

Barbara A. McWhorter



Barbara A. McWhorter was born October 3, 1961 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She knew early on that she didn't want to live in a city and wanted a more rural lifestyle. She attended WVU in the early 1980s and found her passion in forestry. In 1983, she was received as a Gamma Sigma Delta National Agriculture and Forestry Honorary. She has since devoted her career to advocating for the conservation of natural resources, and specifically, for forest resources as a renewable resource.

Her success continued into her career as a state forester and then with the NRCS/SCS. Her knowledge of conservation education, technology development/training and conservation programs have been passed on to thousands of landowners. Her experiences with commercial forestry, state and federal forest conservation programs and practices is what makes her uniquely qualified and skilled in designing programs, policy and practices in the forestry industries.

McWhorter developed the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) which has provided more than a million dollars of financial and technical assistance to hundreds of state woodlands. She was also the key developer of forestry skills materials used at the International Envirothon Competitions hosted in WV. In addition, she was a collaborator on the creation and implementation of the WV Forest Stewardship Partnership. This project is dedicated to managing vegetation and soil on state and private lands.

She also serves as an agency-provided Adjunct Professor with WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. She teaches two classes on forest conservation each year.

McWhorter is a respected forester and conservationist in our state, the Appalachian region, and the nation.

McWhorter is active in many different associations throughout the state. She is a WV Registered Professional Forester, member of National Association of Conservation Districts and Communications Chair of the Society of American Foresters to name a few. She is also a WV 4-H All-Star, was named the WV Forestry Association Forester of the Year in 2010 and also named a Distinguished Mountaineer in 2010.

In 2013, she was presented with the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design Distinguished Alumni Award. She has also received numerous NRCS Performance awards in her 33 years of service.

McWhorter attends Homer United Methodist Church. She and her husband Ralph are parents to three sons.