

Ephe M. Olliver



Ephe M. Olliver was born September 21, 1906 in Hastings, Pennsylvania. Raised on the family farm, Mr. Olliver became an outdoorsman, particularly enjoying hunting. While working on a teaching degree from Indiana State Teachers College in 1927, he realized that he was meant for an outdoors life, and in 1928 enrolled in the Forestry Program at Penn State University. He completed his Forestry degree there in 1931.

Mr. Olliver began working with the U.S. Forest Service on the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. While there, he married Ardee Grey in 1934 before moving to Kentucky as part of a team to purchase land that would eventually become the Cumberland National Forest. While in Kentucky, Ardee and Olliver had two sons, Ephe A. and Grey M. Olliver.

In 1938, Mr. Olliver was transferred to West Virginia as District Ranger on the Greenbrier District at Durbin. It turned out to be a short assignment as forests in New England had been decimated by a hurricane and Mr. Olliver worked for years on timber salvage projects in that area. In 1941, he returned to the Cumberland National Forest as part of the Forest Supervisor's staff in charge of fire protection and then moved on to a position near Philadelphia. In 1952, he transferred back to Monongahela, where he stayed as Forest Supervisor for 17 years until his retirement in 1969.

Mr. Olliver was supportive of the effort in creating the WV Sawmill Operators Association which later evolved into the WV Forestry Association. He strongly believed in harvesting mature timber in such a way to be compatible with other uses of forestlands. He was also a member and supporter of the WV Christmas Tree Growers Association. He was also a strong advocate for forestry education, traveling as a speaker to forestry summer camps and to Morgantown to speak to classes at WVU. He was the recipient of the Izaak Walton League of America's Hall of Fame award in 1997 and was a charter member of the Mountaineer chapter of the Izaak Walton League. He was also a great supporter of the Mountain State Forest Festival in Elkins where he lived with his second wife Virginia for the remainder of his life. Mr. Olliver passed away in October 2001