

The Enshrinees

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Maurice L. Allman

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Maurice L. Allman was born in Jane Lew, W.Va., in 1922. He grew up on a farm in Lewis County, was active in 4-H and FFA, graduated from Jane Lew High School in 1941, and served in the United States Army, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge. Honorably discharged in 1946, he pursued a degree in agricultural education and agronomy from West Virginia University, graduating in 1950.

Mr. Allman began his conservation work in Gilmer County, where the farmers responded to his leadership to install soil conservation practices in record numbers, which not only assisted the farm families but reduced soil erosion.

His assignment in Lewis County was to reduce flooding from Polk and Stonecoal Creek watersheds in Weston, W.Va., by installing eight flood reduction dams, funded from local, county, state, federal and private sources. Mr. Allman led this effort, demonstrating his commitment and teamwork.

Mr. Allman took on a new assignment in Philippi, W.Va., to plan and establish a 12-county USDA Resource Conservation and Development area board to provide technical and financial assistance to units of government for public works of improvement. A number of projects were planned, funded and installed in each of the area counties. He currently serves as a member of this board.

Following his retirement in 1983, he has remained an active member of the local community, serving as an elected supervisor in the five-county Tygarts Valley Conservation District. He serves on the Barbour County Farm Family Day planning committee, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, and is active in his local church.



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Harold G. "Hal" Burke

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His first employment was with the West Virginia Conservation Commission, conducting wildlife research. He later became a salesman with the Osmose Treating Company. Recognizing the future of treated wood materials, Mr. Burke and two fellow foresters started their own company, Burke, Parsons and Bowlby Corporation in Spencer, W.Va. Operations were later expanded to include mill and treatment plants in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and other parts of West Virginia.

The Burke, Parsons, and Bowlby Corporation continues today. In the mid-1970s, Mr. Burke sold his interest in the firm and formed a new wood treating company, Appalachian Timber Services, Inc. He worked as owner-operator of the company until his retirement in 1989. Throughout his career, he was recognized as a visionary by wood utilization foresters.

In 1972, he was chairman of the committee that developed the West Virginia Forest Practices Standards for the industry. These were the first such standards in the United States and preceded U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations. These practices remained in effect until West Virginia adopted Best Management Practices in 1992.

An active member of the West Virginia Sawmill Operators Association, Mr. Burke saw the need for this association to include the whole wood industry in West Virginia. He helped organize the West Virginia Forest Products Association, later West Virginia Forests Incorporated, which became the West Virginia Forestry Association in 1985. Mr. Burke provided ongoing service to the organization, acting as president, secretary and board member. He was voted Director Emeritus of the Association in 2002.

Mr. Burke has been named a Distinguished Alumnus of the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences and its Division of Forestry. He has been a member of the Cross Lanes United Methodist Church for 50 years, assuming many leadership roles in the parish. He has taught Sunday school and served as a youth leader.



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George D. Curtin, Sr.
(1892 – 1967)

Born in Sutton, W.Va., January 24, 1892, George D. Curtin, Sr., received a Master of Forestry degree from Yale University in 1916, making him the first West Virginian and one of the first Americans to be a college-trained, professional forester.

After graduation from Yale, he served overseas during World War I. After the War, he joined his family's lumber business in central West Virginia. He first made his mark as a forester-businessman in 1925, when his intense lobbying of the West Virginia Legislature for forest fire protection led to the initiation of systematic, professional forest fire protection efforts, including many of the first fire towers in the nation.

It was through his visionary efforts that the West Virginia Game and Fish Commission became the Game, Fish, and Forestry Commission in 1929. (The agency ultimately became known as the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.) As one of three appointed commissioners with the organization, Mr. Curtin was instrumental in hiring a technically trained forester to be Chief Forester for the state.

He urged the West Virginia Legislature to use 25 percent of hunting and fishing license fees to support the West Virginia Forestry Department, a move that served as the unit's base funding through the early 1960s. This was a pivotal move in initiating the practice of professional forestry in the state.

Both as commissioner and woodland and mill owner, Mr. Curtin talked the forest industry into organizing a West Virginia General Forestry Committee to assist in the development of commercial forestry as an ongoing industry. He led the organization of the first West Virginia Commercial Forestry Conference in 1929.

He was the third generation of Curtins to manage the family's lumber business. His grandfather, George W. Curtin, moved the operation from Pennsylvania to the Grafton, W.Va., area in 1873, and to Nicholas County in 1890. George W. Curtin incorporated the Pardee and Curtin Lumber Company. His son, Harry B. Curtin, served as general manager of the company, and then passed the reins to his son, George Sr.

The company's historically significant mill at Bergoo in Webster County opened in 1928 and produced more than 200 million board feet of quality hardwood lumber. Mr. Curtin also operated underground coal mines, producing more than 23 million tons.

He passed away in 1967 in Clarksburg, W.Va.



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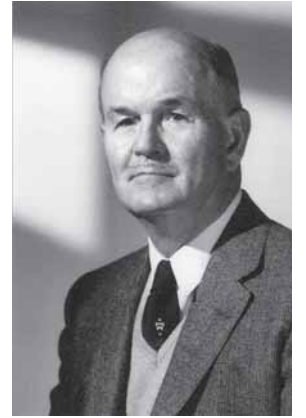
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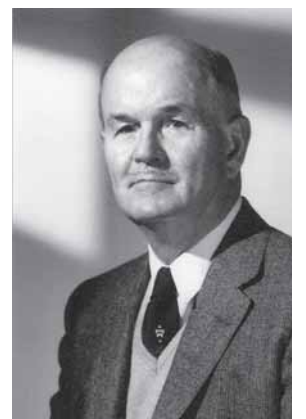
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William N. Grafton

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Mr. Grafton then joined the WVU Extension Service as a forestry specialist in Beckley, W.Va.; later serving as director for an 11-county area in southern West Virginia. He worked closely with forest and wood industries, concentrating on forest fire prevention and helping produce "Time Is Running Out," an award-winning film on fire prevention.

