

## ANNUAL REPORT - EXTENSION FOREST RESOURCES

1983 - 84

### Faculty and Staff

Joe Denig joined the staff as an Assistant Professor and Extension Forest Resources Specialist working with the sawmill industry. The position is funded from Renewable Resources Extension Act money and contributions from approximately 35 sawmill companies in the State. The Forest Management technician position (Moreland Gueth) was switched from Renewable Resource Extension Act to State funding.

Jim McGraw received a 1983 award for Outstanding Extension Service. Rick Hamilton received the 1983 Governor's Forest Conservationist Award. Bill Huxster was presented with a Meritorious Service Award by the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association.

Extension is now beginning to experience the space and high secretarial turnover problems common to the School. One technician is currently sharing an office with a specialist, and two microcomputers are located at a secretarial/general work station. Two Clerk-Typist III's left Extension in the last 12 months to work in the private sector because of low pay (both received salary increases of approximately 30 percent). It is now becoming almost impossible to hire and keep good secretaries at the III level. This affects the morale of remaining secretarial staff and also reduces overall operating efficiency. Poor salaries and the absence of a meaningful reward system for secretaries are a major problem that must be addressed if we are to maintain a strong program.

### Program

The major Extension thrust state wide continues to be to increase management of private forest land. Specialists presented over 100 programs and tours for landowner groups attracting approximately 5,000 landowners. Timber taxation

and preharvest treatments to reduce reforestation costs were popular programs. The number of programs presented is similar to last year. However, as County Forestry Associations (approximately 60 in the State) become established, a growing number invite local speakers to present programs. Thus, the number of landowners receiving information continues to increase. Thirty-eight local forestry demonstrations were established. Ten Woodland Owner Notes have now been published and monthly media releases continue to be used by agents. Special programming was targeted to women, absentee landowners, tax preparers and CPA's. Finally, Extension continued to support the involvement of forest landowners in the N. C. Forestry Association - assistance in the organization of 6 landowner mini meetings was an example of this.

Wood utilization programs involve increasing production efficiency in the manufacture of wood products and expanding markets for North Carolina's forest products. Losses due to improper drying of both hardwoods (particularly oak) and pine continue to plague both sawmills and furniture companies. Educational programs have emphasized both basics and the incorporation of new technology into drying practices - a highly successful demonstration of moisture pallets for drying oak was conducted at a furniture plant in Kentucky. A series of workshops on lumber grading were conducted for sawmills. Market development includes promotion of the use of wood as an industrial, commercial and agricultural fuel and reintroduction of the use of yellow-poplar for framing lumber in the housing industry. The wood energy work is funded by the N. C. Division of Forest Resources, N. C. Energy Division and Renewable Resources Extension Act. Four sawmill studies have confirmed the economic feasibility of producing yellow-poplar framing. A demonstration house is now under construction and tests are underway with several manufactured housing companies.

The year 1983 saw Extension assist in the successful establishment of the first Christmas tree marketing cooperative in North Carolina. Plans are for the Coop to quadruple sales in 1984. Other examples of Extension efforts aimed at increasing the market for Christmas trees included a series of workshops on grading trees, continued emphasis on shearing and fertilization to produce high quality trees, and funding by the N. C. Christmas Tree Association of a Christmas tree marketing study.

Continuing Education efforts within the Department covered a broad spectrum of topics. Workshops and seminars sponsored or co-sponsored by Extension included "Logging Small Woodlots," "Wildlife and Timber Management," Wood Machining," "Pine Grading," "Pesticide Certification," "Wood Products Exporting Today," and "Utilization of the Changing Wood Resource in the Southern United States." Agents from 68 counties attended forestry training during the Annual Extension Conference. The 2nd biennial Carolina Log'N Demo co-sponsored with the N. C. Forestry Association attracted over 1,000 loggers to see static and working displays of the latest logging equipment. The first annual Fur, Fish'N Game Rendezvous brought 90 teenagers and 12 adult leaders together to learn about hunting, fishing, wildlife and forest habitat management, outdoor ethics, hunter safety and leadership. The camp which is jointly sponsored by the N. C. Wildlife Federation, N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Extension and the National Hunters Association will be held annually.

Interest in multiple use management continues to increase among landowners, agents and professional foresters. Over half the counties received assistance with wildlife and outdoor recreation questions. Several workshops on beaver management were held in counties where beaver damage has become a problem. A manual on animal damage control is being developed in cooperation with Wildlife Extension for use by county agents.

Aims and Philosophy

The aim of Extension Forest Resources is to improve the management and utilization of our forest resources. This can increase income to forest landowners and wood processors, improve the quality of life and our environment, and help assure continued availability of forest resources. Demands for assistance in forest resources management and utilization are increasing rapidly. There is an urgent need for additional forestry professionals at the county level, if we are to meet our aim. Efforts are being made to obtain additional funding for such positions. In the meantime, efforts will continue to be made to address major problems in forest resources. To solve these problems, we will work cooperatively with other units in the University and with the public and private sectors.