

# Jack Sturgill



Jack Sturgill was born in Norton, Virginia, where he attended school until his enlistment in the U.S. Navy. He served during the Korean War until his honorable discharge in 1955.

After his service, he enrolled in the Forestry program at North Carolina State University, where he earned membership in Phi Kappa Phi honorary and was elected president of both the Xi Sigma Pi honorary and the North Carolina State Forestry Club. While at NC State he joined the Society of American Foresters.

He married Virginia Roberta Greene in 1958 and four years later settled in Petersburg working for the Westvaco Corporation at the Luke, Maryland, paper manufacturing facility. Through hard work and persuasion, Sturgill encouraged and promoted safer harvesting practices, sustainable timber growth activities, and road construction that would meet landowner needs and future forest management goals. To that end, he established a Christmas tree operation near Durbin in Pocahontas County where he showcased the practices he actively encouraged, including the establishment of a permanent, safe logging road.

In 1994 he worked as an international consultant to Siberia. He spent most of the year evaluating the possibility of acquiring lumber and establishing a sawmill in central Siberia as part of a joint venture involving West Virginia and Russian firms.

He is a charter member of the WV Forestry Association, and was elected to serve as president in 1987. He was also appointed by the governor to serve on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Board of Registration for Foresters for the 1985 to 1989 term.

Sturgill has received several awards for his service to the timber industry, including the Outstanding Service to Foresters award in the 1980s, the Outstanding Leadership to Forestry Award in 1987, and the H.H. Jefferson Logging Safety Award in 1984.

In addition to his service to Forestry, he has served as the Luminary Chairman of the annual Petersburg Relay for Life from 1999 to 2002, and from 1995-present he has been a participant and serves on the advisory board of the "Friends of Spring Run," a group primarily involved in a private catch and release trout stream project.