While in Beckley, he discovered the location in West Virginia of the endangered plant, "running buffalo clover." He has become a recognized authority on the flora of West Virginia, especially in the New River Gorge area.

Throughout his Extension career, Mr. Grafton has given of his time to promote forest management education to all citizens in the state. He has been a major contributor to youth education in West Virginia, helping to organize the Youth Science Camp in Wyoming and Raleigh Counties. He has been an annual instructor at the Forest Industries Camp for high school students.

Since his return to Morgantown as a wildlife specialist in the 1980s, he has worked extensively on deer herd management. He has worked with farmers, foresters and politicians, trying to find reasonable and sustainable recommendations on deer herd management in West Virginia.

Mr. Grafton has held leadership positions with the Society of American Foresters, and has been recognized by many organizations for his contributions to forest management in West Virginia. In 1993, he was enshrined as an honorary member of the West Virginia FFA. In 1994, he was honored with a faculty award by Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honors Society for Agriculture.

He has been an officer and leader in the Nature Conservancy, which promotes the protection of unique ecological sites. He has also been an officer and leader in the West Virginia Plant Society. For over 20 years, he has been a forest management instructor at the Conservation Education Camp for teachers in Webster County. He also provides information and organizational input for a similar camp held each summer at Blackwater Falls State Park.



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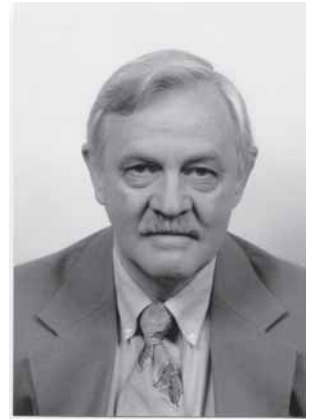
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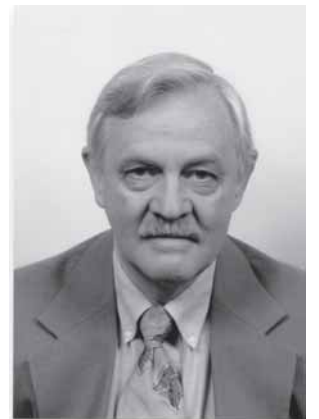
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Harry Lee Kesterson
(1913-1984)

Harry Lee Kesterson was born October 15, 1913. After taking a leadership role on his family's 350-acre farm at the age of 23, he married Alma Wharton in 1939. Together they raised eight children.

In 1953, he established a successful farm machinery business, Kesterson Sales Company. Through his business, he supported FFA programs at local high schools. He worked closely with vocational agriculture teachers in Wirt County to promote awareness.

Mr. Kesterson held a special place in his heart for 4-H. He was a founding member of the organization's Board of Directors and took a leadership role in the Wood County Fair. He hoped the event would be a showcase for young people's accomplishments in the area of agriculture and spark additional interest. He also hosted 4-H field days at his family's farm and welcomed local school groups for tours.

He served as supervisor for the Little Kanawha Soil Conservation District for many years. He was active in the Wood County and West Virginia Farm Bureaus. He was a committee member of the Farmer's Home Administration, helping to review and approve loans. He was instrumental in the development of the West Virginia Cattlemen's Association, serving as its first president.

After the Union Livestock Market in Parkersburg, W.Va., burned in the early 1970s, he saw the need for a new market for local farmers. He helped organize a group of entrepreneurs to build a new Union Livestock Market in Mineral Wells, W.Va. He served on the Market's board of directors and as treasurer, and took a leading role in the market's design and construction.

Mr. Kesterson was instrumental in bringing the Limousin breed of cattle to West Virginia. He studied the breed extensively and made many buying trips to ranches in Oklahoma and South Dakota. He was a lifetime member of the North American Limousin Association.

Beyond his efforts in agriculture, Mr. Kesterson had an active civic life. He was a member of Parkersburg Rotary, a 32nd degree Mason, and a member of the Order of the Odd Fellows. Active in the Stout Memorial United Methodist Church, he also served as Sunday School Superintendent at the Bethel Presbyterian Church.

While active personally and professionally, his first love was his family and the farm they shared. He stressed the importance of education to area youth.

Mr. Kesterson passed away in 1984.



Harry Lee Kesterson
(1913-1984)

Harry Lee Kesterson was born October 15, 1913. After taking a leadership role on his family's 350-acre farm at the age of 23, he married Alma Wharton in 1939. Together they raised eight children.

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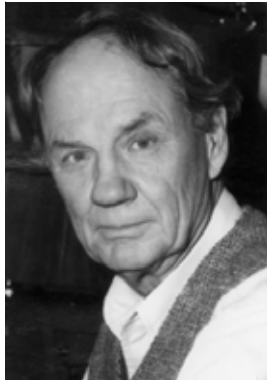
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George Anderson Myles

(1914 – 1999)

George Anderson Myles, West Virginia forester, businessman and conversationalist, was born on September 5, 1914, at Clifftop, Fayette County, West Virginia. He graduated from the West Virginia University School of Forestry in 1942 as a member of one of the earliest classes. He then joined the war effort as a wood specialist with the United States Technical Services, working to develop wood derived adhesives for the aviation unit.



