in attendance set out to establish a park system within every state.<sup>8</sup>

At the time of the meeting, it was duly noted that twenty-nine states did not possess a single state park. Among the states apparently lacking in this regard was Maryland. The question of whether or not Maryland possessed a state park in 1921 is more complicated than this simple tally suggests, however. According to Freeman Tilden, “A state park is any area of any size set aside for any type of recreation purpose, or as a historical memorial, or to preserve scenery or a natural curiosity, and *called* a state park.” By this definition, Maryland’s nascent system of forest reserves contained parcels that met all but the last of these requisites. To further obfuscate matters, contemporary state forest documents and newspaper accounts were already referring to the reserves as parks and promoting the recreational value of these tracts years in advance of the Des Moines meeting and decades before they received any such official designation. When viewed



*Governor Theodore McKeldin presents a certificate of merit to Fred W. Besley in commemoration of the Golden Anniversary of the Department of Forests and Parks. (Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 3933-462.)*

in this light, one might judge Maryland to have been at the forefront, rather than bringing up the rear, of the aforementioned state parks movement.<sup>9</sup>

While the distinction between park and forest reserve at the beginning of the twentieth century was decidedly narrow, and the question of whether the Old Line State in fact possessed a state park was open to debate, the history of professional forestry in Maryland is far more certain. In 1906, Robert and John Garrett, grandsons of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad magnate John Work Garrett, donated three tracts of mountain forest to the state of Maryland. The donation was made on the condition that adequate means for the protection of the state's forests—both public and otherwise—be provided. The Garrett brothers' offer inspired McCullough Brown, President of the Maryland State Senate, and General J. B. Seth of Talbot County to draft the Maryland Forestry Conservation Act. As a result, the Office of the State Forester was established and Governor Edwin Warfield appointed Fred W. Besley to fill the position. Under the general supervision of the board, the state forester, among his many responsibilities, was to "direct the protection and improvement of State parks and forest re-

serves." The cornerstone thereby was laid for Maryland's current system of public lands and the State Board of Forestry came into being.<sup>10</sup>

Fred Besley was uniquely qualified for the position of state forester. A graduate of the Maryland Agricultural College in 1892, Besley was working as a school teacher in Virginia when a chance meeting with Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture, sparked in him what came to be a keen interest in forest conservation. By 1900, Besley was traveling around the country as one of Pinchot's forest assistants, gaining valuable field and surveying experience as well as indulging a new avocation, photography. During the winter months he and the other forest assistants were stationed in Washington, D.C., where they gathered regularly at Pinchot's home for meetings of the "Baked Apple and Gingerbread Club." In January 1903, having decided on a career in forestry, Besley moved his family to New Haven, Connecticut, where he enrolled at Yale University's School of Forestry. At the time, there were relatively few professionally trained American foresters, although demand for their services was increasing at both the state and national levels. With a degree in hand in 1904, Besley received a federal appointment and was soon back working for Pinchot. Two years later, he accepted the position as Maryland's first, and only the country's third, state forester, a position he occupied until retirement in 1942.<sup>11</sup>

Originally, the Maryland State Board of Forestry consisted of seven members. In addition to the governor, the comptroller, the state geologist, and the presidents of Johns Hopkins University and the Maryland State Agricultural College, the board was to include "two practical men engaged in the lumber business." The board was given authority to purchase lands deemed suitable for forest reserves, using monies drawn from a forest reserve fund. In addition, the governor was permitted to accept gifts of land recommended by the State Board of Forestry with the stipulation that such areas be administered as state forest reserves and that gifts be absolute except for the reservation of mineral and mining rights. The board was also given authority to condemn land for the advancement of the forestry program.<sup>12</sup>

Initially, the problem Besley faced was a difficult one: how to stem the tide of indiscriminate cutting on private lands and ensure the long-term availability of forest resources for future industrial and commercial use. It was a particularly challenging task given that there were very few models upon which to base a conservation program. Besley adopted a multi-faceted strategy. It included conducting an exhaustive statewide survey of forest resources; adopting an aggressive fire management policy; introducing a program of reforestation; and expanding the forest reserve system. These measures served to slow down and in some cases even reverse the more disturbing trends that had characterized Maryland's recent forest history. Most important, however, foresters like Besley



*Destruction resulting from logging at Keyser's Ridge, ca. 1920. (Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives, MSA SC3933-119.)*

were well aware that the success of conservative forest management during this era rested on their ability to cultivate relationships with key legislators, the general public, and the media, a point Pinchot must have made emphatically when in the company of his forest assistants.<sup>13</sup>

### **Maryland's Forests: Assessing the Damage**

In 1909, Fred Besley stated that “Just pride may be taken in the fact that Maryland has more detailed and accurate information concerning her forests than is known concerning the forests of any other State,” a reference perhaps to the first major project he had undertaken, a twenty-three-county survey of the state's forested areas. Every woodland parcel of five acres or more was sketched on a Maryland Geological Survey topographic base map and the general characteristics of the tracts noted. A final map was then constructed at a scale of one mile to an inch. Hardwood stands were shown in red and divided into three broad classes—sapling, culled, and merchantable—which were distinguished from one another by use of symbols. Relatively pure stands of pine were shown in green on the forest maps and classified by species and size. Mixtures of hard-

wood and pine were shown by combinations of red and green. The survey, much of which Besley carried out on foot or in a horse and buggy, took approximately seven years to complete and is purported to be "the first accurate, detailed account of the forest resources of any state." If this was indeed the case, then the survey maps and reports compiled by the State Board of Forestry during the first ten years of its existence are particularly valuable, for they allow us to acquire an understanding of forest cover change in Maryland that predates that of other states.<sup>14</sup>

The survey maps and reports showed that the state's forest cover had been reduced considerably since first settlement and that the overall condition of the forests was relatively poor. Whereas Maryland's forests once covered upwards of 90 percent of the state's land area, by the time of the survey they occupied a mere 35 percent, and much of this was "brush land, bearing no merchantable timber of value." Besley estimated that forest clearance probably reached a peak about 1860, after which time gradual abandonment of cleared fields permitted forest regeneration.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to substituting cleared fields for forested areas, human activities were responsible for altering the distribution patterns of individual tree species. As agricultural fields in southern and eastern Maryland were abandoned and the forest regenerated, for example, pine was represented in larger numbers than had previously been the case. This was especially true in areas where well-drained and light sandy soils predominated. Thus the extent of pine forests was viewed as a good index of the amount of land formerly under cultivation. In the western portion of the state, pine, especially white pine, had been all but eliminated as an important commercial tree by the time the survey was conducted. Human-induced forest fires played a critical role in altering the composition of Maryland's forests as well, most notably causing reductions in less fire-resistant species.<sup>16</sup>

