

## Roger Sherman

Roger Sherman, a resident of Rupert, W.Va., graduated with honors from North Carolina State University with a BS degree in Science (Forestry) in 1972. He earned a Master's degree in Forestry from Yale University in 1974, and served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1969. He joined Westvaco (now Mead-Westvaco) as Public Affairs Forester in 1977, and has since dedicated much of his professional career to advancing the interests of private landowners in West Virginia.

He has served as the volunteer chair of the Legislative Committee of the West Virginia Forestry Association (WVFA) for 30 years. He has been the driving force in most, if not all, of the Association's major initiatives. He has been involved in design and development of most of their education and outreach programs, which is essential to the entire forestry community

Mr. Sherman has made significant contributions to water quality management in forestry and agriculture by helping to ensure that laws and regulations governing land use were practical, reasonable and equitable. He was the driving force behind the State's Logging Sediment Control Act.

Seeing that the interests of rural communities were often overlooked in the legislative process, Mr. Sherman organized the informal Rural Caucus in the House of Delegates. His advocacy was critical during the statewide property tax reappraisal. Under the banner of the WVFA – and with the help of experts in the field – he brought together a group that developed the “managed timberland” tax classification, putting an end to years of wildly variable property values on forest land.

He assisted in the development and passage of legislation giving independence to the State Forester and requiring that the incumbent be academically and professionally qualified. He also helped to pass legislation protecting the right to practice forestry and farming.

Mr. Sherman was involved in early efforts by federal and state agencies to determine how to deal with forestry, farming and ranching under the Clean Water Act. He supported the idea that non-point sources could be “regulated” through land use management, and led opposition to wholesale designation of huge portions of the Monongahela National Forest as wilderness area. He worked with local landowners to oppose the taking of private property rights through creation of Wild and Scenic Rivers in West Virginia.

Mr. Sherman conceived, proposed and obtained funding for a course in economics for primary and secondary school teachers. Taught by a Distinguished Professor of Economics at West Virginia University, for 20 years the course has offered graduate-level credit. The course uses forestry field tours to demonstrate economic concepts and requires teachers to develop and use economics lesson plans in their own classrooms. Mr. Sherman, through this effort alone, has reached nearly 800 K-12 teachers over the years with the message that sustainable forestry is the standard management approach for forests in West Virginia and Appalachia. He has also been active in creating a state implementation committee for the Sustainable Forest Initiative, a forest certification program started in the early 1990s.

He is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), and was largely responsible for the reorganization of the West Virginia Chapter of the SAF.

Mr. Sherman has been an active supporter of what is now the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design (formerly College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences). He has been a member of the College visiting committee since 1995. He was a member of the Search Committee for Dean of the College in 1999 and 2011. He has also served on countless other committees throughout his career.

He was presented the Outstanding Service to Forestry Award by the WVFA in 1986 and 1992, the WVFA President's Service Award in 1992 and 2000, the Allegheny Society of American Foresters John A. Beale Memorial Award in 1994, Society of American Foresters Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in 1998, and the WVFA Environmental Education Award in 2008.