Mr. Myers began his business career in 1946 with a small second-hand steam powered circle mill producing rough lumber in Goshen, Va. Recognizing the timber resources in Randolph County, in 1951 he relocated the sawmill operation to Elkwater. Ten years later, he constructed an all-new electric band mill on the Beverly Pike, south of Elkins, the present location of the Myers Lumber Company. In 1962, Mr. Myles joined with Pardee and Curtin Lumber Company as exclusive sales agent for the two lumber companies. In 1982, Myles and Cramer acquired a mill at Marlinton, now operating as W.M. Cramer Lumber.

Mr. Myles was active in promoting and supporting the state's forest industry. As a founding member, he was secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia Sawmill Operators Association, a predecessor of the existing W.Va. Forestry Association. He served as Tree Farm Coordinator for Randolph, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Webster and Greenbrier Counties where he worked with private landowners to protect and manage their wood resources. He served on the Trust Committee of the WVU Forestry Endowment Fund, which provides student scholarships to the WVU School of Forestry. In 1984, Mr. Myles was honored with the Outstanding Alumnus Award by the WVU, Division of Forestry Alumni Association for his significant contributions to the forestry profession and the wise use of natural resources.

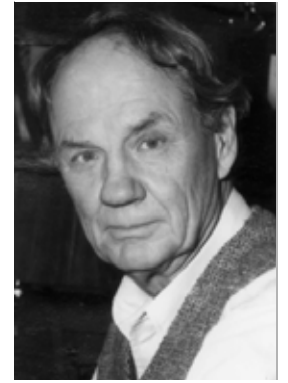
Mr Myles was also active in his community. He served as director of the Davis Trust Company for nearly 35 years and in 1995 was elected as Director Emeritus. He was instrumental in building the Elkins-Randolph County Library, where he served on its first board of trustees for 17 years as a member, then board president. He was also a member of the YMCA Board of Trustees before becoming a Trustee Emeritus. In 1964, the Elkins YMCA recognized Mr. Myles as a Patron of Youth.

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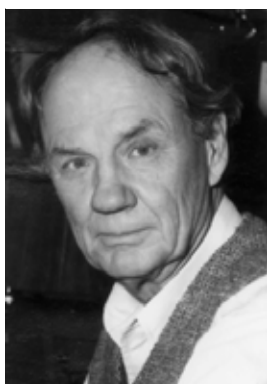
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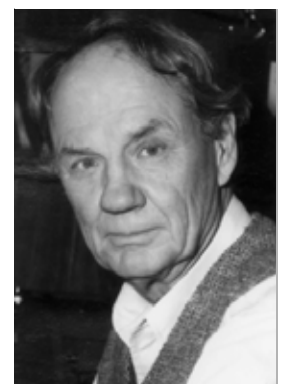
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Edward “Ed” W. Rock

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Born March 27, 1939, in Hillsboro, W.Va., Edward “Ed” W. Rock holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Glenville State College and a Master of Arts from West Virginia University. For more than 30 years, he has provided leadership to the State Fair of West Virginia.

As pressures developed to steer the Fair away from its agricultural roots, Mr. Rock always resisted. As a result, the Fair remains one of the few of its kind with a true agricultural focus.

Mr. Rock has overseen the expansion of the State Fair of West Virginia. Some developments include the establishment of the West Virginia Farm Museum, construction of the Cecil H. Underwood Youth Center highlighting 4-H and FFA exhibits, and construction of the Gus R. Douglass Annex to the West Virginia Building to highlight and expand exhibits from agricultural organizations.

The Poultry Industry Center highlights the importance of the poultry industry to West Virginia for fairgoers. The Fair has a state-of-the-art milking parlor, built to allow fairgoers to gain a better understanding of rural life.

Mr. Rock encourages use of the fairgrounds for agricultural events during the Fair and throughout the year. One recent activity was use of the Douglass Annex as a kitchen incubator, allowing small food processing businesses access to a health department approved kitchen. This enables these businesses to develop their product lines before making major facility investments.

The State Fair of West Virginia has grown exponentially under Mr. Rock’s leadership. More importantly the Fair has maintained its agricultural flavor during a time when many events were focusing on other areas of entertainment.

His leadership is demonstrated in the active role he takes in every organization with which he is associated. Some of these include the Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Rotary International, Eastern Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce, and Southern West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau.



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James W. Dearing

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Association's Lumber Grading School. He began his working career in Pennsylvania grading lumber in the mid-1960s. He moved to Mann, W.Va., when he was recruited by the J. P. Hamer Company. His talent for understanding production and people earned him a position as mill manager in Salyersville, Ky.

Not only has Mr. Dearing been a leader for landowners and mill employees but he has also guided his three sons into various disciplines of the wood products community. One son is a forester, one is an operations manager over several Jim C. Hamer operations, and the other is a controller at the same company. He continues to spend time with them all (and a bevy of grandchildren) in hunting and fishing activities.

For many years Jim has been vice-president of operations for the Jim C. Hamer Company, overseeing hundreds of thousands of acres under his management and directing 15 foresters under his tutelage. His responsibilities as operations director have included timber procurement, forestland management, and director of 10 operations and its 400-plus employees. He is the principle in constructing management plans with his foresters.

When it comes to statistics about West Virginia forests he is the "go-to-guy." His knowledge about private and public forests has been of immeasurable value in helping educate employees, educators and public officials about forestry in West Virginia.

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E. E. John Hott

(1920 – 2001)

John Hott was reared on a family farm at Kirby, W.Va., in Hampshire County. He was one of 12 children and was only able to receive an eighth grade education. After serving in World War II (including the D-Day experience), he returned home and met his wife, Ruth, a registered nurse. They moved to Pendleton County, her home, and start in the poultry business with Ruth's father, C. F. Burgoyne. He later bought the business from Mr. Burgoyne.



