

EXTENSION FOREST RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
(L. H. Harkins, In-Charge)

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Of major importance has been the Forest Resources In-Service Training Workshops conducted by the total department for designated county extension agents with a responsibility for forest resources. Such agents from half the counties of the state have taken this training. The final workshop is scheduled for October in the Asheville area.

Over 85 4-Her's and 13 Extension agents participated in a week-long 4-H Forestry-Wildlife Camp which was held at Millstone 4-H Camp. This Forestry-Wildlife Camp is a total departmental effort. Through this camp we have an opportunity to reach one of our most important human resources (youth), our decision makers of tomorrow.

Two Conservation Retreats were conducted: Fall Conservation Retreat on Boague Banks co-sponsored with the North Carolina Museum of Natural History; and a Spring Conservation Retreat at High Hampton in the mountains co-sponsored with the American Forestry Association. Over 250 participants attended each retreat. These Conservation Retreats were designed to educate both adults and youth on the importance of proper management of our natural resources.

In order to keep our extension agents and the general public informed, the department publishes and distributes the following newsletters: Forest Resources, Tarheel Timberman; Wildlife; and Wood Products News.

Since a major responsibility of the Extension Forest Resources Department is to train county extension agents and provide teaching tools for them, the following teaching aids were developed: (slide/tape or scripts) Prevention of Decay and Termite Attack in Homes, The Forest Products Industry in North Carolina, Insect and Mite Galls of Shade Trees, Wood for Industrial Fuel,

Chainsaw Safety, and several other slide programs are being developed for the Woodland Owners Management Project (WOMP); (publications) Wood in Marine Structures, Pressure Treated Southern Pine, and many others are being developed for the WOMP program; (workshops) Christmas Trees; 4-H Camp Staff Training, Planting Shade Trees in the Urban Environment, Urban Forestry, Wood in Home Construction, and county programs on specific portions of the WOMP program; (radio, television, newspaper and magazine articles) radio programs for WPTF farm report, two television programs per month on Channel 2, Greensboro; newspaper articles across the state on Wood for Industrial and Home Fuel, Ice, Wind, and Cold Damage to Trees, Christmas Trees, Conservation Retreats, Forest Management, etc.; (magazines) various trade and professional magazines and journals.

A study is being conducted in the North Central District of North Carolina on "Markets for Low Quality Hardwood."

In depth assistance was given to the three Area Forest Resources Agents across the state. These Area Agents are a key to reaching the small woodland owner at the grass-roots level. Through them we hope to offer educational programs and assistance to encourage sound forest management practices. Emphasis is also being placed on the organization of County Forest Resources Associations for the small woodland owners.

Small woodland owners are not adopting forest regeneration practices following harvesting or on poorly stocked sites because the present recommended practice is cost prohibitive even with 60% cost sharing FIP programs. Since mechanical site preparation is so expensive, we are testing selective herbicide treatments as an alternative to mechanical preparation. This herbicide, if successful, will not only reduce this high cost of preparation, but will also allow the woodland owner to apply the herbicide himself thus reduce labor costs.

A proposal was submitted and a \$90,000 grant was received from the U. S. Department of Energy for the study of the economics of various materials handling and burning systems using wood as an industrial fuel.

The department also participated in the School of Forest Resources CSRS Comprehensive Review.

A Forest Soils Specialist position was filled, thus giving this department a complete staff. In addition a permanent wood products technician was employed. Other part-time staff members include Mr. Michael O'Grady, a Combustion Engineer, to work with the wood for industrial fuel program. Mr. James Huff was employed half time to carry on a program in logging engineering and safety to replace Earl Deal on study leave for Doctorate work at N. C. State University.

Mr. Fred E. Whitfield is continuing half time employment with the department specifically to develop the federally funded project WOMP, an educational program directed at the private, nonindustrial woodland owner.

In summary I must say that this past year has been a most successful one. With the continuing support from the total Extension Administration, Dean Ellwood, and each member of this department, the next year will be even more successful.