

Larry L. May



Larry Lee May was born March 1, 1945 in Kingwood, WV. Instilled with a keen interest in the outdoors, he attended and graduated from WVU, earning a degree in Forest Management in 1966. After his graduation he served with the U.S. Army Reserves. In 1971, Larry married Elaine Wilson and had two children, Emily and David Scott May.

After marrying, Larry went to work with the WV Division of Forestry (WVD OF) as a service forester providing assistance to landowners in Grant, Hardy and Pendleton Counties. As a service forester he was an early promoter of best management practices (BMPs) for timber harvesting and sustainable forest management.

During his time as a service forester, May started his own company, May Tree Enterprises, LLC, and began planting Christmas trees on his farm in Grant County.

He worked for the WVD OF until the mid 1970s, when he took work at Kessel Lumber Company. While working at Kessel, May continued to promote sustainable forest management and grow his own Christmas tree operation. Mr. May left Kessel after nearly 20 years to devote full time to his Christmas Tree operation and forestry consulting activities. His farm became a showplace for modern Christmas tree management practices. Mr. May actively conducted trial plantings of many tree species to determine their potential for commercial production in West Virginia and shared the results with fellow growers. He hosted three summer meetings of the WV Christmas Tree Growers Association, along with many other farm tours. Mr. May's hard work, innovation and knowledge helped to greatly promote West Virginia's Christmas Tree industry. His own farm became the largest Christmas tree operation in the state. Mr. May passed away in January 2014.