

# Roland L. Guthrie



Roland Lee Guthrie enjoyed a long career as instructor and arboretum assistant at West Virginia University, spending 40 years sharing his love and knowledge of forestry and agriculture. His teaching career was largely devoted to the education of forestry and agriculture students. For 35 years he taught both lectures and laboratories on the subject of dendrology, a required course in forestry programs. During this time, he was instrumental in the training of thousands of future forestry professionals, many of whom have had a profound impact on the West Virginia forest industry.

Guthrie's influence extended beyond the technical aspects of dendrology, reaching into the principles of integrity, dedication and industry that characterize his own career.

His contributions to education have been noted and honored by Gamma Sigma Delta, the honors society for agriculture, in 1977 and 1988, receiving certificates of merit for distinguished academic service to the students of the WVU College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences. WVU honored him as an outstanding teacher in 1977.

Central to his work with WVU was his commitment to the Core Arboretum, taking responsibility for the site's development and daily operations. The arboretum is extensively used as a teaching facility by programs throughout WVU and is a vital research site for faculty and graduate students. Beyond these duties, Guthrie has conducted educational tours of the arboretum for thousands of school children and secured grants for the arboretum's development, all while conducting work as a researcher. In recognition of his service to the site, WVU honored him by naming an arboretum pathway the Guthrie Trail in 1998.