

Eugene “Gene” P. Shreve

Born on April 1, 1927, Eugene “Gene” P. Shreve was raised on a farm near Buckhannon. He graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 1943 at the age of 16. His interest in forestry began while occasionally working with an uncle who made tool handles out of hickory and ash.

In September 1943, he enrolled in the Forestry School at West Virginia University. World War II interrupted his education in 1945 and 1946. Following his service in the U.S. Army, he returned to Morgantown and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Management.

Mr. Shreve began his professional career in 1949 as a forester with the West Virginia Conservation Commission at Lewisburg, where he worked with landowners in Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Monroe counties. In 1950, he left the Conservation Commission and began managing the forestlands of a number of coal companies.

In 1966, Mr. Shreve became a District Supervisor of Wood Procurement at Westvaco Corporation’s Bleached Board Division at Covington, Va. His stay at Westvaco until his retirement in 1989, working as a Supervisor for all timber purchases and then as Supervisor of the Cooperative Forest Management Program.

During his career, he spent much of his “spare time” advancing his chosen profession. He is a 59-year member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and past Chair of the West Virginia Division of the SAF. He received a gubernatorial appointment to the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Foresters and served as its first Secretary-Treasurer from 1963 to 1967, and later as its Chairman.

Two aspects of Mr. Shreve’s career deserve special recognition.

The first is his work starting in the mid-1960s in recreating and stimulating the growth of the WVU Forestry Alumni Association. Membership today totals over 500. He has served on the Executive Committee for two three-year terms and as Secretary-Treasurer from 1966-1974. He is a past member of the Visiting Committee of the College of Agriculture and Forestry. He was appointed to a lifetime term as WVU Forestry Endowment Fund Trustee and served as the Fund’s Treasurer from its beginning in 1973 to 2001. He worked tirelessly to build up the Fund to the point it could be used to grant scholarships. The first scholarship was awarded in 1989. By 2001, seven scholarships were in place. During his period of service, the value of the Fund went from zero to \$450,000. In 2001, the Alumni Association recognized Mr. Shreve for his years of service and presented him with a wooden WVU Mountaineer statue at the annual meeting of the West Virginia Forestry Association. The Alumni Executive Committee voted to create another annual scholarship and named it in his honor. It also recognized Mr. Shreve for the time he spent on the establishment, development and growth of the Endowment Fund, which is now approaching its \$1 million goal.

The second area is Mr. Shreve’s work spearheading the creation of the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Foresters, which was written into state law in 1963. The law specifies the credentials needed and code of conduct for forestry professionals. The Board today has licensed more than 800 foresters and forestry technicians working in West Virginia.

