

Mary Beth Adams



Mary Beth Adams was born July 8, 1958, at Seymour, Ind. She earned a B.S.F. degree in Forestry in 1980 from Purdue University and a then a Master's Degree in 1982. She received her Ph.D. Degree from the North Carolina State University Department of Soil Science and School of Forest Resources in 1986. She conducted post-doctoral research for three years at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Environmental Sciences Division. In 1989, she took a position with USDA Forest Service (USDA-FS) doing research on spruce and fir trees, and then became the USDA-FS Project Leader at its Northern Research Station in Parsons, a position she held for ten years. Since 2010, she was worked as a USDA-FS Research Soil Scientist at both Parsons

and Morgantown.

She has worked as an adjunct faculty member at WVU, Marshall University and Davis & Elkins College. She has also served on graduate student committees at WVU, Marshall, Howard University, the University of Pittsburgh and Virginia Tech University. She is a member of the Emeritus Visiting Committee to the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

She has also mentored students from Purdue and West Virginia Wesleyan College, and worked with Howard University and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities on a nationally recognized project entitled "Forest Health: Air Pollution Effects," which provided a cooperative work experience for students and addressed USDA-FS research needs. She helped organize and conduct a variety of field tours and workshops throughout West Virginia and the country, and she served on the MeadWastvaco Wildlife and Ecosystem Research Forest Steering Committee. She was the Forest Service representative to the Chesapeake Bay Research Consortium Science and Technology Advisory Committee and served two years as the Chair of the Forest Service's Experimental Forests and Ranges Chartered Working Group.

She served on the Governor's Panel on Mining, Timbering and Flooding Forest Hydrology Subcommittee, established following devastating and controversial flooding in the southern coalfields in 2001.

She has edited a half-dozen journals and has nearly 160 papers to her credit. She has held leadership roles in a wide variety of professional organizations, particularly the Soil Science Society of America. Numerous organizations have presented her with awards of service and appreciation. The Purdue University School of Agriculture named her to its 2016 class of Outstanding Alumni.

She is a Board Member for the Randolph County Habitat for Humanity, music director at her church, a member of the Elkins Kiwanis, and a Board Member for the Augusta Youth Ballet who has played the "Mouse King" for many years in the group's annual production of "The Nutcracker."