

James W. Dearing



Jim Dearing is widely regarded in West Virginia as a champion of proper forestry management who is committed to sustainability of the State's forest resources. He worked his entire career in the wood products industry. In 1964, he graduated from the National Hardwood Lumber Association's Lumber Grading School. He began his working career in Pennsylvania grading lumber in the mid-1960s. He moved to Mann, W.Va., when he was recruited by the J. P. Hamer Company. His talent for understanding production and people earned him a position as mill manager in Salyersville, Ky.

Not only has Mr. Dearing been a leader for landowners and mill employees but he has also guided his three sons into various disciplines of the wood products community. One son is a forester, one is an operations manager over several Jim C. Hamer operations, and the other is a controller at the same company. He continues to spend time with them all (and a bevy of grandchildren) in hunting and fishing activities.

For many years Jim has been vice-president of operations for the Jim C. Hamer Company, overseeing hundreds of thousands of acres under his management and directing 15 foresters under his tutelage. His responsibilities as operations director have included timber procurement, forestland management, and director of 10 operations and its 400-plus employees. He is the principle in constructing management plans with his foresters.

When it comes to statistics about West Virginia forests he is the "go-to-guy." His knowledge about private and public forests has been of immeasurable value in helping educate employees, educators and public officials about forestry in West Virginia.

Jim and his wife Ellen (of 40 years) have 5 children and 6 grandchildren. They have resided in Huntington, W.Va. for the past 27 years.