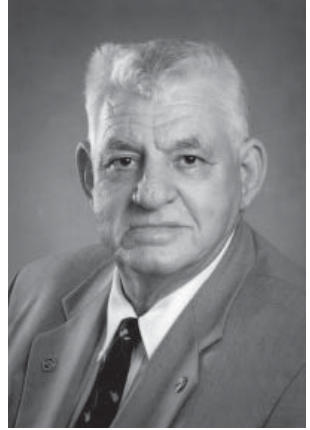


Gerald William “Jerry” Waybright

Gerald William “Jerry” Waybright was born in Pickens, W.Va. He attended West Virginia University (WVU), receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management in May 1963. He is a life member of the WVU Division of Forestry Alumni Association and WVU Alumni Association. He married the late Charlotte Dodson and they had a daughter, Kimberly Waybright Lee, now a teacher in Wood County.

In 1963, Mr. Waybright began his forestry career with the W.Va. Division of Forestry (WVDOF) as a county forester for Doddridge, Harrison and Gilmer Counties, headquartered in West Union. In 1966, he was promoted to assistant district forester – the first position of this type in the WVDOF. In 1968, he was promoted to district forester for the newly created Parkersburg District, where he served until his retirement in 2006. In this position he has provided assistance to countless woodland owners and mentored many foresters to improve forest management throughout the district and the state. He became a relentless champion of improved timber harvesting practices and was a major player in counseling loggers to adopt the voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other forest management guidelines developed and promoted in the early 1970s prior to BMPs being required under the West Virginia Logging Sediment Control Act.



Mr. Waybright is a member of the Nature Conservancy and National Arbor Day Foundation, promoting and participating in countless tree planting events; W.Va. Forestry Association (WVFA), serving one term as secretary/treasurer and two terms on the board of directors; and W.Va. Society of American Foresters (SAF), serving on the program and executive committees. He has met SAF national standards and is a nationally recognized certified forester. He was the SAF representative to the Forest Technology program at Glenville State College and serves on their Land Resources Advisory Committee. His leadership and promotion was a major asset in helping to achieve SAF voting rights for forest technician members. He was also instrumental in the successful effort in obtaining legislation that permitted registration of forest technicians by the W.Va. Board of Registration for Foresters.

In 1968, Mr. Waybright joined the Little Kanawha River Rural Conservation and Development (RC&D) where he spearheaded a project that resulted in a major publication, Keeping Mud out of West Virginia’s Creeks and Streams. The practices outlined in this publication were largely adopted in the rules and regulations developed to carry out the W.Va. Logging Sediment Control Act. He received their 1982 Person of the Year and 2006 Service Award for leadership and innovation in the management of natural resources.

Mr. Waybright serves as Tree Farm Committee area six chairman. This organization promotes the application of science-based forest management on privately owned forestland throughout the state. He also had a major leadership role in “Trees for Home and Streets in West Virginia” – the first significant urban forestry program in the state. He has always been ready to assist with youth groups to advance their knowledge of all natural resources. He has portrayed “Smokey Bear” probably more than any other person in West Virginia at fairs, festivals and other events.

Mr. Waybright has a keen interest in forest history and has assembled a sizeable collection of memorabilia that he shares with the public when he demonstrates the WVFA scale model circular sawmill at the Mountain State Forest Festival, annual Timber and Wood Show and various other fairs and festivals.