Mr. Hott was a visionary, blessed with a keen business mind coupled with an extremely strong work ethic. He began growing layer and broiler chickens in small houses. Realizing he had to market his chickens at a profit, he developed markets in Pittsburg, Cleveland, Akron and Huntington. At that time, there were no vertically integrated poultry businesses or poultry processing plants. His own feed mill became a necessity in 1954, which today is Hott's Ag-Service in Franklin, W.Va. With feed preparation capabilities,

this entrepreneur saw the opportunity to start contracting with other farmers to grow chickens for him. He provided the feed and marketing; thus the beginning of vertical integration in the West Virginia poultry industry.

In 1953, Mr. Hott, his father-in-law and two other investors bought the Texaco distributorship, operating under the name Franklin Oil Company. His fuel demand for poultry trucking, coupled with large kerosene and heating oil demands to heat his and the many early poultry houses of his cooperators afforded another business opportunity to help himself and service the growing industry.

Mr. Hott built the first large commercial poultry house in West Virginia (550 feet long). Agriculturalist from throughout the area came to see this large, state of the art poultry building. Rockingham Poultry Co-operative expanded to West Virginia in the 1950s, and Mr. Hott started selling to them. They lacked feed processing ability, so Mr. Hott's feed mill expanded and provided additional feed for the Co-op. He was one of the largest producers of poultry in West Virginia with 13 large houses providing 1,460,000 to 1,500,000 birds per year.

Mr. Hott used what he learned in that industry and began doing the same in the hog industry. He had the feed mill, and began feeding several hundred hogs a year. He bought the feeder pigs, fed some himself and provided feeder pigs and feed for other contract farmers to finish marketing at Shen-Valley Meat Packing Co-op.

Today, three sons and one son-in-law operate the day-to-day operations of the agribusinesses.

Mr. Hott was recognized for his accomplishments with many awards and honors, including W.Va. District Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1966, and honorary Lifetime Membership in the W.Va. Poultry Association.

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Mr. Jackson's primary contribution to the agricultural and forestry community was through education. During his 30 plus years of service at WVU, he taught a wide variety of courses in the Division of Forestry, authored and co-authored several research publications, and provided invaluable administrative support to the Division. He also served as Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Agriculture and Forestry, providing essential administrative support.

Mr. Jackson assisted sawmills in meeting OSHA standards, taught lumber grading short courses, and participated as an instructor for high school students at the annual Forest Industries Camp. He provided higher education expertise by serving on advisory committees of forest technology associate degree programs for Glenville State College and Allegheny Community College in Cumberland, Md. As a faculty member, he was advisor to countless students, was totally devoted to his profession and was always there to provide counsel and assistance to both students and parents. He was a role model and mentor for two generations of students and touched the lives of many professionals in forestry and educators throughout the state and region.

Mr. Jackson is a member of honoraries including Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta and Xi Sigma Pi. He was elected as the 1992 Division of Forestry Outstanding Alumni, and was featured in the student yearbook dedication in 1980. Upon his retirement in 1994, he was awarded the Professor Emeritus Status. In 1997, he was recognized as a distinguished alumnus of the college.

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Asher W. Kelly, Jr.
(1914 – 1991)

Asher W. Kelly, Jr., was born and raised in Randolph County, West Virginia. He was known for his “zest for life,” commitment to his profession, and love of his country and state. He served as a pilot with the U.S. Air Force in World War II, and was a retired Lt. Colonel in the West Virginia Air National Guard. In 1941, he received a bachelors degree in forestry from West Virginia University.



Mr. Kelly’s life was spent in the service of his state in private and public forestry. His career was primarily with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, serving as district forester for the Rupert region, assistant state forester for fire control and state forester of West Virginia. He also served as executive secretary for the W.Va. Forest Council and assistant commissioner for the W.Va. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kelly was known for his love of flying and spent countless hours in the air detecting and developing strategies for the suppression of fires. In his positions as assistant state forester for fire control and state forester, he instituted the Fire Warden System for volunteer manpower and placement of fire tools across West Virginia, initiated the first Fire Control Agreements with large landowners for the availability of manpower and suppression efforts, established the Fire Tower System for detection of forest fires throughout West Virginia, initiated the use of aircraft for detection of forest fires and introduced the use of mechanized equipment for the suppression of forest fires.

His affiliations were many, including the National Association of State Foresters, W.Va. Forests, Inc., Society of American Foresters and Gamma Sigma Delta. He was also a West Virginia Licensed Forester #6. During his career, he received recognition for his work from the U.S. Forest Service, W.Va. Forests, Inc., U.S. Department of Agriculture, W.Va. Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia University and many conservation groups and organizations.

Mr. Kelly spent 38 years in the service of his country and state. His “forte” was the protection of the United States during World War II and the protection of West Virginia’s valuable forest resources during his professional forestry career. His desire to prevent the destruction of wildfires brought about many new and successful initiatives in West Virginia that resulted in the bountiful and beautiful forest resources that we all enjoy today.

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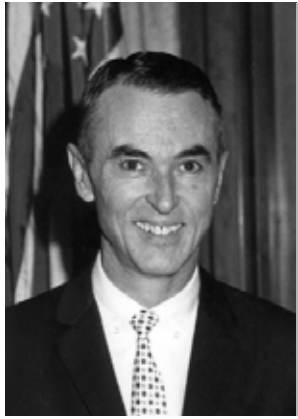
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Lester D. McClung

(1913 – 2001)

Lester D. McClung was born in Greenbrier County and although life decisions took him away from his beloved state for a while, his heart and soul were always that of a West Virginia Mountaineer.

