

# Linda O. Carnell



Linda O. Carnell was born Nov. 20, 1969 at Glen Dale. She graduated from WVU with a B.S. in Forest Resources Management in 1984.

In the following year, she participated in the International 4-H Youth Exchange. She lived for a year in Trinidad and Tobago as part of a program between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry there and WVU Extension. Upon her return, she visited all 55 West Virginia counties to talk about her experience.

That tour began a career in forestry and conservation education. Beginning in 1981, Carnell served as instructor at the State Conservation Camp in Cowen and is currently the Assistant Director of the Camp Executive Committee. She served on the WV Department of Education's curriculum committee for forestry programs. She is a member of the Mineral County STEM Festival Steering Committee, which has reached several thousand students, parents and teachers. She has also served in leadership roles with the West Virginia Envirothon, the West Virginia Forest Industries Camp and the National 4-H Forestry Invitational.

In 1991 she became a Project Learning Tree (PLT) facilitator. In 2006, she peer reviewed the new PLT Pre-K - 8 Environmental Education Activity Curriculum and Manual. And in 2014, she became the PLT State Coordinator. As such, she coordinates environmental education programs, professional development training for educators, and training for new facilitators.

She has also been a critical source of information for the state's forestry industry through a variety of industry shifts. She joined the West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDFOF) as a regional forester for the Eastern Panhandle. She analyzed logging markets and conducted efficiency studies for local mills. She also provided training to industry on OSHA requirements and helped the state Development Office locate new business in the West Virginia.

From 1991-93 she was part of a committee that developed the Logging Sediment Control Act. She has served on the Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation Committee since 2003 and coordinated the WVDFOF Forest Legacy Program since 2006. She organized the 2017 National Association of State Foresters Annual Conference in West Virginia. In 2018, she was promoted to Assistant State Forester – Education.

Twice she was selected as the WVDFOF District 2 Employee of the Year. In 1998, she was named the WVDFOF State Employee of the Year. The West

Virginia Forestry Association gave her the 2006 Environmental Award and the 2011 Forester of the Year Award.

She has been an active 4-H leader in Mineral County and is the club's Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator. She is a member of the Mineral County Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS). She belongs to the Keyser Church of the Assumption, where she is a choir member and cantor.