Just as forest type varied from one region of the state to the next depending on climate, soil, and relief, so too did forest conditions vary, according to patterns of ownership, commercial demand, and access to transportation facilities. With wood-using plants concentrated in Baltimore, Salisbury, and Hagerstown, Maryland's wood products industries were well situated with respect to key markets. Maryland's 1,400 miles of railway, 1,500 miles of improved state roads, and numerous water routes facilitated commerce within the state and placed it within easy reach of key cities: New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Richmond, and Wilmington. This well-developed transportation infrastructure also accelerated the process of deforestation.<sup>17</sup>

Broadly speaking, the effects of deforestation were considered to be more pronounced in southern Maryland owing to the region's long settlement history, while central Maryland at the time of the survey possessed the smallest percentage of forest cover. The mountainous western portion of the state main-

tained the highest percentage of forest cover at the time of the survey due, in part at least, to the region's unsuitability for agriculture. However, the forests of this section were rapidly being cut as steam-powered sawmills relentlessly penetrated the mountains.<sup>18</sup>

The State Board of Forestry was not the only government agency to comment on the deteriorating condition of Maryland's forests. In 1879, when the federal census bureau undertook a national tree count, the tidewater counties on either side of the Chesapeake Bay were identified as having particularly low densities of timber. In 1900 and again in 1906 the Maryland Geological Survey, under the direction of state geologist William Bullock Clark, took the opportunity to comment on forest conditions. With regard to the state's Appalachian region, Clark observed:

What little virgin forest there is in Maryland is located in inaccessible parts of this region. . . . Nearly all the merchantable coniferous trees have already been culled from the forests . . . and the hardwoods are now rapidly being cleaned out under the highly intensive system of lumbering which has lately been inaugurated in the region. Trees of nearly all species down to very small sizes are used for mine props and lagging. The prevailing forest condition is that of cut-over virgin forest, covered with a scattering growth of large, defective trees not suitable for lumber, interspersed with reproduction of hardwood sprouts and seedlings, and occasional patches of coniferous reproduction.

Another opinion was rendered by George B. Sudworth, a dendrologist in the Forestry Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In reference to Allegany County in the western portion of the state, Sudworth opined: "It would be difficult to find a region in which the useful timber has been more generally removed than in this county."<sup>19</sup>

In addition to the spatial variations noted above, Besley remarked that the State Board of Forestry's surveys disclosed several striking facts concerning forest conditions during the early years of the twentieth century. First, the rate of growth ". . . is not sufficient to supply more than one-third of the present consumption," although the "heavy demand upon the forest capital" has not diminished. Second, the cut-over forests are in such poor condition and so poorly managed that their future productiveness is seriously impaired. Third, repeated forest fires across the state ". . . are accountable, in a large measure, for the poor quality of forest produce and the low yields, by checking the growth, and causing defective trees." And fourth, "the present stumpage price of timber is not high enough to thoroughly encourage conservative forest management."<sup>20</sup>



*Forest wardens ca. 1920s. (Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 3933-482.)*

### **Conservation Strategies**

In 1917, Besley defined forest management as “the science of making woodlands pay — making them pay in wood, timber or other forest products, and so in money.” With the results of the county forest surveys no doubt still fresh in his mind he added: “Good management is made up of judicious cutting, careful

logging, efficient protection, and the encouragement of the better species; poor management allows promiscuous removal of valuable trees, lack of care in protecting those which are left, forest fires, and unrestricted grazing." Although forest fires were not new to Maryland, protecting the state's timber resource from blazes, both accidentally and intentionally set, quickly became a priority of the State Board of Forestry.<sup>21</sup>

State government documents and newspaper reports identified fire as one of the greatest threats to the long-term health of Maryland's forests at the beginning of the twentieth century. Commenting on the impact of forest fires in southern Maryland's Anne Arundel County, for example, Besley stated: "Forest fires continue to be the chief source of damage to the forest. There is a general lack of appreciation of the damage that fires do. In consequence most fires are the result of carelessness, and as the damage is not fully appreciated, the actual conditions must be forcibly expressed and the education of public sentiment encouraged fully. It is safe to say that the yield from the forests in the northern half of the county is to-day not one half of what it might normally be made, due largely to continued forest fires."<sup>22</sup>

William Bullock Clark reached a similar conclusion after evaluating western Maryland's forests: "The prevalence of fires, following the severe lumbering, has greatly deteriorated the quality of the reproduction and second growth, so that the outlook for a valuable future crop is, at present, not bright." In addition to completely eliminating forest cover in some areas, fires had the effect, over time, of altering species composition: "Forest fires have . . . contributed toward changes in the representation of species by killing out those that are less fire resistant and creating openings which are then occupied by some of the light seeded species such as maple, red gum, birch, pine, etc. These changes have come about gradually over the entire state and have produced forests of quite different character from those that originally existed."<sup>23</sup>

To say that forest fires were major news events during the first two decades of the twentieth century would be an understatement. Newspapers during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries abound with accounts of forest fires, both large and small, across Maryland and the United States, as well as editorials on fire fighting and fire prevention. How serious was the threat of fire? Serious enough that the *Baltimore Sun* estimated that forest fires in 1920 burned 22,072 acres and cost the state of Maryland \$83,502. Serious enough that the State Board of Forestry kept detailed records of every fire that burned in each of Maryland's twenty-three counties, whether one tree was damaged or several thousand acres destroyed. These records included information on the total number of fires that took place in a given year, the number of acres burned, the estimated damage incurred, and the amount of money required to extinguish the fire. The cause of each fire was also noted. Thus, curtailing the damage