His career began as a professional forester in 1939 following graduation from Colorado State University with a bachelors degree in forestry. In 1941,



he returned to West Virginia and started his work in public service with the West Virginia Division of Forestry. He served as forest superintendent of Panther State Forest, district forester for the Elkins and Romney regions, assistant state forester for fire control and state forester of West Virginia for the last 20 years of his career. His time “in the woods” was interrupted during World War II when he proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946.

Lester saw the West Virginia Division of Forestry grow from 65 to 143 employees while he was state forester. He began a landowner services program that reached forest owners across the state with tree planting, timber sales and cultural forestry activities to ensure that West Virginia’s forest resources continued into the future. He established the Lakin State Tree Nursery which provided tree seedlings for West Virginia’s first efforts toward mined lands reclamation of mined lands. The nursery also provided native seed stock for the planting of open land and returning it to viable forests. He also instituted the very first multiple use management program for public lands designated as State Forests. Detailed forest management plans were developed to safeguard water quality, expand recreation, protect and improve wildlife and fishery habitat and to demonstrate the responsible harvesting of timber.

Mr. McClung was a member of the Society of American Foresters, visiting committee member of the WVU Division of Forestry, member and secretary of the National Association of State Forester, advisory committee member for the Northeast Forest Experiment Station, and West Virginia Licensed Forester #37. His awards include Outstanding Service recognition from the U.S. Forest Service, W.Va. Forests, Inc., and Forest Farmers Association; W.Va. Wildlife Federation “Forester of the Year”; and “Distinguished West Virginian Award” presented by Governor Arch Moore, Jr.

Mr. McClung devoted his life to the service of West Virginia. His career, which spanned 35 years, brought with it a new awareness of the state’s forest resources, the need to protect it and manage it for the future. Today, over 600,000 private landowners in West Virginia and the public can be proud of the decades of work that protected and conserved the forest resource we enjoy today.

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Mr. McClung was a member of the Society of American Foresters, visiting committee member of the WVU Division of Forestry, member and secretary of the National Association of State Forester, advisory committee member for the Northeast Forest Experiment Station, and West Virginia Licensed Forester #37. His awards include Outstanding Service recognition from the U.S. Forest Service, W.Va. Forests, Inc., and Forest Farmers Association; W.Va. Wildlife Federation “Forester of the Year”; and “Distinguished West Virginian Award” presented by Governor Arch Moore, Jr.

Mr. McClung devoted his life to the service of West Virginia. His career, which spanned 35 years, brought with it a new awareness of the state’s forest resources, the need to protect it and manage it for the future. Today, over 600,000 private landowners in West Virginia and the public can be proud of the decades of work that protected and conserved the forest resource we enjoy today.

Lester D. McClung

(1913 – 2001)

Lester D. McClung was born in Greenbrier County and although life decisions took him away from his beloved state for a while, his heart and soul were always that of a West Virginia Mountaineer.

His career began as a professional forester in 1939 following graduation from Colorado State University with a bachelors degree in forestry. In 1941,



he returned to West Virginia and started his work in public service with the West Virginia Division of Forestry. He served as forest superintendent of Panther State Forest, district forester for the Elkins and Romney regions, assistant state forester for fire control and state forester of West Virginia for the last 20 years of his career. His time “in the woods” was interrupted during World War II when he proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946.

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Dr. John B. Peters

(1939 – 1980)

Dr. John B. Peters was born August 25, 1939 in Cool Ridge, Raleigh County, West Virginia. He grew up on a family farm with his parents, Woodrow and Katherine Peters, and two younger brothers. The farm was a traditional small farm with a few cows, sheep, hogs and chickens. Thus, a lifelong interest and dedication to agriculture began.



He was Salutatorian of the Shady Spring High School class of 1957. During his high school years, he was a member of FFA, National Honor Society, Thespians, Varsity Club and played football. As a member of FFA, he earned the State Farmer Degree, served as the chapter president, southern federation treasurer and state vice-president. He married Wanda Cook in 1960.

Dr. Peters received the B.S. in Animal Science in 1962 and the M.S. in Animal Nutrition in 1963 from West Virginia University. He was

awarded the Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology from the University of Wisconsin in 1968, and was Assistant Professor of Animal Science at Iowa State University from 1968 to 1971. He accepted the position of WVU Assistant Professor of Animal Science and Animal Scientist with the Allegheny Highlands Project of January 1, 1971. In 1977, he became the WVU Livestock Extension Specialist and was promoted to Professor of Animal Science in 1980.

Dr. Peters made many contributions to West Virginia Agriculture. He was well respected and very productive in the academic community (research and teaching), but, perhaps more importantly, he had a positive influence on livestock management practices and marketing options for West Virginia's beef cattle and sheep producers. Among the major contributions Dr. Peters made in his career include: enhanced marketing options for feeder cattle and lambs, improvement of genetic base for beef and sheep, development of handling facilities for cattle and sheep, support for 4-H and FFA livestock projects, and research in the area of reproductive physiology. Dr. Peters was involved in many professional and industry societies in his career.

In his personal life, Dr. Peters was a farmer and dedicated family man. He was very active in the Calvary Baptist Church in Elkins, serving as both deacon and trustee. In addition, he was instrumental in the establishment of Randolph-Elkins Christian Academy. It has been said that a farmer's best crop is his family. His accidental death in 1980 prematurely ended a very distinguished and productive career, but not his influence. Soon after his death, friends and family established the John Peters Memorial Fund for bringing new information to farmers, students and faculty at WVU.

