

## ANNUAL REPORT - EXTENSION FOREST RESOURCES

1981 - 82

### FACULTY AND STAFF

Jim McGraw was selected as the Outstanding Extension Entomologist in the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. He also received 1st and 3rd place awards in the Photo Essay Contest at the Southern Forest Insect Work Conference.

### PROGRAM

The major thrust within Extension Forest Resources has continued to be support of programs at the county level. Ninety counties included forest resources programs in their Plans-of-Work for FY 1982 involving 3800 agent man days. County programs included non-industrial woodland management (70 counties), wood for home heating (36 counties), Christmas trees (33 counties) and protection of wood in homes (25 counties).

Programs initiated this year included:

- 1) mailing of a monthly media package on various aspects of forest resources for use by county agents in local newspapers and radio programs. This has been well received and widely used by the agents.
- 2) publication of Woodland Owner Notes, a series of short publications designed to provide practical information for forest landowners on forest management.
- 3) the first of what we expect to be annual training sessions for N. C. Forest Service and N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission personnel. The latter was held in cooperation with the Department of Zoology.
- 4) organization, in cooperation with Timber Harvesting Magazine, of the Carolina Log'n Demo. This 2-day event consisting of a static display, working display of logging equipment, log truck driving contest, and an

afternoon educational program attracted approximately 1000 people.

- 5) a study of the technical and economic feasibility of using yellow poplar lumber for house framing. Initial results indicate that there is good potential for increasing the market for this currently underutilized species.
- 6) an intensive and successful education program on Gypsy moth for the media and general public in Wake and Johnson Counties, and
- 7) cooperation with the North Carolina Forestry Association to involve more forest landowners in Association activities, and with the Southern Forest Institute, the educational arm of the forest industry, to recognize outstanding contributions to forestry by county agents. This led to presentation of plaques to an agent in each district.

In the private woodlot management program, the number of counties with interagency woodlot committees increased to 98 and county forestry associations formed or in the planning stage increased to 58. Extension played a lead role in both of these activities. Formation of the associations received regional recognition and several states are looking at the possibility of establishing similar organizations. Specialists presented 60 programs to these groups. In addition, at least 10 counties held programs for women or absentee landowners. These two groups control a high percentage of forest land in North Carolina and are the focus of increased attention by our Department. Eighty-one agents attended in-service training in forest management.

Emphasis on the use of wood as an industrial fuel as part of an effort to increase markets for low quality timber continued to bear fruit. Over 30 non-wood products industrial plants and state institutions now use wood as a fuel or are in the process of switching to wood. This is in addition to almost 300 wood products plants. Use of wood for home heating also continued to

expand with over 25 percent of homes in the State using wood as a primary or secondary heat source.

Christmas trees are now an important source of income for many landowners particularly in the Mountains. Income from Christmas trees was approximately \$20 million in 1981 for almost 2 million trees harvested. With over 4 times this number of trees now planted each year, the major emphasis in extension programs has been on the production of quality trees and their marketing.

Several other success stories have resulted from extension efforts. Specialists, county agents, N. C. Forest Service and the U. S. Forest Service cooperated on a parasite rearing and release program in Western North Carolina. This was to control damage caused to white pine by the Introduced Pine Sawfly. N. C. Forest Service described the work as "... one of the most successful programs of biological control in a forest situation ever recorded in the U.S." There were no known economic losses to white pine nursery stock or Christmas trees attributable to the potentially devastating insect. Impact assessments of programs in wood heating, forest management, and wood in home construction showed the majority of participants changing practices as a result of the programs. Items in Departmental newsletters led to the rapid sale of N. C. Forest Service Fraser fir Christmas tree seedlings, and to a \$3,400 savings on inventory tax obligations for a North Carolina wood products company.

The Department expanded its efforts in continuing education for forestry and wood products professionals. In addition to the agency training mentioned earlier, workshops were held on business management for loggers, hardwood lumber grading for sawmill workers, lumber drying and rough mill yield improvement for the furniture industry, and wood in home construction for builders. Members of the Department also presented papers on forest management, use of wood for energy, timber harvesting, and wood preservation at various professional meetings sponsored by other organizations.

Forest resources is a broad area of major economic importance to the State. Many educational needs have not been satisfied because of insufficient personnel. The Renewable Resources Extension Act was funded in FY 1982 and will provide \$67,000 in additional funding to N. C. It is unclear whether the funding will be available in FY 1983. There is an urgent need for additional personnel to work with the wood products industry, particularly the furniture industry. Also, there is a need for more forestry professionals working at the county level. It is hoped that additional support can be obtained from the University and State so that we can serve more effectively the needs of the various clientele groups involved with forest resources.

#### AIMS AND PHILOSOPHY

The aim of Extension Forest Resources is to improve the management and utilization of our forest resource. The program encompasses timber production and utilization, water quality, wildlife, and recreation. Our potential audience ranges from farmers to major forest products industries, from urban youth to literally every homeowner. Our continuing aim is to identify, with the help of county agents, the Extension Advisory system, and industry, the major forest resource related problems facing the people of North Carolina, and address those which we can impact through the extension process. To achieve our aim, we believe that it is essential to work cooperatively with other units of the School and University, with other State and Federal Agencies, and with the private sector.