

## John W. Crites

**J**ohn W. Crites of Petersburg was born in Buckhannon, W.Va., July 30, 1940, and graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 1958. He earned



a B.S. Degree in Forest Management from West Virginia University in 1963 and an M.S. in Forest Management from the University of Montana in 1965. In 1973, he sold his home, borrowed money from friends and family and founded Allegheny Wood Products (AWP). Still a family-run operation, AWP has grown from one saw-mill with 11 employees to four saw-mills, three dry kilns and more than 500 employees. An offshoot company, Allegheny Dimension, employs 100 more manufacturing semi-finished furniture and stair components. In 2002,

Crites was selected as the Outstanding WVU Forestry Alumnus by his alma mater. In 1996, he was chosen as Entrepreneur of the Year by the WVU College of Business and Economics, and he received the National Hardwood and Lumber Association's Forest Stewardship Award.