The Greatest Good: 100 Years of Forestry in America
Review by Sunshine Buchholz, LEAF Forestry Education Specialist

During 2005, the U.S. Forest Service is celebrating its 100th anniversary. To commemorate this occasion, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) published the second edition of The Greatest Good: 100 Years of Forestry in America by Char Miller and Rebecca Staebler.

Forget a lengthy, dry historical account. This book does an excellent job of telling the story of America’s forests through a blend of quotes and photographs, historical documents, and even political cartoons. A timeline of significant forest-related events in the U.S. over the past 100 years flows throughout the book.

Chapter one explores the importance of wood to nineteenth-century Americans. Chapter two covers the growth of the forestry profession, creation of the U.S. Forest Service, and the impact of World War II on wood use. Chapter three reveals the changes in forestry with the emergence of environmental consciousness. Chapter four examines the technologies and innovations that play a role in sustainable forestry today. Through this photographic journey of the people, places, and events that have shaped forestry in the U.S., this coffee table book is a welcome addition to any forestry library. Its a great read for anyone interested in forest history.

To purchase a copy visit the SAF website: http://store.safnet.org/
To learn more about the U.S. Forest Service Centennial visit: www.fs.fed.us/centennial/