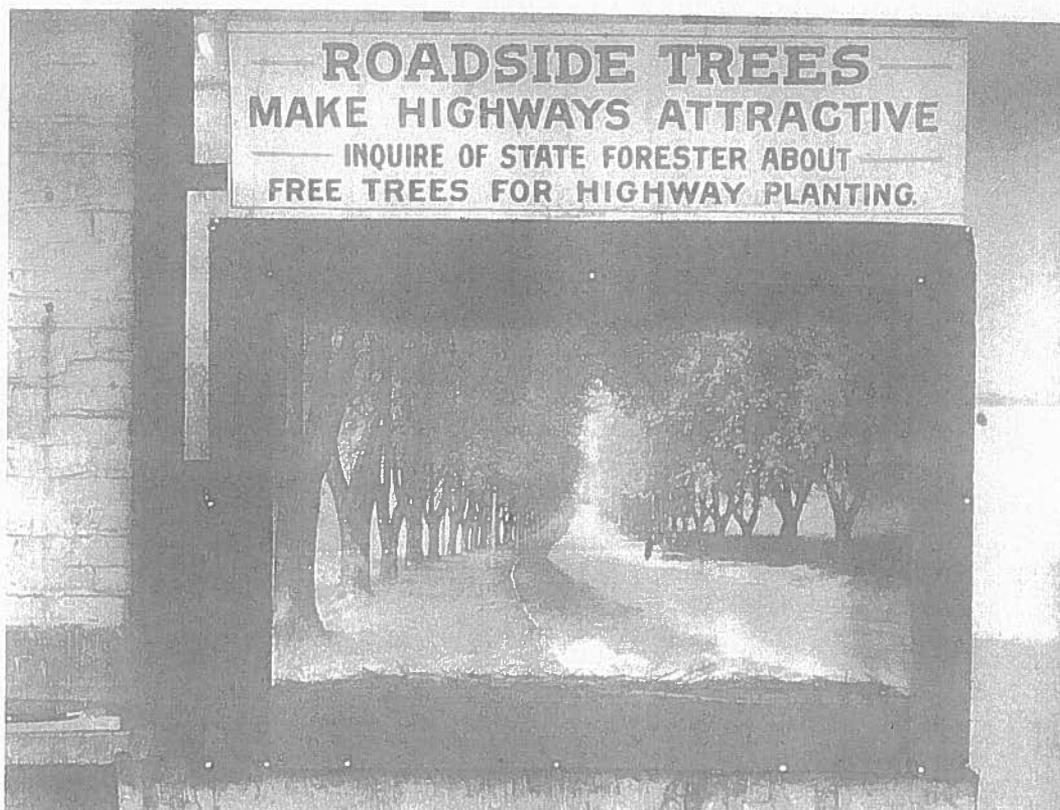
caused by forest fires was one of the manifold tasks the State Board of Forestry set for itself. According to Nelson,

Fire protection has been a major activity of the department since its beginning. The present forest protection system covers the entire state although it is inadequate to fully control the problem. The administration of the forest protection system is carried on by the state forester, assisted by an assistant forester and three district foresters, stationed at various points throughout the state. Forest wardens, who now number 350, are secured by the district foresters. They receive a small rate of pay when actually engaged in suppressing fires. Conferences of the forest wardens for the discussion of the needs of forest protection, methods of fire prevention, and the like, are held annually when funds are available.<sup>24</sup>

While vigorously promoting protection from forest fires, the State Board of Forestry also advocated a program of reforestation. The board's efforts to improve the condition of Maryland's forest resources took on many forms. Among these was an initiative to encourage roadside tree planting. Passed in 1914, the Roadside Tree Law conferred upon the State Board of Forestry the authority "to plant trees along the roadsides, to protect roadside trees, to establish one or more nurseries for their propagation, to prohibit the unauthorized placing of advertisements and other notices on the public highways or the property of other persons, and to provide a penalty for the violation thereof."<sup>25</sup>

The following excerpt from Governor Albert C. Ritchie's speech, featured in the April 8, 1920, edition of the *Oakland Republican* ("Shade Trees Along the Public Highways of State — Beautifying of the State Roads of Maryland Next on Program"), reveals the extent to which the governor promoted this policy. "What a magnificent thing it will be for the next generation to have our roads lined with branching oaks, elms and other shade trees. Not only will these trees be ornamental, but they will also be factors in the elimination of dust and dirt. With shade trees lining her roads Maryland would be the most artistic state in the Union. As we have the best roads, we have also the beginning of the most artistic vistas of roads. I trust that residents along our public highways will seize Arbor Day as an occasion for the transplanting of saplings from nearby woods on the sides of roads."

The passage is also noteworthy for its reference to Arbor Day, "a time especially set aside for the planting of trees and bushes and generally executed with fitting exercises in many States throughout the country." The generous newspaper space devoted to coverage of Arbor Day tree planting is indicative of its relative importance on the calendar during these years, as well as the degree to



State Board of Forestry diorama promoting roadside tree planting, 1928. (Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 3933-292.)

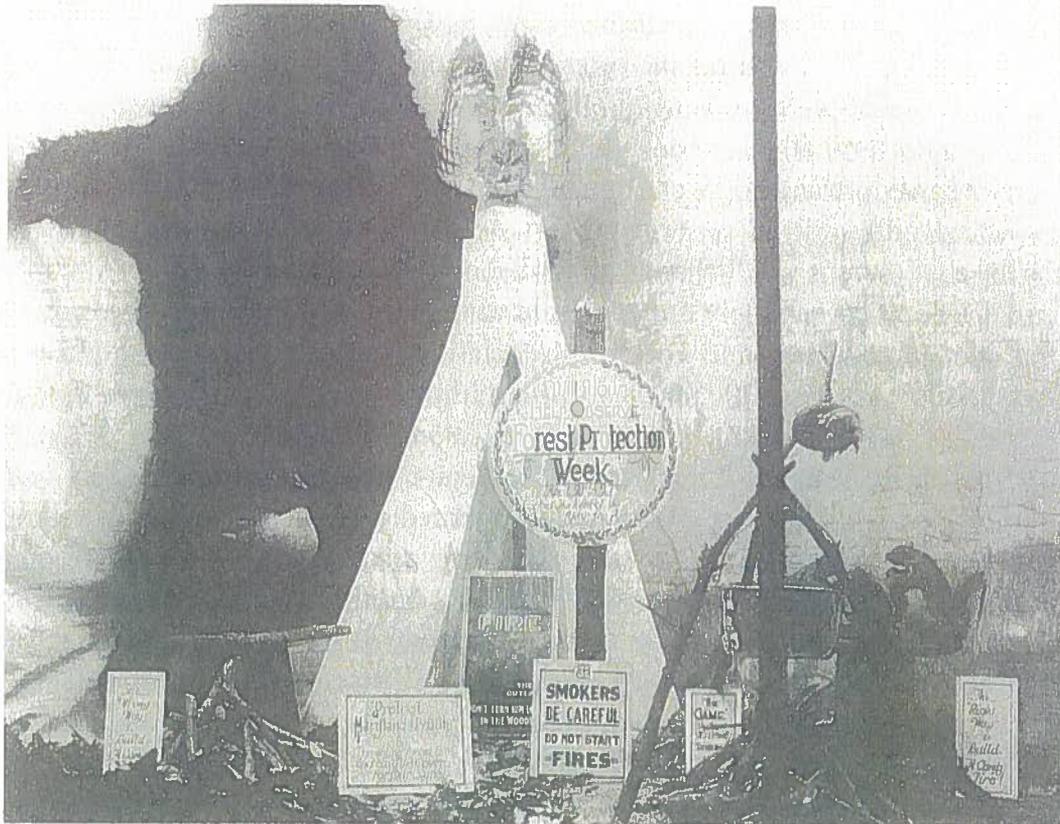
which the media advanced the cause of the State Board of Forestry. While school children in particular were engaged in Arbor Day planting activities, opportunities to participate in reforestation were not limited to the first day of April. Trees for planting could be acquired from the state's nursery at a modest cost, a point that was advertised and broadcast widely in numerous newspapers. As the *Oakland Republican* pointed out on March 4, 1920: "The State Nursery has proven to be one of the most popular branches of the Forestry Department and has done much toward promoting tree planting throughout the State." A survey of contemporary Maryland newspapers indicates that the state's reforestation efforts, especially its roadside tree-planting program, were winning plaudits from citizens and state government officials alike, as well as receiving high marks from the press.<sup>26</sup>