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Earl H. (Gus) Tryon

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Dr. Earl (Gus) Tryon has influenced the forest industry in West Virginia for more than 40 years. Dr. Tryon's primary contributions to industry has been his long research career providing information for improved management of Appalachian hardwood forests and his influence in teaching for more than three decades. His students became the professional foresters charged with the management of West Virginia's forest resources. His research includes over 100 publications, authored or co-authored, dealing with silviculture, forest ecology and forest management.

He was active in professional activities in forest industries by serving on the West Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, Research Committee, U.S. Forest Service Technical Committee and American Pulpwood Association Education Committee. He also served on the Timber Management Research Planning Committee for the Northeast which included the Fernow Experimental Forest. He was a member of the West Virginia Academy of Science and the Northeastern Forest Soils Conference for several years. Colleagues recognized his leadership qualities by electing him chairman of the Allegheny Section of the Society of American Foresters in the mid 1960s.

Dr. Tryon was recognized by his peers nationally through his achievement of Fellow rank in the Society of American Foresters. Academic honors included the Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Faculty Certificate of Merit, Sigma Xi Chapter President, and Gamma Sigma Delta Chairman. Perhaps the most appreciated, was the student dedication in the yearbook, *The Cruiser*, in 1961 and again in 1978.

Dr. Tryon still found time to be an active citizen in the Morgantown community by serving as a deacon in the Presbyterian Church, and a member of the troop committee of the Boy Scouts of America.

Throughout his career Dr. Tryon had a profound influence on forestry in West Virginia and the Appalachians through the instruction of hundreds of students in his classroom and many more professionals through an examination of his research findings.



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Neil Aberegg

Neil Aberegg and his wife, Hazel, have farmed 700 acres in Earnshaw, W.Va., since 1946. He still operates his tree farm using selective harvesting to cut timber that he dries and uses in his wood shop.

Mr. Aberegg has served agriculture at the local, county and state levels through various organizations. He is very active in farming and conservation and is highly regarded by his peers. He has served two terms as President of the Wetzel County Farm Bureau, along with numerous years of service to the county's Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He serves as chairman of the county insurance committee and has given his time to numerous other organizations.



Mr. and Mrs. Aberegg have been West Virginia Farm Bureau members for more than 50 years, attending all annual meetings. Mr. Aberegg has also sold farm insurance for six years. He has served on the Wetzel/Tyler Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) board for 42 years, is a member of the Upper Ohio Valley Soil Conservation District, and has served as a board member for the Hundred Farm Supply Southern States for more than 20 years.

He has represented Wetzel County in meetings with the Division of Natural Resources on deer damage and clean water, and remains heavily involved in both issues. Mr. Aberegg was twice named Conservation Farmer of the Year and has been repeatedly recognized by the ASCS for outstanding service. He is an Honorary Farmer of the Hundred and New Martinsville FFA chapters, has received the Southern States Service Award, and many others.

He rents out pasture to a neighbor who runs 50 head of cattle. Mr. Aberegg has raised beef cattle, sheep and White Rock chickens, selling the eggs to a hatchery in Clarksburg. He has made furniture, paneling and other wood products from trees harvested on his farm, and in 2003, he planted 110 new trees.

West Virginia Division of Forestry Service Forester Shaun Kuhn said, "Mr. Aberegg and his tree farm are shining examples of what can be accomplished through Timber Stand Improvement, harvests based on current silvicultural practices, dedication and a basic conservation mindset."

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Geraldine Carpenter Belmear

The late Geraldine Carpenter Belmear began her career with West Virginia University Extension in 1948 as an apprentice at West Virginia State College. She was employed in August 1949 by West Virginia State College and



WVU to serve the counties of Barbour, Harrison, Taylor and Upshur. In 1961, her area of responsibility changed to include the counties of Barbour, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia and Taylor. This service included working with African-American 4-H clubs, homemaker organizations, young men and women's clubs and other community organizations.

In 1966, she was appointed to the position of Home Demonstration Agent for Marion County. She was the first African-American agent in West Virginia and the nation

to lead an integrated Home Demonstration program in a single county.

In addition to her work in Marion County, she was assigned to direct the statewide 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, supervising 15 agents for this federally funded program for low-income West Virginia youth.

In 1971, she was appointed to the State 4-H staff in Morgantown as a program assistant. She developed a series of publications, game books, and other materials for the nutrition program featuring "Go-Go, the Good Nutrition Clown." The United States Department of Agriculture honored Belmear's efforts.

In 1973, she was appointed Extension Specialist for 4-H programs and began working parttime as an advisor to African-American students at WVU. She filled both roles until her retirement in 1978.

During her long career, she was devoted to improving the family life of rural West Virginians, encouraging adult homemakers to develop skills to improve their standards of living despite limited resources. She encouraged and supported West Virginia youth to earn scholarships to pursue higher education.

After her retirement from WVU Extension, she took on the full-time role of Black Student Advisor at WVU. In 1981, she became assistant to the Dean of Student Life for minority affairs, establishing a mentor program for WVU's minority student population.

Ms. Belmear loved working with the WVU community, particularly the students, and retired officially in 1987. She was an active volunteer until her death May 7, 2005.

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After her retirement from WVU Extension, she took on the full-time role of Black Student Advisor at WVU. In 1981, she became assistant to the Dean of Student Life for minority affairs, establishing a mentor program for WVU's minority student population.

Ms. Belmear loved working with the WVU community, particularly the students, and retired officially in 1987. She was an active volunteer until her death May 7, 2005.

