

Alan R. Miller



Alan R. Miller has devoted most of his professional forestry career to fighting the most devastating insects and diseases the State's forests have ever encountered.

Miller initiated the State's first periodic Forest Disease and Insect Surveys. He conducted the Gypsy Moth Suppression, Oak Wilt Control, White Pine Blister and American Chestnut survey and research programs as a supervisor in the State-Federal Cooperative Forest Pest Action Program for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

After 25 years of service, he became the assistant state forester in charge of fire protection in the Division of Forestry, again concentrating on insects, tree diseases and fire. He retired in 1993.

He made gypsy moth control a high priority after most State leaders gave it only cursory consideration. His systematic control efforts kept the destructive pest contained to three Eastern Panhandle counties for more than six years.

Miller saved the State's wood products industry after several foreign countries banned logs from oak wilt-infested countries. He worked with sawmills to ensure that log and lumber shipments bound for those countries originated from unaffected counties.

He reorganized the forest fire prevention program so it better utilized the assistance of local volunteer fire departments.

Miller's well-known nature tours have educated the State's youths on forest plants, fruits, fungi, insects and the effects insect infestations and wildfires can have.

His contributions to education and service were recognized by Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society for agriculture, in 1997, when he received the award of merit for distinguished service to West Virginia Agriculture. He has directed the State Conservation Camp and Forest Industries Camp. Miller has chaired the Forest Festival Exhibits Committee for 29 years, the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact, and the National Gypsy Moth Management Board.

With these activities and others, he demonstrates the integrity and dedication to the forestry industry.