One of the most effective means by which Besley and his small team of assistant foresters were able to inaugurate their program of conservative forest management was through educational outreach. Whether it was a presentation to the Elkton Women's Club on the virtues of planting shade trees, an informal talk before a gathering of camping enthusiasts, or a lecture to private landown-

ers on the merits of planting loblolly pine, the state forester and his assistants interacted with the public, wherever and whenever possible. As Beatrice Ward Nelson pointed out in 1928: "The department finds the education of the public in forestry work an important phase of its administration. Lectures are given before various organizations throughout the state. Lantern slides are available, special articles are published in newspaper and magazines, and special reports are prepared for state publications. Forestry exhibits are shown at county fairs and have been loaned to the schools for short periods." Here again, publicity from the press played an important role in establishing a positive relationship between the state and its citizens as the following introduction from an article in the *Bel Air Times* (March 18, 1921) clearly illustrates. At the request of that newspaper, "one of the most expert foresters in the State was requested to give his views on forestry in Harford, and the following article is the result. We hope that farmers will read it and adopt plans for replenishing our rapidly disappearing timber supply."<sup>27</sup>

The importance of the State Board of Forestry's outreach program cannot be overstated. Considering that the vast majority of the state's forested lands were in private hands, it was absolutely imperative that Besley take advantage of every opportunity to communicate the principles of sound forest management to this wide and, at first, largely indifferent audience. One of the programs Besley developed involved having State Board of Forestry personnel serve as intermediaries between buyers and sellers of timber:

A method of selecting the trees to be cut and later marketing the product has been devised by the State Forester, and wherever tried it has worked out satisfactorily. The plan is for the State Forester, or one of his assistants, to examine the woodland upon application, go over the problems with the owner on the ground, and submit a plan of management for his consideration. This is done without cost except for the travel expenses of the forester. Then, if there is timber to be cut, and the owner desires it, the forester will furnish an expert to select the trees for cutting with reference to their present and prospective value. He also marks and measures them, the results being tabulated to show the number of trees of each kind by size and value. This part of the work is done at nominal cost . . . and his board and travel expenses. With two laborers to be furnished by the owner, 30 or 40 acres per day can be covered, and the results of measurements are afterwards worked up in the office of the forester, without additional charge. A statement is prepared giving accurate, detailed information to the owner, with a form of contract for the cutting of the timber, and a statement is prepared for sending to the sawmill and timber operators who are in the market for standing timber, of whom the State



*Exhibit promoting Forest Protection Week, ca. 1925. (Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 3933-296.)*

Forester has a very complete list of about 1000 names. By this method those who buy timber are brought into direct touch with the man who has timber to sell.

According to the American Forestry Association, Besley was the first state forester to develop such a scheme, the result being that Maryland's program was replicated across the country.<sup>28</sup>

In addition to protecting against destructive forest fires, restoring formerly forested areas, and educating the general public on issues of conservative forest management, the State Board of Forestry actively engaged in acquiring parcels of privately owned land to add to the state's system of forest reserves. The decision to build on the Garrett brothers' bequest was grounded in the belief that if left in the hands of corporate interests, certain parcels of cut-over land would never fully recover. With respect to western Maryland, for example, Clark advised that forest management "could best be carried on by the State rather than by private owners, as the long rotation required in this section to mature timber would not be as objectionable to the former as to the latter." Three years later

Besley echoed his colleague's sentiments. "The land could be purchased at low cost, and under State control and protection it could be made a valuable asset. . . . The purchase of such lands would be an investment and not an expense since they would eventually pay back all costs from the revenue derived." Forest reserve expansion was also favored by McCullough Brown, one of the drafters of the Maryland Forestry Conservation Act. According to the *Baltimore Sun*: "Declaring that there is small chance of hardwood timber stands in Western Maryland developing a maturity under private ownership, W. McCulloh (*sic*) Brown, president of the Maryland Forestry Association, last night proposed that the State take over at least 200,000 acres of land not adapted to agriculture in that section for production of timber as a State resource."<sup>29</sup>

In western Maryland, the Garrett brothers' donation was followed by that of Henry and Julian LeRoy White, who donated their Garrett County estate, Herrington Manor, in 1917. The state then purchased a block of fifty-seven acres linking Swallow Falls with Herrington Manor. Another donation in 1907, this one in the vicinity of Baltimore, formed the nucleus for the Patapsco Reserve. Beginning in 1912, the state began purchasing land on either side of the Patapsco River to increase the size of this valuable holding. These resources were further enhanced in 1927 when the General Assembly authorized the formation of auxiliary state forests. Located adjacent to the state holdings, these areas were protected through agreements with private landowners and subject to the regulations which applied to the forest reserves with the stipulation that no state money could be used for permanent improvements. Taken together, these early forest reserves, as they were dubbed initially, formed the basis of Maryland's current system of state forests, parks, wildlife areas, natural environmental areas, natural heritage sites, and fish management areas, which now total more than 338,000 acres of publicly owned natural land.<sup>30</sup>

How were these newly acquired resources to be utilized? There is ample evidence to demonstrate an economic purpose for the forest reserves. Besley's comments regarding the forests of Allegany County in western Maryland serve as an obvious example. He considered it to be "of the greatest importance" to make the lands as productive as possible. The county needed "a good local supply of timber to carry on the present industries, and to aid in their further development." Allegany's coal mines consumed "immense quantities of mine props, pit ties and mine rails," the railroads drew upon the forests for "large quantities of cross ties," telephone and telegraph companies utilized "thousands of poles" annually, and "saw mills and wood-using industries, with large amounts of capital invested and giving employment to hundreds of men, cannot be maintained without a cheap and abundant supply of timber." Thus, the need to establish forest reserves—to ensure that a reliable supply of wood would be available to support future industrial development and growth. Economic justifications for

adding to the forest reserve system can be found throughout the State Board of Forestry's publications, particularly the early ones.<sup>31</sup>

While protecting forest resources for future commercial use was certainly a priority, it was not the only reason for doing so. Although Maryland did not officially establish a state park until many years after the Des Moines gathering, government documents and newspaper accounts prove beyond a doubt that the forest reserves, or portions of them at least, were set aside for recreational and other purposes. In a 1919 publication entitled *The State Reserves of Maryland: A Playground for the Public*, assistant forester J. Gordon Dorrance presented the case for recreation. In the introduction, Dorrance states: "The term 'Reserve' means, literally, some place kept in store, held back for future use. It is the intention of the Maryland Board of Forestry that it shall practically apply as reserved, but for public use *now*. It is very well to safeguard the water, and protect the land; but modern forest practice has its best office in making actual contribution to the public weal and wealth. It is with this thought that the State Reserves of Maryland are thrown open for generous use by all the people of the State." Regarding the Patapsco Reserve, Dorrance was more to the point:

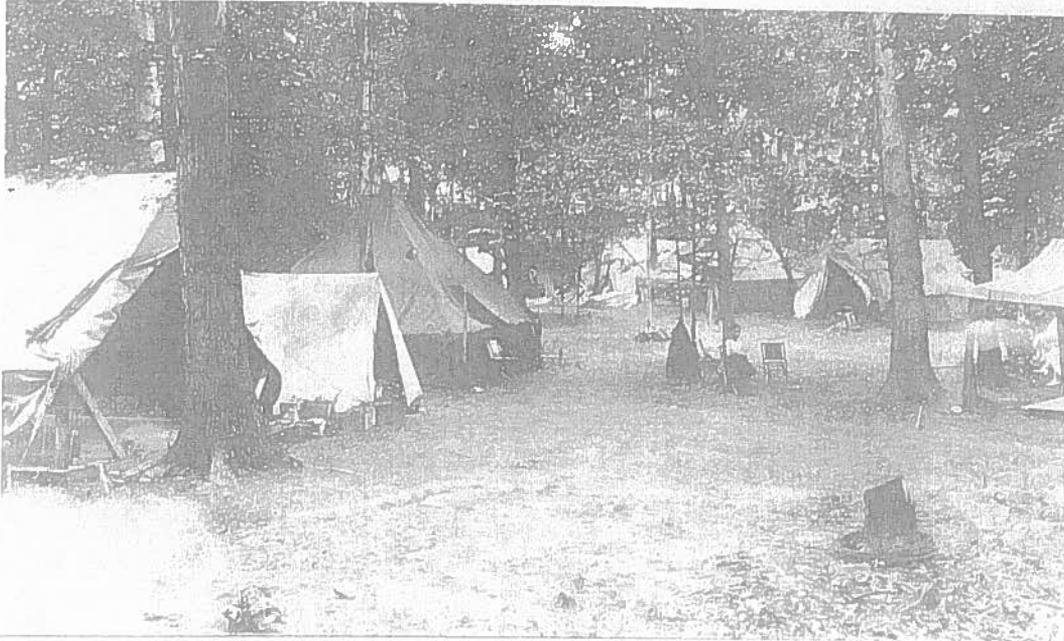
Nearer to Baltimore, so near, in fact, as almost to be called a city park, is the Patapsco State Reserve. Maryland owns here 916 acres, chiefly of wooded land, with the addition of over 1,000 acres which are open to the public, with full park privileges in return for the protection which the Board gives to its respective owners in the matter of patrol against trespass and fire. The entire Reserve is essentially a protection and a recreation forest. Prior to 1912 this region was only a piece of attractive country: two high, sloping banks with a cover of timber, a winding river between; it was close to Baltimore; it seemed to have some natural possibilities as a park; and its forests covered and protected the watershed of the Patapsco, thus affecting in a measure the harbor of the city. . . . Under the management of the Board its attractions are being protected and so far as possible enhanced, and the Patapsco Reserve made ready for free use by the people of this State.

In addition to discussing access to various points in the reserve via the railroad and roads, Dorrance referred specifically to the advantages offered by outdoor camping and the need for city dwellers to rejuvenate themselves in a non-urban setting. "In certain ways the short vacation weeks are the most important of his year: in them such mental kinks and twists as have been snarling up through months of office and routine must be eliminated and straightened out; muscles well softened by disuse must be rebuilt by exercise and unaccustomed 'stunts' to which the man has grown a stranger; the color of the city is to be replaced by the reds and browns and blistered tans which intimate association with the fields

and forests, the streams and swamps and open roads will brand on its habitues. The vacation is not alone a let-down from the usual. To be of greatest good it must entail a change, and a complete one."<sup>32</sup>

Dorrance's comments are not limited to the Patapsco Reserve. Regarding Maryland's Appalachian section, he remarked that they offer "a sight of one of the State's few places where he may look away from a high-up point or ridge and see the forests almost as they were, dark, thick, covering all, as far as the eye can reach, with a mantle green and waving in the wind, which was put upon the mountains for a purpose." In profiling the forest reserves of Garrett County, Dorrance marveled at their beauty, while noting that relatively few Marylanders visited them because they are "not part of a thickly peopled district." The Maryland Board of Forestry, though, recently had become convinced "that if the people of Maryland had a better understanding of how to enjoy the five large forest parks within their reach the knowledge would stand them in good stead when it came to the investing of a vacation which might be spent on any part of several thousand acres offered free for use and readily and cheaply accessible from any point." Reading like a latter-day travel brochure, Dorrance went on: "Located in Garrett County, in the higher altitudes of Western Maryland, the Skipnish, Kindness, Swallow Falls, and Herrington Manor Reserves will appeal to those who like their vacations seasoned with a little wild life, a dash of the woods and the mountains, and withal a vivifying atmosphere." Dorrance added that "It is possible and convenient to leave Baltimore on Friday night, spend Saturday and Sunday at the parks, returning Sunday night, and reaching Baltimore at 8.32 on Monday morning." From May 1 to September 30 the B&O sold "special-rate summer tickets" from Baltimore to Oakland. More than a mere description of the state's forest holdings, *The State Reserves of Maryland: A Playground for the Public* was nothing less than a state-sponsored advertisement for Maryland's growing system of public lands. By increasing the number of visitors to these recreational areas, the State Board of Forestry must have reasoned that gaining support from the general public for their activities (including future acquisitions) was absolutely necessary to ensure success.<sup>33</sup>

In addition to the State Board of Forestry reports, numerous newspaper accounts from the 1920s support the contention that the State Board of Forestry was interested in developing the resources of the forest reserves for recreational purposes. The *Evening Sun* of January 21, 1921, noted that "State Forester Besley" was pushing the Patapsco Forest Reserve "as a recreation and camping ground for Baltimore people." Another account, titled "Patapsco's Pretty Scenery and Natural Beauty Thrill Campers and Nature Lovers," is particularly noteworthy for its romantic imagery. There was about the place a "healing touch in the contact with the spirit of Nature, and especially at the time of midsummer fullness, quiet and peace." In preserving "this wild, natural beauty," Besley

