

# Eldon Plaughter

Eldon Plaughter was born in 1948 in Parsons. He graduated from Parsons High School in 1966 and earned two degrees from Glenville State College – an AAS in Forest Technology in 1970 and a B.A. in Business in 1974. He is well-recognized in the industry for his skill and experience as a forester and land surveyor, and has often served as the public face of industrial forestry in West Virginia. A lifelong resident of West Virginia, he remains a lifelong steward of the land.

He has worked in forestry since his student days, serving two summer internships with the U.S. Forest Service. In 1966 he was part of the timber marking crew of the Cheat Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest, and in 1987, he worked with the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station and the Fernow Experimental Forest.

From 1970-1975, he worked as a Forest Technician with Glenville State College's Department of Forest Technology, where he conducted labs in Forest Management, Surveying, Wood Products, Aerial Photography, Timber Harvesting and Dendrology for future foresters and land managers. He was first licensed as a Land Surveyor in 1976. He is also a licensed W.Va. Forester and W.Va. Real Estate Agent.

From January 1975 until his retirement in April 2010, Mr. Plaughter was an employee of MeadWestvaco Corporation (MWV). During his 35 years with MWV, he held a number of positions, including Elkins Area Supervisor and Land



Agent for MWV's Appalachian Forest. At MWV he acquired, managed and sold hundreds of thousands of acres throughout his career.

During his tenure in Elkins he worked for many years with the W.Va. Society of American Foresters (SAF) on the Teachers' Economic Tour, an educational program designed to improve the forestry knowledge of high school science teachers and students.

He also established a field tour that became an outdoor classroom, demonstrating a broad array of important forest management and road construction methods. Always included was a stop at a local sawmill and a veneer yard so the participants could see the entire cycle of forestry.

A 40-plus-year member of the SAF, Mr. Plaughter served as chairman and co-chairman of the W.Va. Division of the SAF. He has been a member of the West Virginia Forestry Association since its founding in 1972, and served two terms on its Board of Directors. He has served over 20 years as a member of the Glenville State College Forest Technology Advisory Committee.

Mr. Plaughter was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in 2004, and the Council of Eastern Forestry Technician Schools presented him with the Graduate Forestry Technician Achievement Award in 2000.

He is an avid outdoorsman and a member of the W.Va. Christmas Tree Growers Association. With his wife, Linda, he manages a small choose- and- cut Christmas tree farm. He and his family enjoy gardening and harvest hay on approximately eight acres.

Linda worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 20 years until her retirement in December 2012. His two sons hold advanced degrees in Forestry from WVU, and both are following in his footsteps as leaders in the forest industry.