Geraldine Carpenter Belmear

The late Geraldine Carpenter Belmear began her career with West Virginia University Extension in 1948 as an apprentice at West Virginia State College. She was employed in August 1949 by West Virginia State College and



WVU to serve the counties of Barbour, Harrison, Taylor and Upshur. In 1961, her area of responsibility changed to include the counties of Barbour, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia and Taylor. This service included working with African-American 4-H clubs, homemaker organizations, young men and women's clubs and other community organizations.

In 1966, she was appointed to the position of Home Demonstration Agent for Marion County. She was the first African-American agent in West Virginia and the nation

to lead an integrated Home Demonstration program in a single county.

In addition to her work in Marion County, she was assigned to direct the statewide 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, supervising 15 agents for this federally funded program for low-income West Virginia youth.

In 1971, she was appointed to the State 4-H staff in Morgantown as a program assistant. She developed a series of publications, game books, and other materials for the nutrition program featuring "Go-Go, the Good Nutrition Clown." The United States Department of Agriculture honored Belmear's efforts.

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Paul E. Lewis

Paul Lewis, Professor and Director of the Division of Animal and Veterinary Sciences in West Virginia University's Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, has been deeply involved with West Virginia agriculture since 1968. He has served as an effective ambassador of WVU to the sheep and beef cattle industries within the Mountain State.

He began his studies in the Davis College in 1966, and he has been an integral member of its team ever since. Research conducted on his master's and doctoral degrees was associated with applied projects related to sheep and beef cattle. Much of this research was conducted on producer-owned farms, a preview of Lewis's dedication to bring producers and educators together to forward inquiry and improve profitability at the same time.

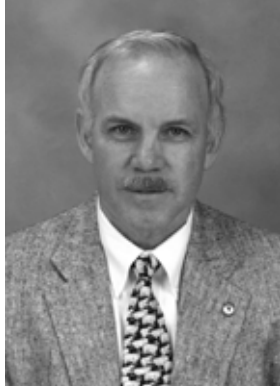
As an educator, Mr. Lewis has made major contributions and impacted the lives and careers of numerous undergraduate and graduate students over the past 25 years as an advisor and instructor. He has provided effective leadership to the Division, having served two terms as director (1988 to 1993, and 2001 to present).

He has played a major role in establishing linkages with producers and enhancing the visibility of the University among those groups. He has worked closely with WVU Extension since becoming a member of the Davis College faculty, integrating efforts in the transfer of technology and in educational outreach.

Mr. Lewis has also played a major role in promoting the successful adoption of current production technologies, particularly those related to reproduction – artificial insemination, estrous synchronization, out-of-season breeding programs in sheep and general management and genetic selection systems. He has expended significant effort to address question and solve problems for issues related to the beef and sheep industries.

Mr. Lewis received the Heebink Award for Outstanding Service in 2002. "Professor Lewis has gone beyond the call of duty in his service work, and the state's agricultural community will reap the benefits of this for years to come," said C.B. Wilson, Chair of the Heebink selection committee and WVU's associate provost for academic personnel. "As a recipient of the Heebink Award, he helps us celebrate the important public service contributions of the entire WVU community."

Mr. Lewis has devoted his professional life to West Virginia agriculture. He embodies the land-grant philosophy of blending teaching, research and service for the betterment of the citizens of West Virginia, whether they are undergraduate students who dream of becoming scientists, veterinarians, producers who are trying to maximize profits and improve the health and productivity of their herds, or industry leaders who rely on his insights to determine policy and chart direction.



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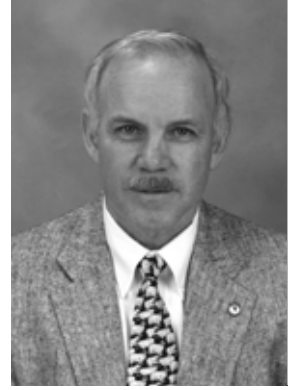
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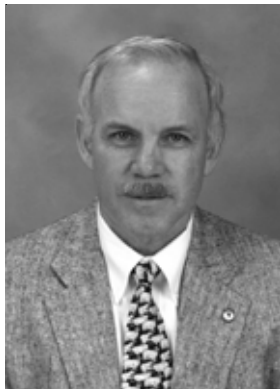
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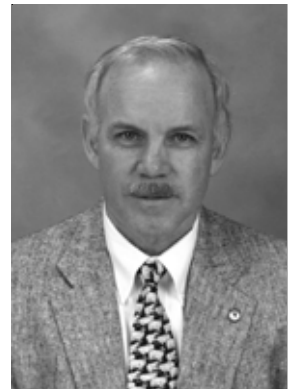
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Armand Ricottilli

Armand Ricottilli and his wife, Katie, were the first in the family to enter the rustic fencing industry. In the beginning, the business was dependent on the salvage of dead American chestnuts, ideally suited for conversion to split rails and posts that would last for 30 years or longer.

He was an early pioneer in recognizing the salvage value of the American



chestnut, one of the worst tree species losses in forest history, and manufacturing upscale fencing products from these trees. When rails and posts were joined, a beautiful, long-lasting rustic fence was produced and marketed nationwide.

Increased demand brought about the need for increased production. He began developing better machines and improved manufacturing techniques, encouraging his siblings to enter this fledgling industry. In the 1950s, five brothers and a sister established rustic fencing operations in regions

where dead American chestnut trees were readily available.

The Ricottilli legacy continues today with five mills managed by family members. The production facilities at Belington, Mt. Nebo, Werth, Moorefield and Moore still offer affordable, high-quality fencing products, manufactured from a variety of West Virginia species. From Mr. Ricottilli's original operation, the empire now employs over 100 West Virginians.