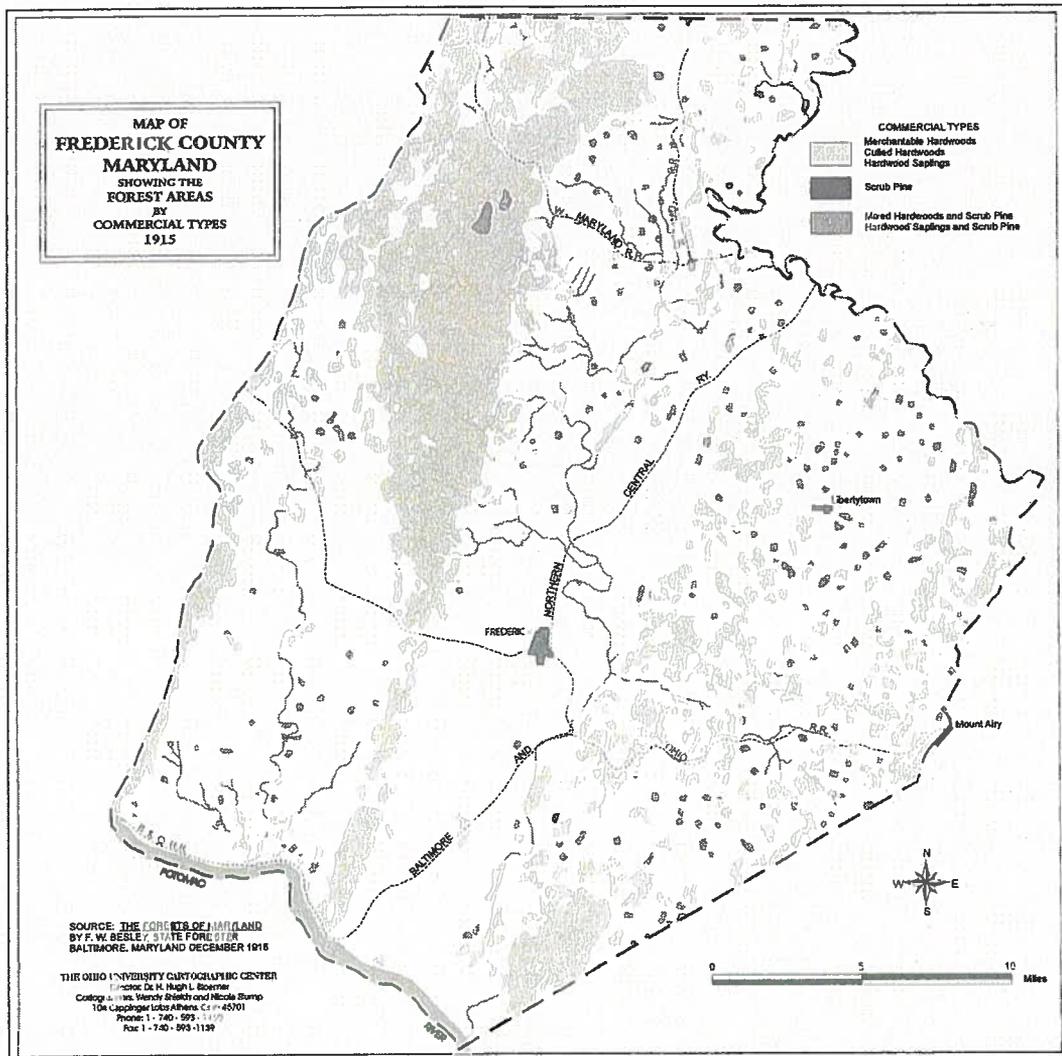


*Camping in the Patapsco State Forest, Hutzler Camp, summer 1921. (Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 3933-179.)*

and his assistants were making it possible for Marylanders who could not go to Maine or Canada “to get as close to Mother Nature as in the wild and unexplored regions of the North. On the slopes rising up from the river in thick virgin forest land, traversed by springs and streams, ideal camp sites have been staked out. Some derive their beauty from the view; others from proximity to the river; and some because they are built right on the edge of a leaping mountain cascade.” The article noted that Besley, his wife, and two of their children were spending a month “in a camp overlooking the upper most rocky basin of one of these lovely cascades,” and added that “To be entertained at the Besley camp is a pleasure long to be remembered. Not 10 feet away from the open-air dining tent the water rushes over the rocks of Upper Falls. One goes to bed in the big Army tent, with its ‘double-decker’ cot in the middle and its pine needle couches on either side, to the sound of this music and wakes up with it in the morning.”

Woven throughout these and other articles, not to mention Dorrance’s report, is the idea that urban residents, even the state forester and his family, needed purification in a rural setting, a theme not uncommon to the period. While the economic purpose of the forest reserves cannot be disputed, historical evidence indicates that recreational and other factors played a role in their establishment and expansion.<sup>34</sup>

Perhaps the best justification or set of justifications for conserving Maryland’s forest resources and expanding the state’s system of public lands was articulated



Map of Frederick County forest cover. (From Fred Besley Report for 1914 and 1915 (Baltimore: State Board of Forestry, 1915.)

by Fred Besley in 1937. In a short chapter called "State Forests and Parks" (part of a larger document entitled *The Forest Resources and Industries of Maryland* produced by the Maryland Development Bureau of the Baltimore Association of Commerce), Besley, by now a state forestry veteran with more than thirty years of experience, wrote:

The question is often asked, "Why do States spend money for the acquisition of forest land?" There are many good reasons, but probably the first and one of the most important is to demonstrate sensible forestry practice on the ground. Experience has shown that the extension method (advising private owners), while beneficial and well worth

while, does not afford the same degree of control over practical demonstrations as is generally possible when they are conducted on public lands. . . . The second reason for acquiring public forests and parks (and one as important as the first reason cited) is to make sure that the public benefits are safeguarded from private monopolistic use. . . . Another very good reason for the establishment of State Forests and Parks is to provide for the public's recreational needs. Forests and parks provide an opportunity to hunt, fish, hike, camp, picnic, and study nature. The pursuit of these activities is becoming increasingly difficult because of the growing resentment of landowners to the public use of their lands. The only satisfactory answer thereto is the acquisition of public lands for these purposes. A fourth reason for acquiring State Forests is purely economic. The timber growth on much of our land is so depleted that private owners are not disposed to wait for another crop. As a consequence, little attention is given to such areas. Taxable wealth is thereby lost, and the more productive lands are forced to assume additional tax burdens. . . . We are no longer so rich that we can afford to waste our heritage. State Forests and parks represent an excellent medium for conserving public values in the use of wild lands, which would otherwise be lost through private exploitation.<sup>35</sup>

It is revealing that no national forests were ever established in Maryland. Enabling legislation was passed in 1908 that would have permitted the federal government to purchase lands within the state for national forests but the General Assembly repealed the law in 1927. A similar tension between those who favored conservation at the state level and those who advocated federal involvement appeared in 1920, at the first national conference of the newly formed Association of State Foresters, in which Col. W. B. Greely, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, squared off against Gifford Pinchot, then Commissioner of Forestry of Pennsylvania. "Directly opposite views in regard to control of forests were voiced late today before the conference," the *Baltimore Sun* reported. "Colonel Greely held that the States should be encouraged to go just as far as they will in reforestation, while Mr. Pinchot held there should be a national forest policy." None other than Fred Besley was appointed this body's first president.<sup>36</sup>

Long before most states were even contemplating a program of forest conservation, Maryland was responding to a potentially serious timber crisis. Under the guidance of a professionally trained state forester, a scarce commodity at the time, the newly-formed State Board of Forestry conducted an exhaustive statewide survey of forest resources, developed a strategy to deal with destructive forest fires, introduced forest conservation practices to private landowners, devised an innovative plan to link timber sellers with timber buyers, and laid

the groundwork for a system of forest reserves that would become multi-purpose public lands intended to serve the needs of timber operators and recreationists alike. To convert skeptics or others indifferent to the goals of professional forestry, a field relatively few people could claim to be familiar with at the time, Besley and his assistant foresters used the press adroitly to advance their conservation programs and win support from the general public. By providing public park and recreation opportunities within the forest reserves, Besley effectively created an agency with a dual mission—a model that the state continues to follow to this day.

