

Celebrating Women's History Month

PIONEERING WOMEN IN FORESTRY



Wangari Maathai

Wangari Maathai is known as the woman who changed the world. She was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree. Wangari established the grassroots Green Belt Movement, which focuses on planting trees with groups of women to empower them and help conserve the environment.

The group has planted over 50 million trees and educated many women in the field of forestry. Wangari has earned numerous awards for her efforts, including a Nobel Peace Prize!

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Marina Silva

Marina Silva is one of Brazil's leading political figures and environmentalists. Growing up poor and illiterate, she pushed to educate herself and was elected as Brazil's youngest-ever senator in 1994. As an Amazonian native, she has taken measures to protect the Amazon, working to decrease illegal activity, reduce reforestation and protect indigenous rights. She has also established the Amazon Fund, which works to prevent greenhouse gas emission through rainforest conservation.

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Margaret Stoughton Abell

Margaret Stoughton Abell was the first female Forest Service Research Forester. Breaking in a male-dominated field in 1930, Margaret was hired to conduct research at the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station. She published articles and encouraged women to pursue careers in forestry, following in the path she was paving. She left a legacy behind through her research and nature photography.

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Margaret March-Mount

Margaret March-Mount started out as a U.S. Forest Service clerk in 1913.

There she began writing and speaking about the benefits of trees and was nicknamed "ambassador of the trees". She used her public relation skills to work with schools and women's clubs to teach about tree planting and forest fire prevention. Her 'pennies for pines' program led to the planting of over 6 million trees across 6,000 acres.