Ricottilli always placed a high priority on scientific forest land management and, through assistance from the West Virginia Division of Forestry, developed management plans and implemented recommended practices.

He served for more than 20 years as a community committee member with the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. He was recognized in 1972 with the Outstanding Tree Farmer award of the American Tree Farm Program. He received a similar honor from the Mountaineers for Rural Progress and the Elkins-Randolph County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ricottilli's ideas, integrity and forest stewardship practices were exemplary. The business he established continues to provide employment, excellent forest management, industry leadership and community service throughout West Virginia.

He passed away Oct. 27, 1998.

Robert D. Whipkey

In 1969, Robert D. Whipkey began a professionally challenging career with the West Virginia Division of Forestry. He began as a Service Forester in Braxton and Clay Counties. He provided technical assistance to private landowners who were interested in adopting better forest management practices on their properties. Hundreds benefited from his expertise and assistance.

His work ethic, integrity and expertise soon led to promotion to the level of Assistant District Forester, administering programs in eight southern counties. He coordinated forest management activities on three state forests and developed volunteer logger training programs, educating loggers on best management practices.

The program centered around voluntary compliance, and Mr. Whipkey had to convince participants of the crucial importance of adopting the recommended practices. His persuasive abilities and sound reasoning convinced many to improve timber harvesting in his region.

His successes led to another promotion to the position of Assistant State Forester in Charleston. In his 15 years in this post, Whipkey was responsible for several major projects and initiatives that have greatly improved forest management in West Virginia.

The forest stewardship program came from a federal initiative geared towards improving forest management on privately owned forest land. Mr. Whipkey was the catalyst for the formation of a West Virginia Forest Stewardship Committee and development of the group's statewide program.

During the next 11 years over 100 consulting foresters were certified to prepare forest stewardship plans. Mr. Whipkey spent countless hours organizing and conducting West Virginia's first forestry education training programs to ensure an adequate number of public and private foresters were available to prepare state-of-the-art forest stewardship plans for landowners.

He was instrumental in the development of the state's Best Management Practices Handbook, and he oversaw management of West Virginia's nine state forests. He assumed responsibility for the state's forest nursery in 1990, producing thousands of seedlings for reforestation and tree production.

Outside of the Division, he helped form the Woodland Owners Association of West Virginia and has been an active member of the West Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, currently serving on the board of directors. He also served on the board of directors of the West Virginia Forestry Association.



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Robert L. “Bob” Williams

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After completing higher education in biology, political science and plant pathology, he began as an instructor at the Potomac State College of West Virginia University, where he worked with future farmers and youth preparing for careers in the sciences. He then served as an agricultural agent with WVU Extension in Wetzel County.

In 1978, he began a 23-year career with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), starting as a plant pathologist. He worked with the United States Department of Agriculture to establish a National Plant Pest Survey and Detection Program, the first of its kind in West Virginia.

In 1987, he became the director of the WVDA’s Marketing and Development Division. Under his leadership, the unit shifted from focusing primarily on production agriculture to product marketing, niche marketing and cottage industry development. Mr. Williams was instrumental in expanding the use of the “West Virginia Grown” logo in advertising and identifying quality agricultural products.

Mr. Williams also led the WVDA to expand its efforts into international marketing. He became active in the North American Agricultural Marketing Officials group and brought national and international recognition to West Virginia products.

Under his direction, the WVDA assisted with the establishment of the Capitol Market, Logan Farmers’ Market and the Huntington Farmers’ Market, as well as the expansion of the Inwood Farmers’ Market.

In 1997, he was given responsibility for management of more than 10,000 acres of public land, updating production practices to improve efficiency. Working with farm managers, he implemented the use of best management practices on these public lands.

Mr. Williams received the National Honor Award for Service to Agriculture from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), as well as the prestigious National Superior Service Award from the USDA for his passion and dedication to agriculture and natural resources.

In 2001, he became the executive secretary of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, leading efforts to promote agriculture, protect the interests of farmers and landowners, and further agricultural education to West Virginia citizens. He works tirelessly to advocate for favorable agricultural legislation at the local, state and national levels.



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 Charles A. Keadle
 James N. Kochenderfer
 Dr. Oliver C. McGhee
 John Raine
 F. Henry Sipe
 George R. Trimble, Jr.
 Harry V. Wiant

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Gilbert Eugene Bailey
 Alonza Beecher Brooks
 Billy L. Coffindaffer
 Roland Lee Guthrie
 John F. Tillinghast
 Aquilla M. Ward

2000

Lawrence W. Deitz
 Albert E. Grafton
 Charles R. Hall
 Reita J. Marks
 Alan R. Miller
 Leroy P. Stevens
 Richard K. Waybright
 William E. Walker

2001

Alfred L. Barr
 Dencil J. Strader
 John R. Elkins
 Arden Cogar, Sr.
 Don and Mida Peterson
 William R. Maxey

2002

Earl Lemley Core, Ph.D.
 John W. Crites
 Howard T. Knotts
 Marjorie and Billy Burke
 Marion and LaVonne Goff

2003

James E. Ash
 Ralph P. Glover
 Jim C. Hamer
 James E. Johnson
 David G. Lilly
 John L. Loyd

2004

Maurice L. Allman
 Harold G. "Hal" Burke
 George D. Curtin, Sr.
 William N. Grafton
 Harry Lee Kesterson
 George Anderson Myles
 Edward "Ed" W. Rock

2005

James Dearing
 E.E. John Hott
 Norman Jackson
 Asher W. Kelly, Jr.
 Lester McClung
 John B. Peters
 Earl Tryon

2006

Neil Aberegg
 Geraldine Carpenter Belmear
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 Armand Ricottilli
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