While a detailed investigation of Maryland's early experience with professional forestry no doubt enhances our understanding of the state forest and parks movement and, possibly, the public lands movement in general, perhaps there is a more valuable lesson to be drawn from the research. As the new century unfolds private property rights activists marching under the broad banner of the wise-use movement continue to challenge the legitimacy of a wide range of federal conservation policies governing access and use of public lands. More than ever we must remind ourselves that forest conservation at the state level has a long history as well, and further, that efforts to set aside land in public trust have deep roots in many of the nation's state capitols. Similarly, we must reacquaint ourselves with the reasons why states instituted professional forestry programs in the first place and why they deemed it necessary to transfer considerable portions of land from private to public hands. These roots of public stewardship at both the state and federal level may still be the roots that safeguard a legacy of land conservation for the future.<sup>37</sup>

#### NOTES

1. Edna Warren, "Forests and Parks in the Old Line State," *American Forests*, 62 (October 1956): 13–25, 56–77; Jack Temple Kirby, *Poquosin: A Study of Rural Landscape and Society* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995), 219–21.
2. Thomas R. Cox, *The Park Builders: A History of State Parks in the Pacific Northwest* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1988); Neil Rolde, *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries* (Gardiner, Me.: Tilbury House Publishers, 1997); Paul Schneider, *The Adirondacks: A History of America's First Wilderness* (New York: Henry Holt & Company, Inc., 1997); James Wright Steely, *Parks for Texas: Enduring Landscapes of the New Deal* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1999); Phillip G. Terrie, *Contested Terrain: A New History of Nature and People in the Adirondacks* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1999); Ralph R. Widner, ed., *Forests and Forestry in the American States: A Reference Anthology* (Washington, D.C.: National Association of State Foresters, 1968); Freeman Tilden, *The State Parks: Their Meaning in American Life* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970).
3. A notable exception is William H. Rivers' chapter, "Massachusetts State Forestry Programs," in Charles H. W. Foster ed., *Stepping Back to Look Forward: A History of the Massachusetts Forests* (Cambridge: Harvard Forest Press, 1998). With respect to Maryland's early

efforts at conservative forest management, Kirby writes in *Poquosin*, "Maryland's program must be deemed a huge success, and a model for the lackadaisical commonwealths to the south" (221).

4. Douglas W. MacCleery, *American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery* (Durham, N.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, in cooperation with the Forest History Society, 1993); Paul W. Hirt, *A Conspiracy of Optimism: Management of the National Forests Since World War Two* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994); Keith D. Wiebe, Ababayehu Tegene, and Betsey Kuhn, "Land Tenure, Land Policy, and the Property Rights Debate," in *Who Owns America?: Social Conflict Over Property Rights*, Harvey M. Jacobs, ed. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998), 79–93; Stephen Fox, *The American Conservation Movement: John Muir and His Legacy* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1981).
5. MacCleery, *American Forests*.
6. MacCleery, *American Forests*; Hirt, *Conspiracy of Optimism*, 29; Gordon G. Whitney, *From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain: A History of Environmental Change in Temperate North America, 1500 to the Present* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994). In the introduction to *Forests and Forestry in the American States: A Reference Anthology*, Widner argues that forest conservation in the U.S. truly began at the state and not the federal government level, a clear reference to the establishment of New York's Adirondack State Park.
7. Samuel P. Hays, *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency: The Progressive Conservation Movement, 1890–1920* (New York: Atheneum, 1969), xii–xiii, 29, 32.
8. Tilden, *State Parks*, 4; Robert Shankland, *Steve Mather of the National Parks*, 3rd ed. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1951), ch. 14; Sylvia Haines Elliott, "The Impact of Concession Operations on Heritage Resource Interpretation in the State Parks of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest" (M.A. Thesis, University of Oregon, 1994), ch. 3.
9. Tilden, *State Parks*, 11; Beatrice Ward Nelson, *State Recreation: Parks, Forests and Game Preserves* (Washington, D.C.: National Conference on State Parks, Inc., 1928). Fred W. Besley's, *The Forests of Maryland* (Baltimore: Maryland State Board of Forestry, 1916) and *Report for 1910 and 1911* (Baltimore: State Board of Forestry, 1911) make reference to state parks, as does J. Gordon Dorrance's, *The State Reserves of Maryland: "A Playground for the Public"* (Baltimore: Maryland State Board of Forestry, 1919). Numerous newspaper articles and handbills also refer to the reserves as parks prior to 1921. Dorrance, in particular, promotes the idea of tourism in the forest reserves. Much of Dorrance's report was reprinted in the *The Methodist*, July 15, 1920.
10. Ross Kimmel, Offutt Johnson, and Dorna Cooper, *Three Centuries of Service: The History and Tradition of Maryland Rangers* (Annapolis: State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, 1994); Maryland Legislature, *Forest Laws of Maryland, Acts of 1906*, chapter 294, "An Act to establish a State Board of Forestry and to promote forest interests and arboriculture in the State," as amended in chapter 161, Acts 1910, and chapter 823, Acts of 1914; Robert and John W. Garrett, April 10, 1907, Garrett Bequest to the State of Maryland. Liber 54, folio 425, Land Records of Garrett County. As the following passage from the bequest clearly indicates, the Garrett brothers were prepared to withdraw their gift if the state did not comply with their request to institute a program of forest conservation: "Provided, however, that if within the period of the next twenty-five years from the date hereof, the said State of Maryland should neglect or fail to carry out the provisions of said Forestry Act, or abandon the property hereby donated, then the title to the said several tracts and parcels of land shall revert to the said donors . . . [who] shall have the right to take over the possession of said tracts of land, and hold them the same as if said gift had not been made." Offutt Johnson, *Park Naturalist*, Patapsco Valley State Park, notes that these lands were com-

pletely denuded at the time the donation was made. According to Warren (*Forests and Parks*, 15), Brown may have received assistance from Gifford Pinchot in writing the Maryland Forestry Conservation Act.

11. Widner, *Forests and Forestry*, 92–93; Gifford Pinchot, *Breaking New Ground* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1947); Will Barker, “Maryland’s First State Forester,” *American Forests*, 62 (October 1956): 38, 77–84.

12. *Baltimore News*, January 19 and May 16, 1906; Nelson, *State Recreation*.

13. In Gifford Pinchot’s *The Training of a Forester*, 4th ed. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1937), 63, the author admonishes foresters to develop a solid rapport with the general public, noting that “In a peculiar sense the Forester depends upon public opinion and public support for the means of carrying on his work, and for its final success.” For a review of Pinchot’s public relations efforts see Stephen Ponder, “Federal News Management in the Progressive Era: Gifford Pinchot and the Conservation Crusade,” *Journalism History*, 13 (January 1986): 42–48 and Char Miller, “Old Growth: A Reconstruction of Gifford Pinchot’s *Training of a Forester*, 1914–1937,” *Forest & Conservation History*, 38 (January 1994): 7–15. Austin Hawes provides a state-level perspective in “Connecticut: Scattering the Seeds,” in Ralph R. Widner ed., *Forests and Forestry in the American States: A Reference Anthology* (Washington, D.C.: National Association of State Foresters, 1968), 103.

14. Fred W. Besley, *Maryland’s Forest Resources: A Preliminary Report*, Forestry Leaflet No. 7. (Baltimore: Maryland State Board of Forestry, 1909), 3; Barker, *State Forester*, 38; Warren, *Forests and Parks*, 19; Fred W. Besley, *The Forests of Maryland* (Baltimore: Maryland State Board of Forestry, 1916), 41.

15. Fred W. Besley, “The Forests and Their Products,” in *The Plant Life of Maryland* (Baltimore: The Maryland Weather Service, 1910), 363, 376.

16. Besley, *Maryland’s Forest Resources*; Fred W. Besley, *The Forests of Allegany County* (Baltimore: Maryland State Board of Forestry, 1912); Besley, *Forests and Their Products*, 364; Besley, *Forests of Maryland*, 47–48.

17. Fred W. Besley, *The Wood-Using Industries of Maryland* (Baltimore: Maryland State Board of Forestry, 1919). For a brief examination of deforestation and recovery on a national scale, see Douglas W. MacCleery’s “Resiliency and Recovery: A Brief History of Conditions and Trends in U.S. Forests,” *Forest & Conservation History*, 38 (July 1994): 135–39. More detailed treatments abound. Among the best is Michael Williams’s *Americans and Their Forests: A Historical Geography* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989).

18. Besley, *Forests and Their Products*.

19. Kirby, *Poquosin*, 219; William Bullock Clark, *Maryland Geological Survey: Allegany County* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1900); William Bullock Clark, *Report on the Physical Features of Maryland: Together with an Account of the Exhibits of Maryland Mineral Resources Made by the Maryland Geological Survey* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1906), 247–48; George B. Sudworth, “The Forests of Allegany County,” in *Maryland Geological Survey: Allegany County* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1900), 279.

20. Besley, *Forests and Their Products*, 379.

21. Fred W. Besley, *The Forests of Anne Arundel County* (Baltimore: Maryland State Board of Forestry, 1917), 225.

22. Fred W. Besley, *Report for 1920 and 1921* (Baltimore: State Board of Forestry, 1921); Fred W. Besley, *Report for 1922 and 1923* (Baltimore: State Board of Forestry, 1923); Besley, *Forests of Anne Arundel*, 221; Besley, *Forests and Their Products*, 364–65.

23. Clark, *Physical Features of Maryland*, 248.

24. Timothy Cochrane, "Trial By Fire: Early Forest Service Rangers' Fire Stories," *Forest & Conservation History*, 35 (January 1991): 16–23; *Baltimore Sun*, April 1, 2, 16, and May 6, 1920; January 9, 16, 26, February 5, 6, 19, and May 18, 1921; *Baltimore News*, April 16 and May 3, 1920; March 5, 1921; *Oakland Republican*, May 19, 1921; Nelson, *State Recreation*, 111.
25. Maryland General Assembly, Forest Laws of Maryland, Acts of 1914, Chapter 824, "An Act conferring power upon the State Board of Forestry to plant trees along the roadsides, to protect roadside trees, to establish one or more nurseries for their propagation, to prohibit the unauthorized placing of advertisements and other notices on the public highways or the property of other persons, and to provide a penalty for the violation thereof," as amended in Chapter 548, Acts of 1916.
26. *Baltimore Sun*, March 22 and April 9, 10, 1920; March 31, April 2, 21, 25, and May 21, 1921; *Baltimore News*, March 11, 30, and 31, 1921).
27. *Berlin Advertiser*, July 16, 1920; *Cecil Whig* (Elkton), January 22, 1921; *Easton Gazette*, February 18, 1921; Nelson, *State Recreation*, 111.
28. Besley, *Forests of Anne Arundel*, 218; Fred W. Besley, "Forestry Leaflet No. 18," in *Report for 1914 and 1915* (Baltimore: State Board of Forestry, 1915); Garrett, Bequest to the State of Maryland.
29. *Sun*, February 9, 1921; Clark, *Physical Features of Maryland*, 247–48; Besley, *Maryland's Forest Resources*, 8–9.
30. Association of Southeastern State Park Directors, *Histories of Southeastern State Park Systems* (October 1977); Dorrance, *State Reserves of Maryland*; Nelson, *State Recreation*; Kimmel, *Three Centuries of Service*, 14.
31. Besley, *Forests of Allegany County*, 5.
32. Dorrance, *State Reserves of Maryland*, 7.
33. *Ibid.*, 9. The reference to the B&O Railroad is an important one. In the introduction to his report, Dorrance states: "This leaflet, as it now appears, is in large part a reprint and extension of one prepared earlier by the Board of Forestry, and published in 1916 by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad."
34. For a more detailed discussion of the value of parks to urban residents, see David Schuyler, *The New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth Century America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), 59. See also Roy Rosenzweig and Elizabeth Blackmar, *The Park and the People: A History of Central Park* (New York: Henry Holt, 1992).
35. Fred W. Besley, "State Forests and Parks," in *The Forest Resources and Industries of Maryland* (Baltimore: Maryland Development Bureau of the Baltimore Association of Commerce, 1937), 184–85.
36. Nelson, *State Recreation*, 112; *Baltimore Sun*, December 9, 1920.
37. Recent additions to the growing body of "property rights" literature include: Philip D. Brick and R. McGregor Cawley, eds., *A Wolf in the Garden: The Land Rights Movement and the New Environmental Debate* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1996); Peter J. Hill and Roger E. Meiners, eds., *Who Owns the Environment?* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1998); Harvey M. Jacobs, ed., *Who Owns America?: Social Conflict Over Property Rights* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998); Robert H. Nelson, *A Burning Issue: A Case for Abolishing the U.S. Forest Service* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1999).

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